



ECPN Newsletter

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet two outstanding early career prevention scientists
- Read about upcoming ECPN sessions for the 2011 annual meeting
- Find out the exciting accomplishments of your colleagues

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A Note from the Steering Committee Chair

It is with some melancholy that I write this last letter for the Connections Newsletter as ECPN Chair. My service in ECPN has been personally rewarding, afforded me opportunities to meet many top-notch prevention leaders and rising prevention scientists, and given me unusual insight to the support that ECPN enjoys from its parent organization. So, in reflection, I would encourage early career prevention scientists to take advantage of involvement in ECPN. My term is ending with ECPN in highly capable hands and the benefits from ECPN involvement have never been better.

My own benefits from service in ECPN have been both personal and professional. I have many fond ECPN memories including working with ECPN committee members to create and evolve events at the Annual SPR Meeting that will continue well beyond my tenure (e.g., the student poster contest, this fabu-

lous Newsletter, various ECPN-sponsored luncheons and symposia). Other benefits appear on my CV including service on ECPN and SPR committees and participation in ECPN-sponsored events. However, the greatest benefits of ECPN participation have by far been the opportunities to meet and collaborate with ECPNers and leaders in prevention science. So, if you are getting your prevention career off the ground, it is hard to top the investment of a rather small amount of your time with ECPN.

It is important to acknowledge the remarkable level of support that SPR provides to ECPN. That support is expressed in many ways, from representation on the SPR Board and subcommittees to the ECPN-dedicated awards at SPR's Annual Meeting, funding of travel scholarships, and encouraging innovative conference events such as the student poster contest. Our profession is still

early in its development and at this point in time prevention science faces many challenges and uncertainties. Even so, SPR support for ECPN in all these areas is unwavering.

As I formally move forward into the middle stage of my career, I am grateful for the many benefits of working on behalf of ECPN and SPR. I look forward to seeing my colleagues and making new acquaintances at the 2011 Annual Meeting of SPR.

Ask me about ECPN!!



ECPN Members Hosting Pre-Conference Workshops

ECPN members always have a strong presence at the annual meeting. This year a number of ECPN members will be sponsoring preconference workshops. Check out these and all of the preconference workshops at: <http://www.wix.com/sprmeeting/2011#!#page-19>

- ◆ The Why, When, and How of Propensity Score Methods for Estimating Causal Effects. Elizabeth Stuart, PhD, Johns Hopkins University
- ◆ Conducting Economic Analyses in Prevention Research: Methods & Tools for Evaluating the Impact of Prevention. D. Max Crowley, PhD, The Pennsylvania State University, & Laura G. Hill, PhD, Washington State University
- ◆ How to Write a Research Grant Proposal to the Institute of Education Sciences: Bringing Prevention Science Ideas to Education Research. Emily J. Doolittle, PhD, & Jacquelyn A. Buckley, PhD, U.S. Department of Education



I attended my first SPR meeting in 2006 because I was interested in being a part of an organization where prevention was the focus. What I didn't expect was to find my professional home.



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Meet Jessica Duncan Cance

I attended my first SPR meeting in 2006 because I was interested in being a part of an organization where prevention was the focus. What I didn't expect was to find my professional home. I joined the ECPN steering committee two years ago because I had attended a number of ECPN-sponsored events and wanted to help give back to the organization. I have really enjoyed getting to know other ECPN members and helping organize the ECPN events at the annual meeting. This year I will be co-chairing the ECPN-sponsored luncheon, "Developing a Successful Research Agenda," with Sharon Brenner.

I hope to see you there!

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education at the University of Texas at Austin. My research interests are the prevention and etiology of adolescent risk behaviors. I am particularly interested in how the longitudinal interaction of biological, psychological, and social factors impacts adolescent health risk behaviors, particularly substance use and aggression. My current research has been focused on how pubertal timing (how developed one is compared with peers) influences substance use in adolescence.

I received my PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, my Master's in Public Health in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and my BS in Chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology. I also received a predoctoral Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) fellowship from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Prior to my doctoral studies, I was a public health researcher at RTI International in North Carolina.

