



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet two outstanding early career prevention scientists
- Read about upcoming ECPN sessions for SPR 2009 annual meeting
- Find out about member news
- Learn about how to nominate yourself or someone else for the ECPN Chair-Elect

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ECPN Newsletter

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A Note from the Steering Committee Chair

Power of Relationships: The Secret of Success for ECPN

Hello everyone. Spring is in the air (for most of us) and the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) annual meeting is just around the corner. I hope all of you are planning to attend. The conference will be a bitter sweet moment for me because I will be rotating out as Chair of ECPN after the annual meeting. It has been a wonderful growing experience and I would like to reflect a little on the past two years.

The theme of the 2009 SPR Annual Meeting is "Power of Relationships: Implications for Prevention Science." I would like to play off of the conference theme and title this article "The Power of Relationships: The Secret of Success for ECPN." The stated mission of ECPN is as follows: 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. The organization itself is based on the power of relationships. That is, linking individuals in a virtual environment with the common interest of prevention science can promote the professional development of new prevention scientists and directly affect the future knowledge base of prevention science as well as the future success of the Society for Prevention Research.

I have been a benefactor of this mission as I was integrated into ECPN while a doctoral student. The relationships developed

through my involvement in ECPN have been just as valuable to my career development as the hard work I have put forth. The colleagues who have influenced my life and career are too many to list but I am thankful for each of their friendships.

At this particular time I am extremely thankful for the current ECPN Steering Committee. It is a fantastic group that is comprised of individuals with mind boggling talent and commitment. Serving as the Chair of ECPN has never felt burdensome or overwhelming and this is due to one fact, the commitment of each individual on the steering committee. We have worked cohesively as a group and the power of creativity is evident in the things we have accomplished.

The steering committee has worked very hard to once again schedule two appropriate and informative conference sessions that will introduce attendees to alternative funding mechanisms and opportunities to receive financial assistance to repay student loans. The ECPN luncheon will provide attendees with an excellent forum to not only learn about secondary data analysis opportunities but to actually converse with individuals who represent organizations with vast amounts of data available for investigation.

I would like to briefly highlight some additional accomplishments achieved by the ECPN Steering Committee. This newsletter is one piece of evidence of the strides made by the committee.

Putting each newsletter together is truly a team effort and requires the talents of several people. The 2009 annual SPR meeting will also host the inaugural Student Poster Competition. The steering committee wanted to make an effort to increase exposure for ECPN at the annual meeting and to also reach out to graduate students. The idea of the Student Poster Competition was developed and presented to the SPR Board of Directors who showed full support and committed the funds necessary to make it a successful event. ECPN will also host a social for the first time at this year's meeting. This will give members of ECPN the opportunity to interact in a very informal setting when compared to the more structured symposia and luncheon. Please take the time to attend this event and "hang-out" with your ECPN friends.

I want to thank each member of the steering committee for your commitment and all the work you have put forth to advance the reach of ECPN. Lives and careers are being positively impacted and the next generation of prevention scientists is being trained. I would also like to challenge graduate students and early career professionals to become more intimately involved with ECPN. The most opportune time for this is to attend all of the ECPN functions at the SPR meeting in May. I promise that you will be just as impressed with the individuals you meet as I have been. Best of luck to all of you!

David

Nominations Requested for ECPN Chair-Elect

In April 2009 the ECPN will hold elections for ECPN Chair-elect. The chair-elect shall assume the duties of the Chair in the event of absence, death, resignation, or incapacity of the Chair, and shall succeed to the office of the Chair at the expiration of the two-year term as Chair-elect. As chair of the ECPN, which is a standing committee of the Society for Prevention Research, the chair is the presiding officer of the ECPN and is also a voting, ex-officio member of the SPR Board of Directors.

The ECPN Steering Committee is seeking nominations for the ECPN Chair-elect. Please contact David Wyrick (dlwyrick@uncg.edu) by April 20th to submit your nomination.



Dr. Maldonado-Molina is a methodologist with interests in longitudinal methods and the prevention of substance use, particularly alcohol use.

Meet Mildred Maldonado-Molina

Dr. Mildred Maldonado-Molina is Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Health Policy and the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida. She is a methodologist with interests in longitudinal methods and the prevention of substance use, particularly alcohol use. She has published in the areas of underage drinking, alcohol and substance use prevention, and evaluation of alcohol-related policies.

