



# ECPN Connections

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet two outstanding early career prevention scientists
- Learn about the ECPN sessions from the annual meeting last May
- Find out member news

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## A Note from the Steering Committee Chair

For my first welcome note as Chair of the ECPN Steering Committee, I write with some hesitancy. I am lucky to be serving as the Chair right now because the members are so energetic, creative and motivated to carry out the mission of ECPN that my job has been easier than anticipated. The Steering Committee size has grown to 28! David Wyrick, the outgoing Chair, left big shoes to fill (and my feet are only size 7½), but also provided a great example to follow. The continuing and new members of the ECPN Steering Committee have already contributed admirably to the efforts of our organization. So, I find myself writing this note as less of a leader and more as someone who is working alongside fellow prevention enthusiasts.

Two of the many committee members who have really “rolled up their sleeves” on behalf of ECPN are featured in this issue of the Newsletter. Keryn Pasch is the new ECPN Chair-elect who began her term last spring. In addition to duties as Chair-elect, she chairs the Student Poster Competition, Membership Committee and as co-Chair the Newsletter Committee. Keryn has made valuable contributions to ECPN. The second committee member featured is Marie-Hélène

Véronneau, a new member of the Committee. Marie-Hélène is active on several committees, helping to organize events for the upcoming SPR Meeting and contributes regularly during monthly committee meetings. In sum, as the featured committee members demonstrate, the future is bright for ECPN.

The theme of this year’s Annual SPR Meeting, “Cells to Society: Prevention at All Levels,” echoes the opportunities available to early career preventionists. Traditional efficacy and effectiveness research continues at an unparalleled pace and senior researchers conducting these trials need the assistance of junior investigators. Novel applications within prevention that have utilized discoveries from other fields, from genetics to economics to systems dynamics, are increasing. ECPN is fortunate to have strong support from the Board, which is committed to helping early career preventionists take advantage of opportunities. Moreover, agencies and professionals outside of prevention are becoming more aware of our science, opening opportunities in applied settings.

A recent and exciting development within SPR is the creation of the Diversity Network Committee. The DNC (not to be confused with the political party) is being modeled after ECPN in many respects, including being established as a standing committee of SPR with representation on the SPR Board. We hope to assist in the success of the DNC however we can. One way to learn more about the DNC and meet its members is to attend its annual evening reception held at this year’s Annual SPR Meeting.

It is an exciting time to be working in the field of prevention, and ECPN will do its best to serve early career preventionists. We welcome communications from early career preventionists, be they queries about what we’re planning for the conference or suggestions of areas that we can be of assistance. Also, please let us and your fellow early career researchers know about the major developments in your career so we can post in the Member News Section. Don’t be shy to get the word out about your achievements – that may be the only way that many of us learn about them. Good luck in your prevention pursuits.

## ECPN Travel Scholarship

Each year SPR offers travel assistance to ECPN members who are interested in attending the annual meeting and need financial assistance. This program helps junior investigators with registration fees and travel money. Last year, SPR was able to provide funding for 51 ECPN members. Priority is given to presenters with the greatest need. Awards typically range between \$250 and \$400. To apply for a travel scholarship, you will need to complete a short application that describes your need. Look for an announcement of the availability of the ECPN Travel Scholarship application on the ECPN listserv in March. Applications will be due early April.



*“I felt like I had found a community of researchers and practitioners who got it: Prevention is essential to the health and well-being of the population.”*



*“The immediate purpose of prevention research is to enhance people’s well-being, but another essential function is to provide a unique avenue for testing theories of human development.”*

## Meet Keryn Pasch

When I went to my first SPR meeting in 2005, I had never used the word “Preventionist.” But as soon as I went to my first session, I could see that this was going to be my research “home.” I felt like I had found a community of researchers and practitioners who got it: Prevention is essential to the health and well-being of the population.

I have really enjoyed working with everyone on the steering committee, putting together sessions for the annual meeting, developing the student poster contest, and getting to know many of the ECPN members. This past spring I was elected the chair-elect of ECPN. I am

looking forward to working with everyone over the next few years.

Currently, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education at the University of Texas at Austin. I am trained as a behavioral epidemiologist and my research interests include how media and parenting influence child and adolescent behaviors. I am also interested in the co-occurrence of risky behaviors among youth.

Presently, I am working on a study using eye-tracking technology to understand how youth perceive and process food and beverage

advertising. I plan to expand this work to include alcohol advertising.

I received my BA in Psychology from the University of Illinois Chicago, my MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and my PhD in Behavioral Epidemiology from the University of Minnesota. While Chicago will always be my home, I am enjoying living in Austin. I am still getting used to the heat and the lack of snow, but 60 degrees in December isn’t so bad!

See you in Denver in June!

## Meet Marie-Hélène Véronneau

When I attended the special events prepared by ECPN members in the 2008 and 2009 SPR meetings, I felt that the issues and questions being addressed were extremely relevant to early career researchers, including graduate students and postdoctoral scholars like me. It motivated me to do my part and contribute to ECPN activities.