Meet Kerry M. Green

I joined SPR during my postdoctoral fellowship on the advice of one of my mentors, Nick Jalongo. The first meeting I attended was in Washington, DC in 2005, and I cannot say enough about the wonderful people I have met and the insight I have gained as a result of my affiliation with ECPN and SPR over the years. I am so glad I had the opportunity to travel to San Francisco and Denver. I look forward to attending the annual meeting every year and connecting and reconnecting with an amazing group of colleagues.

This year at SPR, I am co-chairing the ECPN Symposium on international collaboration with Marie-Hélène Véronneau. Please attend if you can!

I am also presenting Wednesday morning in a session titled "Development of Substance Use in High-Risk Populations." My presentation focuses on the research I have been doing since my dissertation work with the Woodlawn Study. Last year I received an R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to examine the interrelationship between substance use and psychological problems over the life course in an urban African American population followed for 35 years. The Woodlawn Study provides an excellent opportunity to understand how substance use influences psychological problems and how psychological problems influence substance use over time.

A lot of my work focuses on urban African American populations and etiology and consequences of health risk behaviors. I have greatly enjoyed researching populations followed over a significant portion of the life course and trying to understand pathways to successful development.

I received a PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, an MA in Human Development from the University of Maryland, and a BA in Psychology from the College of William and Mary. I am currently an Assistant Professor in Behavioral and Community Health at the University of Maryland in College Park.

ECPN Sessions at the Annual Meeting



ECPN LUNCHEON
(Registration Required)
Wed., June 1, 11:45am–1:15pm
**Developing a Successful
Research Agenda**

One of the keys to success in prevention science is the development of an independent research agenda. This session will feature a panel of speakers who will describe what a research agenda entails, discuss the importance of having a research agenda, and provide tips and strategies for creating and maintaining a research agenda. There will also be a question and answer period for attendees to solicit advice from the panel on how they can develop their own successful research agenda.

Co-chairs: Sharon Brenner &
Jessica Duncan Cance
Speakers: Catherine Bradshaw,
Kathleen Etz, Diana Fishbein, &
David MacKinnon

ECPN SYMPOSIUM I
Wed., June 1, 1:15 – 2:45 pm
**How to Establish Interna-
tional Collaborations Early in
Your Career**

This session will help early career researchers learn about the process of establishing international collaborations and gain ideas for integrating such activities into their career plan. Topics covered include: (1) strategies to create a network of international colleagues; (2) the role an early career preventionist can play in existing projects; and (3) the challenges of international collaborations. There will be some time for questions from the audience.

Co-chairs: Marie-Hélène Véronneau & Kerry Green
Speakers: Gregor Burkhart, Kristin Kostick, Amélie Petitclerc, Jean J. Schensul, & Edward Smith

ECPN SYMPOSIUM II
Thurs., June 2, 1:15 – 2:45 pm
**Communicating Prevention
Research to Non-academic
Audiences**

This session will provide advice to early career researchers about how to effectively communicate with the government and media. Speakers representing the academic, industry, government, and media communities will be brought together to discuss good communication practices, as well as what researchers and advocates need from each other to do their jobs well. In addition to their presentations, speakers will be asked to reflect on “lessons learned” from their own experiences.

Chair: Bethany Bray
Speakers: Deborah Gorman-Smith, Mari McCoy Roth, & Keith Whyte

**ECPN
Planning
Meeting**

**Friday,
June 3
7:30-8:15am**

**Come see
what the
ECPN
Steering
Committee
is all about!
All are wel-
come!**

ECPN Member News



Stephanie Lanza and **Brittany Rhoades**, Pennsylvania State University, recently published an article in the first ever Special Issue of *Prevention Science*. The article is entitled, “Latent Class Analysis: An Alternative Perspective on Subgroup Analysis in Prevention and Treatment.” It is available online: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/j51n18740t477244/>

Keryn Pasch, University of Texas, just received an R03 grant from the National Cancer Institute entitled *Unhealthy Food and Beverage Advertising Around Schools*. The specific aim of the study is to develop and validate a measurement tool and coding protocol to document and describe outdoor food and beverage advertising around 30 middle schools.