She is a co-principal in-

vestigator in a project examining the effects of alcohol tax policies on risky behaviors and health outcomes. Dr. Maldonado-Molina is also involved in projects examining outcomes of a prevention program targeting racially diverse and economically disadvantaged urban youth, testing the effects of DUI penalties in reducing underage drinking, and evaluating patterns of substance progression among Hispanic adolescents. Her substantive research interests include the study of pat-

terns of substance use among adolescents, prevention of alcohol use among youth, and evaluation of alcohol control policies. Her methodological interests include latent class and latent transition analysis, latent growth modeling, time-series modeling, and multi-level models.

She received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from The Pennsylvania State University.



Dr. Graham has strong practical interest in evaluation capacity building and promoting the importance of understanding the context in which prevention research is conducted.

Meet Philip Graham

Dr. Phillip W. Graham is a Senior Public Health Researcher in RTI International's Crime, Violence, and Justice Research program. He has extensive experience in conducting community-based research and evaluation.

Since joining RTI, Dr. Graham has directed or worked on several projects focusing on the prevention of adolescent interpersonal violence and substance use. He has investigated the effects of witnessing community violence, the development of ethnic identity among African

American male adolescents, the effectiveness of science-based interventions to reduce youth substance use, and the impact of comprehensive school-based interventions and services to promote healthy child development.

He currently directs several state-level evaluations of initiatives designed to promote the implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies to reduce substance abuse in local communities across the lifespan. He also is conducting a secondary data analysis study to examine the relationship be-

tween social capital and community violence. His methodological focus includes the use of mixed-methods approaches and latent class analysis. Dr. Graham also has strong practical interest in evaluation capacity building and promoting the importance of understanding the context in which prevention research is conducted.

He received a BA in Psychology from the University of North Carolina, a MPH and DrPH in Maternal and Child Health from UNC-CH School of Public Health.

ECPN's SPR 2009 Annual Meeting Preview

ECPN Luncheon
Wed May 27th
 11:45-1:15

The 2009 ECPN *Secondary Data Analysis Opportunity* luncheon of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research is designed to encourage collaborations between early career prevention scientists with data owners to facilitate secondary analyses of data. During the first 30 minutes of the luncheon, early career presenters will describe how using secondary analyses of data helped to jump start the early stages of their careers. The next 60 minutes will be open for the luncheon attendees to visit stations around the room to network with (a) owners of datasets who are interested in establishing new collaborations and (b) representatives from several Institutes of the National Institutes of Health who can discuss funding opportunities to support secondary data analysis research. Dataset owners are encouraged to have handout summaries of their study and research opportunities.

NIH Loan Repayment Program
Thurs May 28th
 10:15-11:45

One of our symposia sessions this year will be focused on the National Institutes of Health Loan Repayment Program (NIH LRP). The NIH LRP is a program offered by NIH where in exchange for a two-year commitment to your research career, NIH will repay up to \$35,000 per year of your qualified educational debt. In addition, the NIH will make corresponding Federal tax payments for credit to your Internal Revenue Service tax account to cover your increased Federal taxes. There are five different LRP's: 1) Clinical Research; 2) Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds; 3) Contraception and Infertility Research; 4) Health Disparities Research; and 5) Pediatric Research.

Representatives from the NIH LRP Program will present on the program and answer questions. Several ECPN members who are recipients of the NIH LRP will talk about their experiences and answer questions.

**An Introduction to the SBIR/
 STTR Grant Mechanisms**
Wed May 27th
 10:15-11:45

NIH participates in the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs which will be the focus of this symposium. The SBIR/STTR programs provide companies and non-profit research institutions access to Federal research and development money while encouraging those who do the research to commercialize their results. By focusing on "innovation" the SBIR/STTR programs promote entrepreneurship by encouraging the development of new technologies, significant improvement of existing technologies, or new applications for existing technologies. Specifically, the symposium will introduce attendees to all aspects of the SBIR/STTR program, specifically within the NIH. Presenters from NIH will investigate the history of the programs (including federal legislation), involvement of specific institutes and centers within NIH, organizational eligibility, program expectations, research and development areas of interest, and the proposal process.