I am currently a postdoctoral research associate at the Child and Family Center, University of Oregon (Eugene). During my doctoral training, my research activities primarily focused on the associations between various types of peer experiences and academic adjustment in childhood,

adolescence, and early adulthood.

I felt very privileged when I was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada which allowed me to join the Child and Family Center in 2007 and explore the application of developmental and educational research to the development of school-based prevention programs.

My most recent research includes studies of the predictors of participants’ engagement in school-based, family-centered prevention programs. I collaborated on evaluating the impact of such a program on substance use and antisocial behavior in

middle school students. I have also been studying interaction effects involving various types of peer experiences as well as family variables as predictors of academic achievement and problem behavior in adolescence.

As a developmental psychologist, I am interested in analyzing longitudinal and intervention data to test for transactional and cascade models of human development.

I received my BA in Psychology from McGill University, and I received my MS and PhD from the Université de Montréal. Both institutions are in Montréal (QC, Canada).

# Annual Meeting Recap of ECPN Sessions

## ECPN Luncheon

The luncheon on Wednesday presented opportunities for secondary data analysis, which is how many early career researchers begin their careers because they often do not have their own data or are trying to answer questions that are best suited to large datasets. First, Drs. Donna Coffman and Lisa Dierker presented on how crucial secondary data has been for them for developing a publication record and securing grant funding. Their experiences and successes were inspiring. Then, session attendees visited stations set up around the room (and into the hallway) to learn more about data opportunities. Datasets represented included Ad Health, NESARC, Study of Early Child Care and the National Survey of Parents and Youth, as well as representatives from NIDA, NICHD, NIMH, NCI, and NIAAA. Other data owners included the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research and Mark Eddy, a mentor to ECPN members throughout the years. A productive session for all!

## An Introduction to the SBIR/STTR Grant Mechanisms

The Wednesday morning session was a great opportunity for the entrepreneurs among us to learn about NIH's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant mechanisms. These give for-profit companies and non-profit research institutions access to Federal research and development money and encourage those who do the research to commercialize results. Since the start of the program in 1983, more than 25,000 firms have received over \$15 billion in funding agreements. Dr. Marcia Scottand Lenka Fedorkova from NIH, shared the interesting history of the programs, eligibility, program expectations, research and development areas of interest, and the proposal process. Dr. Melodie Fearnow-Kenney of Prevention Strategies, LLC, who has received many SBIR/STTR grants, described her experiences with the program and spoke of what a fantastic mechanism it can be. Because research is crucial to ensuring that our nation is the leader in health and knowledge-related industries, which will generate the largest job growth in the next century, the SBIR program is a good investment for the future. Something to check out!

## NIH Loan Repayment Program

The Thursday symposium focused on the fabulous opportunity available for researchers in which NIH repays educational loans. Mimi Ghim from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Bob Nettey from National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities described the program and eligibility requirements and answered questions about what makes a successful applications. Christian Connell shared his experience as a veteran recipient and program mentor, Keryn Pasch talked about her experience applying for an obtaining an award from the pediatrics program, and Kerry Green spoke about her success with the health disparities program. There was a lot of excitement about the program from both NIH representatives and ECPN members and gratitude from recipients for the monetary awards. NIH repays up to \$35,000 a year if you are conducting qualifying research so it can be a spectacular benefit for EPCN members. Check it out at <http://www.lrp.nih.gov/>.

## The Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network

ECPN is excited to announce its partnership with the Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network (ESIN). ESIN is a national professional network composed of early career, mid-career and senior career investigators and affiliates from universities, foundations and government agencies.

The mission of ESIN is guided by two goals: (1) To advance science to eliminate social and health disparities in populations of color and career development, and (2) professional

development related programs and online tools aimed at fostering greater independence, career success and opportunities for funding for junior investigators.

ESIN welcomes members in all stages of their academic careers (early, mid and senior career investigators). However, the network is in need of more mid-career and senior career investigators committed to training junior investigators. ESIN Mentors actively seek to provide professional support and vocational

guidance for ESIN Scholars who are in the early stages of their academic careers.

Membership in ESIN, allows the Mentor access to:

(1) A network of over 700 members nationwide, offering the Mentor

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## Member News

The 2008 winners of the Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup recently had an article based on their presentation published in *Prevention Science*. The article, "Profiles of Protection from Substance Use among Adolescents," was written by Amy Syvertsen, Michael Cleveland, Jochebed Gayles, Melissa Tibbits, and Monique Faulk.

Megan Patrick was appointed a Faculty Research Fellow of the Survey Research Center in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. You can read more about this unique position at <http://www.src.isr.umich.edu/Docs/FacultyResearchFellowPositions.pdf>

A paper co-authored by Elizabeth Stuart on causal inference published in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* last year was named a 2009 "New Hot Paper" by *ScienceWatch*.

Kerry M. Green received an R01 from National Institute on Drug Abuse to examine the association between psychological problems and drug problems in a community cohort of urban African Americans.