Be sure to check out the Methodology Minutes podcast hosted by The Methodology Center at Penn State. They interviewed **Bethany Bray**, Virginia Tech, for the series. You can find out about her and her work. If you like it, make sure you subscribe to the series via RSS or iTunes as it includes a lot of helpful information for prevention scientists! <http://methodology.psu.edu/podcast>

Marie-Hélène Véronneau co-authored an article that appeared in the February issue of the *Journal of Early Adolescence* and was picked up by a number of news outlets. The study found that boys and girls whose friends are socially active in ways where rules are respected do better in their classroom work. Hav-

ing friends who engage in problem behavior, in contrast, is related to a decrease in their grades. Having pro-social friends and staying away from deviant peers proved more effective for academic payoffs than simply being friends with high-achieving peers. <http://uonews.uoregon.edu/archive/news-release/2011/1/middle-school-when-right-friends-may-matter-most>

Marie-Hélène Véronneau also had some of her other work discussed in a Montreal-based newspaper (La Presse) while she attended the SRCD meeting in Montreal last month. <http://www.cyberpresse.ca/vivre/famille/2011/04/02/01-4385861-la-supervision-parentale-pointee-du-doigt.php>

Don't Miss the ECPN Social Hour at the 2011 SPR Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.



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

Where: Hyatt Regency Hotel Article One Lounge

When: Thursday June 2 at 7:45-8:45 pm

Who: Anyone who wants to come!

Mark your calendar for the 19th Annual Society for Prevention Research Conference May 31– June 3 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. This year's theme is Prevention Scientists Promoting Global Health: Emerging Visions for Today and Tomorrow



Job and Post-Doc Opportunities

Evaluation Specialist/Data Analyst – Penn State University

The Prevention Research Center at Penn State University is seeking candidates for the position of Evaluation Specialist/Data Analyst with the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter). The EPISCenter is a research and technical assistance organization supporting nearly 200 sites as they implement a variety of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs targeting delinquency and youth ATOD use (see www.episcenter.psu.edu). The Evaluation Specialist/Data Analyst will coordinate training and outreach activities aimed at building evaluation capacity within the EPISCenter's client agencies, schools and organizations, and engage in data collection and analysis for the EPISCenter. The EPISCenter's research focuses on the large-scale dissemination of evidence-based programs (Type II translational research as defined by NIDA). To apply, send CV and cover letter describing relevant experience, salary history, and a writing sample via email to Brian Bumbarger, Director, at bkb10@psu.edu. Indicate "Evaluation Specialist" in the subject line. Please see the following link for more information: <http://www.episcenter.psu.edu/sites/default/files/news/Eval%20Specialist%20Penn%20State%20Univ.pdf>

Post-Doctoral Fellowships

The University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, Division of Health Behavior Research, seeks candidates for two- to three-year NCI-funded postdoctoral fellowships. This Ruth L. Kirchstein NRSA Institutional Research Training Program in Cancer Control and Epidemiology focuses on transdisciplinary research on the behavioral and biological determinants of cancer (e.g., tobacco, alcohol, and drug use; physical activity; diet; obesity; adherence to cancer screening, detection, and treatment; STIs) and prevention efforts that target these risk factors. Research among fellows and training faculty is diverse and spans multiple areas. Potential candidates are encouraged visit <http://ipr.usc.edu/research.php> for more details about research opportunities in USC's Division of Health Behavior Research. Send curriculum vitae and statement of interest to: Marny Barovich, USC/IPR, 1000 S. Fremont Ave., Box 8, Alhambra, CA 91803, barovich@usc.edu.

The Prevention Research Center of Michigan (PRC/MI) is seeking a post-doctoral scholar. The Center conducts community-based prevention research to improve health and prevent disease, especially focused on populations with a disproportionate share of poor health outcomes. The post doctoral scholar will be a member of the PRC/MI management team and will participate in research projects and program evaluations, provide technical assistance to community organizations and agencies, assist with grant proposal writing, and author publications and other research products. The post doctoral scholar will be encouraged to develop his/her own prevention research projects. For more information on the PRC/MI see www.sph.umich.edu/prc. For more information on the post-doctoral position, please contact Susan Morrel-Samuels, PRC/MI Managing Director (734-647-0219, sumosa@umich.edu).