Welcome from the Steering Committee

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ECPN Newsletter! We are very excited to begin this endeavor with you. Four times a year, members of the Early Career Prevention Network Steering Committee will share information that will hopefully be of great interest to early career prevention scientists. Our goal is to keep you informed about prevention science and to develop a community among ECPN members.

Each issue will include the following sections:

- Prevention Science In the News — This issue: Why do high school seniors drink?
- Introducing ECPN Members — highlighting the interesting work of a few ECPN members.
- ECPN Member News — sharing papers, grants, honors and awards of the membership.
- Funding and Job Opportunities — keeping us all informed of exciting funding and job opportunities in prevention science.

We welcome your feedback and your contributions!

Sincerely,
The Steering Committee

About ECPN

ECPN is a web-based organization that seeks:

- to link individuals who are interested in prevention science and
- to foster the development of early career preventionists.

Membership into ECPN requires no dues or obligations other than your contribution to the field of prevention science. Through our listserv and newsletter, ECPN members have access to prevention-related opportunities, topical interest groups, and information exchanges. At the annual meeting (this year in San Francisco), ECPN hosts sessions and a luncheon of particular interest to early career prevention scientists. Help us build our membership by sharing ECPN with your colleagues.

Interested in joining ECPN? Please go to www.preventionresearch.org/earlycareer.php and submit your listserv information.
Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ECPN Newsletter! This newsletter is our most recent attempt to provide an opportunity for members of ECPN to share information regarding professional accomplishments, job postings, personal profiles, upcoming meetings, ECPN events at the annual meeting for the Society for Prevention Research, current issues in Prevention Science, etc. Thanks to the efforts of Keryn Pasch, Kerry Green, Jennifer Lewis, and other members of the current steering committee, the vision for this newsletter has become a reality. The excitement around the practical applications of this newsletter has energized the Steering Committee as well as the Board of Directors for the Society for Prevention Research. I presented the concept of the newsletter to the SPR Board at our midyear meeting in Chicago and received only positive feedback. While their support is encouraging, we will need the active participation of the whole ECPN membership for the newsletter to be sustainable over time. Content contributions are critical and will allow us to provide coverage that truly represents the diverse ECPN membership. Please take this opportunity to share information that you would like to see published in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Additionally, we encourage you to participate in symposia and a luncheon that will highlight the current research of one or more members of ECPN.

In addition to these events, we will host a breakfast on Friday morning for those individuals who are interested in joining the ECPN Steering Committee. We secured several new committee members at last year’s meeting. These new members have brought a refreshing energy and innovative ideas as reflected by this newsletter.

ECPN provides a wonderful opportunity for networking, service, training, and introduction to the profession of Prevention Science. The Steering Committee will have special ribbons attached to their conference ID badges so that it will be easy to identify us. The committee has scheduled two exciting conference symposia and a luncheon that will provide an opportunity for members of ECPN to share information that you would like to see published in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Additionally, we encourage you to participate in symposia and a luncheon that will highlight the current research of one or more members of ECPN.

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Welcome from the Chair

Introducing Ty Ridenour

First, I want to congratulate the committee on the first Newsletter of the Early Career Preventionist Network. It is an important step in our efforts to support a community atmosphere among early career preventionists. Additionally, I am pleased to introduce myself as the Chair-Elect of ECPN.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the ECPN Steering Committee since 2003 because I perceive the prevention approach, broadly speaking, to have great potential for improving the human condition. Like many members of ECPN and SPR, my passion for prevention has grown out of a perception that proactive intervention is needed to avoid problems that are difficult to curb after they are manifested. Preventionists represent greatly varied applied and research arenas where this notion is evident. My training and experience resembles this diversity, including Psychological Science (B.S.), School and Educational Psychology (Masters and Ph.D.), juvenile justice (six years as a counselor in a court-appointed boys residential unit), Psychiatric Epidemiology (second Masters degree), drug addiction etiology (one research focus), translational research (second research focus) and selective / indicated prevention in youth. My research has been continuously funded by NIDA since 1999. Currently, I am a member of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR) at the University of Pittsburgh, a diverse group of faculty representing the fields of prevention, developmental psychopathology, genetics, methodology, psychiatry, and neuroscience.

My research emphases related to prevention are twofold. The first emphasis is advancing methods with practical applications. Currently, my methodological projects largely entail development of self-report instruments for children, most of which involve the Assessment of Liability and Exposure to Substance use and Antisocial behavior© (ALEXSA©, Ridenour, 2003; www.prevention.psu.edu/projects/ALEXSA.htm). Another area of methodological interest is developing statistical techniques for small sample, within-subject clinical trials. The second research emphasis is etiological investigations on substance addiction that has strong implications for prevention.