Ty Ridenour and Elizabeth Stormshak served as guest editors for the inaugural special issue of the *American Journal on Drug and Alcohol Abuse* (2009; Vol 35, pp. 205-266). The topic of the issue was to intro-

duce and promote the ontogenetic orientation to prevention.

Bethany Bray started her first-year, as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech and has an article entitled "Modeling relations among discrete developmental processes: A general approach to associative latent transition analysis" in press in *Structural Equation Modeling: A Multidisciplinary Journal*. Bethany also just had a grant refunded from the Alcohol Beverage Medical Research Foundation.

## Job Announcements

The Johns Hopkins University Multi-Site Post-Doctoral Training Program in Prevention Science is seeking applicants for positions beginning summer 2010. This post-doc provides training in prevention science theory and methods. Additional information can be found at <http://www.jhsph.edu/prevention/Training/index>

A Postdoctoral Fellowship in Alcohol Research at the University of Washington is accepting applications. The fellowship provides training in alcohol research, with an emphasis on the etiology and prevention of problem drinking and alcohol dependence. For more information please see: <http://depts.washington.edu/cshrb/newweb/postdoc.html>

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin is seeking qualified applicants for a two-year National Research Service Award (NRSA) postdoctoral re-

search training program in HIV prevention research. Persons with interests in HIV prevention research and backgrounds in psychology, public health, anthropology, sociology, infectious diseases, cost-effectiveness analysis, or other relevant fields are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for fellowships beginning in Summer 2010 is January 24, 2010. Additional information about the program is available at <http://www.mcw.edu/cair.htm>

The Prevention Research Center of Pennsylvania State University (<http://www.prevention.psu.edu>) announces the availability of an research scientist position in the area of implementation and dissemination research within the PROSPERNet Project. The overarching purpose of the PROSPERNet project is to develop the infrastructure and capacity for expanded implementation of the PROSPER Model to new states. For more information contact Daniel Perkins Ph.D. ([dfp102@psu.edu](mailto:dfp102@psu.edu)).





# 5th Annual SPR Sloboda and Bukoski Cup

The 5th Annual SPR Sloboda and Bukoski Cup competition will be taking place during the 2010 Annual Meeting. The annual Cup competition strives to recognize the importance of collaborative work to the field of prevention science. Named for Dr. Zili Sloboda and Dr. William Bukoski, it is a "friendly competition" among independent teams of early-career researchers working together for two months prior to the annual meeting. During that time, team members conduct a literature review, generate hypotheses, conduct analyses and prepare a presentation. Teams will then present their results at the 2010 annual meeting, and will be judged by senior prevention scientist judges and the audience. The winning

team will be recognized and award the SPR Cup during the Awards Ceremony.

Teams are limited to five members. Eligible participants are individuals who are either: (1) currently enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral training program, or (2) have received their terminal graduate degree within the last 5 years and have not yet been a principle investigator on a research grant from a federal agency or private foundation. An announcement about the acceptance of applications for the 2010 Cup competition is expected in January. It is also expected that up to three teams will be accepted to compete.

Look for an article discussing the SPR Cup in detail, complete with comments from former early-career participants and the current chair, in the next issue of ECPN Connections. An article introducing the SPR Cup and describing its history is also available. Information about the SPR Cup 2010 Competition will be made available as the annual meeting approaches at:

[http://www.preventionresearch.org/meeting2010\\_cup.php](http://www.preventionresearch.org/meeting2010_cup.php).

Eddy, J. M., & Martinez, C. R. (2008). An introduction to the Sloboda and Bukoski Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Cup. *Prevention Science*, 9, 1-3.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**SPR 18th Annual Meeting "Cells to Society: Prevention at All Levels"**  
**Denver, CO - June 1-4, 2010**



*(ESIN Continued from page 3)*

the opportunity to collaborate with early career scholars by submitting a call for collaboration. The network provides on-line resources and tools that allow Mentors to communicate, provide support, and organize research efforts with junior colleagues (and each other).

(2) An opportunity to increase the number of scholars involved in research as well as the amount of research focused on populations of color. The network is dedicated to advancing this research in various fields of Social Science.

(3) The latest research findings and databases and he/she can submit his/her research and databases as a

resource for others to cite.

(4) The opportunity to post information in an e-newsletter that goes out weekly. ESIN is always looking for new scientific news and accolades to send out in the weekly e-newsletter. Mentors can submit news articles, accolades and other information to [newsletter@emergingscholars.net](mailto:newsletter@emergingscholars.net).

Membership in ESIN is free. If you are a mid career or senior career researcher you can sign up today as a mentor by logging into [www.emergingscholars.net](http://www.emergingscholars.net) and clicking on 'join.' There is a short application to fill out and submit.

Fellowship applications will be available to early career investigators in January 2010 for the annual Summer Fellowship Program in Applied Multi-Ethnic Research. This program, to be held June 21<sup>st</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup> 2010, provides a practical, hands-on, data-driven 4 weeks training in advanced statistical analysis and methodological design aimed at enhancing the participating scholars' technical and theoretical mastery of these skills.

**For more information, please visit the ESIN website at [www.emergingscholars.net](http://www.emergingscholars.net).**