**ECPN
 Steering
 Committee
 Breakfast**

**Friday
 7:30 AM -
 8:25 AM**

**Come see
 what the
 ECPN
 Steering
 Committee
 is all about!**

ECPN Member News

Mildred M. Maldonado-Molina, was awarded a career development grant (K01) by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism on February 15, 2009. Her project, "Alcohol contextual influences: Effects on health disparities and mortality," will examine the effects of exposure and sources of alcohol on trajectories of alcohol use among adolescents across gender and ethnic groups, as well as evaluate the effects of selected alcohol policies on the reduction of health disparities in traffic crash mortality from 1976 to 2002.

Amy L. Tobler successfully defended her dissertation on February 4, 2009. Her work, "Neighborhood context and alcohol use among urban, low-income, multi-ethnic, young adolescents," defined the

alcohol-related neighborhood contexts of a large sample of urban, racial/ethnic minority, young adolescents and examined how this context related to alcohol use.

Heather Warren, currently a research scientist at George Mason University, has accepted a new position at Rush Neurobehavioral Center, Rush University, as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics with a joint appointment in Behavioral Sciences. Her research, funded by the McCormick Foundation, focuses on socio-emotional development and assessment.

Starting June 1, 2009, **Brittany Rhoades** accepted a position as the Evaluation Research Specialist at the newly-funded Evidence-based Preven-

tion and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter) at Penn State University. The EPISCenter aims to promote the greater use and support of evidence-based programs throughout Pennsylvania and its primary goal is to advance high quality implementation, impact assessment, and sustainability of programs to maximize the positive impact of prevention science on outcomes for youth. Brittany will oversee the management and analysis of implementation data collected annually from evidence-based program state-grantees and will create and disseminate trainings on relevant research and evaluation topics to these grantees.



Don't Miss the ECPN Social at the 2009 SPR Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Let's all get together and say hello before we head off to the dance!



Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel Article One Lounge

When: Thursday, May 28th at 8:00 pm

Who: Anyone who wants to come!

Mark your calendar for the Society for Prevention Research 17th Annual Conference May 26-29 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. This year's theme is the Power of Relationships: Implications for Prevention Science.



Prevention in Action



GYM2009 – Global Youth Meet on Tobacco – Mumbai

On March 6 and 7, a cadre of dedicated youth activists travelled to Mumbai (India) to participate in this Global Youth Meet on health. The second such global gathering ever, GYM2009 (<http://gym09.hriday-shan.org/tag/gym2009/>) was a pre-conference workshop held in conjunction with the 14th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (<http://www.14wctoh.org>). Participants included 150 youth delegates (16-24 years) and their adult chaperones from 27 countries worldwide. It was a fantastic success!

The focus of GYM2009 was on two particularly timely issues in tobacco control – smoke-free spaces and total bans on tobacco advertising. Over the course of two days, participants were provided multiple opportunities to discuss and debate these issues. Each morning began with a large plenary session, where experts from institutions like the World Health Organization engaged participants in conversations about important movements in tobacco control, like FCTC (<http://www.fctc.org>) and the MPOWER Report (<http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower>). Representatives from NGOs worldwide were there, too, to share their direct, and local, experience advocating on behalf of these movements, as well. After the large plenary sessions, participants broke out into small groups specific to six regions of the world WHO recognizes. Facilitators led participants through a curriculum designed to facilitate development of regional and individual action plans. The curriculum helped participants identify goals and steps they must take to reach them, assisting, as well, with the identification of required resources. Youth also participated in a series of exercises designed to build their communication and leadership skills, empowering them further. Each day ended with a cultural exchange, which provided an opportunity for participants to dress in their native costumes – and sing and dance. The energy that these young people shared during these celebrations was simply electric!

Home now, participants are eager to stay connected and move together with the good momentum they created while in India. Facebook is proving to be a useful tool for the same! For more information, contact Dr. Melissa Stigler, Co-Chair of this Global Youth Meet, at Melissa.H.Stigler@uth.tmc.edu. She's currently looking for funding streams to provide infrastructure needed to support these outstanding young activists between global meets – if you have any ideas, she surely welcomes them.