There are also personal reasons for investing my efforts in prevention, as I am blessed to have a wonderful family. I relish the time that I get to spend with my wife and children, but also know there are hazards that each of us have to negotiate now and in the future. So for me, prevention is not merely a science or a profession but an applied philosophy.


For more information, see http://www.preventionresearch.org/earlycareeer.php.
Introducing David Wyrick

As many of you have experienced or are experiencing, my path to becoming a Prevention Scientist was not completely planned. My undergraduate studies prepared me to become a high school health and physical education teacher. I thought I would teach and coach high school students for the rest of my “working” life. While working on my Masters degree I was introduced to the field of Prevention through Bill Hansen, Ph.D., President of Tanglewood Research. Dr. Hansen mentored me through my thesis that focused on high school-based drug prevention. That work motivated me to continue graduate school and I’ve never regretted the direction those decisions have taken me.

I am currently employed as an Associate Professor of Public Health Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). My research and program interests are focused on alcohol and other drug prevention, primarily at the college and high school levels, promotion of physical activity, and survey research methods related to the collection of sensitive information. I teach courses related to evaluation theory and methods, adolescent health, and substance use among college students. Recently, I have worked with the Athletic Director at UNCG to incorporate an innovative approach to alcohol prevention by requiring all new incoming student-athletes to take a 1-credit hybrid course that focuses on alcohol-related content of particular interest to student-athletes.

In addition to my responsibilities at UNCG, I am President of Prevention Strategies, LLC. I started Prevention Strategies with help from UNCG to manage the prevention-related products that result from my funded research projects and to conduct research that can contribute to the knowledge base of effective prevention strategies. Specifically, the company strives to provide schools, colleges, and community agencies with up-to-date information and evidence-based programming for the prevention of health compromising behaviors. The experience of starting and growing Prevention Strategies has been very rewarding. I live in Greensboro, NC with my wife, Cheryl, and three daughters, Katherine, Caroline, and Elizabeth. Cheryl serves as the Vice President of Prevention Strategies which provides us the opportunity to work closely together (which we do enjoy). Family is the number one priority in my life and provides meaning and purpose to everything else I’m involved in.

“\textit{My path to becoming a Prevention Scientist was not completely planned}”

ECPN Member News

Congratulations to Sharon Lambert for receiving her first R01 award from the National Institute of Mental Health entitled Etiology and Course of Depressive Symptoms in African American Adolescents


Look forward to Elizabeth Stuart and Kerry Green’s article on propensity score matching in the special methods issue of Developmental Psychology coming out this year.


Do Tweens Need Alcohol Prevention Interventions? Look for the upcoming article by Keryn Pasch:

Pasch, K.E., Perry, C. L., Sigler, M. H., Komro, K.A. (In press). Sixth grade students who use alcohol: Do we need primary prevention programs for “tweens”? Health Education & Behavior

Vote for the 2008 SPR Awards!! Visit http://www.preventionresearch.org/awards.php for criteria and award categories

Job and Training Opportunities

- Post-Doctoral Clinical and Research Fellowships at Brown University
- Post-Doctoral Positions in the Integration of Prevention and Statistical Methodology at Pennsylvania State University
- Postdoctoral Position in Methodology at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
- Research Assistant Professors at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work
- 2-Year Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Culturally-Grounded Health Disparities Research, Arizona State University, College of Public Programs, Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center

See http://www.preventionresearch.org/trainingcareershome.php
The findings in the December issue of the journal *Prevention Science* raise important questions for parents, especially during the holidays, Sloboda says. Some believe teen drinking is OK with adult supervision. But parents may not realize the teen brain is not fully developed and is especially vulnerable to alcohol's effects, she says.

Palen and her colleagues studied 1,877 high school seniors nationwide; 32% said they drank mostly for the thrill of it, and 15% said they used alcohol to relax. Another 36% said they drank just to experiment. Teens might experiment with all kinds of things, including alcohol, but they’re not necessarily developing worrisome habits such as daytime drinking, Palen says.

A smaller group, 18%, said they drank for multiple reasons, including an inability to deal with frustration or anger. This group did show problematic behavior around alcohol: They were more likely to get drunk during the day, possibly during school hours. They also said they got drunk frequently; many had started to drink by sixth grade.

See *Prevention Science* for the full article by Donna L. Coffman, Megan E. Patrick, Lori Ann Palen Brittany L. Rhoades and Alison K. Ventura (also known as the “Daughters of Prevention” participants in the 2006 SPR Cup) in *Prevention Science Why Do High School Seniors Drink? Implications for a Targeted Approach to Intervention. Volume 8, Number 4 / December, 2007*