



ECPN Connections

The newsletter of
the Early Career Preventionists Network
of the Society for Prevention Research

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2011

Contents

Note from the Steering Committee Chair1

ECPN Poster Contest..2

Meet one of the contest winners: Melissa Lippold.....2

ECPN Awards2

Meet Bethany C. Bray.3

Job and Postdoc Opportunities.....3

News from EPCN Members.....3

Highlights from the 2011 SPR meeting.....4

Special thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter, especially (in alphabetical order): Bethany C. Bray, Jessica Duncan Cance, Pier-Olivier Caron, MeLisa Creamer, Kerry M. Green, Keryn Pasch, and Marie-Hélène Véronneau.

A Note from the Steering Committee Chair

Hello everyone, I am very excited to be writing this note as this is my inaugural edition of *ECPN Connections* as the Chair of ECPN. I am honored to serve as the Chair of ECPN, a great organization for early career prevention scientists. I am also honored to work with the many wonderful people on the steering committee that make ECPN possible. When I first came to SPR as a doctoral student, I was not sure what to expect from the meeting; I had only previously attended the American Public Health Association meetings, which while very informative were so large it was very easy to get lost in them. SPR was a completely new experience, a smaller meeting where the senior prevention scientists interacted with the early

career scientists and the early career scientists all interacted with each other. I knew after that first meeting that SPR would be my professional home. As I became more involved with ECPN and SPR, I was amazed at the dedication to early career scientists in meeting sessions, pre-conference workshops, and the ECPN steering committee. Over the years of my involvement in ECPN, we have continued to strive to develop resources for early career scientists. This newsletter is one such resource. I hope this newsletter and our upcoming sessions and events at SPR help us to continue to grow as an ECPN community and make the valuable connections, both professionally and personally, that will serve us throughout our career and our lives. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting

in DC in May. Please come by the ECPN social on Thursday night to say hello! (For more details, make sure to read the next issue of *ECPN Connections*.)

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I would like to thank Marie-Hélène Véronneau, MeLisa Creamer, Kerry Green, and all other collaborators who have worked very hard putting it together!! As you read the newsletter, you will see highlights from current ECPN members and their achievements.

- Keryn Pasch



Mark your calendars!
SPR 20th Annual Meeting
Promoting Healthy Living through
Prevention Science

May 29 - June 1, 2012,
Hyatt Regency Washington, Washington, DC

To keep members of ECPN posted on interesting news in the field of prevention research, we will be developing a Facebook page and a Twitter profile. We are looking for volunteers to help the ECPN Steering Committee maintain our social network presence. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Lindstrom-Johnson at slj@jhmi.edu.

“Wait—am I an ECPN member?”

If you are a member of SPR and if you also are a student, a postdoctoral researcher, a young faculty member (within 10 years of your terminal degree), or a professional working in the field of prevention for less than 10 years, the answer is YES, you are a member of ECPN!

We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or ideas about the newsletter content, or if you would like to share good news (publications, grants, new position—see examples on page 3), do not hesitate to contact Marie-Hélène Véronneau at veronneau.marie-helene@uqam.ca. The next issue of the newsletter will come out in the spring, before the 2012 SPR meeting.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2011 ECPN Poster Contest and Awards

ECPN Poster Contest

Contest Winners

- **Melissa Lippold**, Penn State University. Poster title: "Risky Behavior and Changes in Parental Monitoring During Middle School".
- **Angela Henneberger**, University of Virginia. Poster title: "Longitudinal Effects of Peer Violence and Popularity on Delinquency in Adolescent Males: Moderation by Family Functioning". Co-authors: Durkee Myles, Nancy Truong, Avis Atkins, and Patrick Tolan.
- **Christopher Powers**, Penn State University. Poster title: "Aggressive Students in Restricted Educational Placements: Moderated Influence of Placement History on Adolescent Outcomes". Co-authors: Donna Coffman and Karen Bierman.

Honorable Mentions

- **Grace Lee**, Johns Hopkins University. Poster title: "Adolescence Gambling as an Early Marker for Young Adulthood Arrests?" Co-authors: Carla Storr, Nicholas Ialongo, and Silvia Martins.
- **Dana Darney**, University of Missouri. Poster title: "Distal Outcomes of Twelfth Grade Students Identified in First Grade as Having Co-Occurring Academic and Behavior Problems". Co-authors: Wendy Reinke, Keith Herman, and Nicholas Ialongo.
- **Lindsey Bordon**, University of Missouri-Columbia. Poster title: "Perceived Control as a Mediator in the Relation Between Academic Competence and Depression". Co-authors: Joni Splett, Keith Herman, and Nicholas Ialongo.

Meet one of the contest winners... Melissa Lippold



I am a doctoral student in the Human Development and Family Studies program at Penn State. I currently work on the PROSPER project, a large-scale effectiveness trial of preventive interventions in IA and PA. My research explores the role that parent-youth relationships play in the prevention of substance use and delinquency and the design and implementation of family-based interventions. In my dissertation, I use person-oriented methods to investigate how changes in combinations of youth and parent behaviors related to parental monitoring are associated with the emergence of substance use.

ECPN Awards

ECPN Early Career Award

Dr. Emily Rothman, Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University School of Public Health.

Dr. Rothman earned her Master's and her ScD in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2004. She has been invited to speak on the topic of intimate partner or dating violence at state, national, and international conferences, taught several courses for graduate students, and has been recognized for her commitment to high-quality teaching. She has served on multiple Massachusetts state boards or coalitions. Dr. Rothman has been the Principal investigator of 7 grants so far.

The ECPN Early Career Award is given in recognition of a person early in their career in prevention who has shown a commitment to prevention science through outstanding contributions to research, policy, or practice.

Friend of ECPN Award

Dr. Daniel Shaw, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Shaw's commitment to the next generation of scientists is evident. Students and postdoctoral fellows working with him have been awarded 44 competitive fellowships and/or publication awards, and have co-authored 85 peer reviewed publications under his direction. Dr. Shaw encourages his mentees to think translationally about their research. He equally prioritizes basic and applied prevention research topics. He gives his mentees generous amounts of time and continues to support them after they leave his laboratory.

The Friend of ECPN Award is presented to a mid-career or senior preventionist who has supported and encouraged early career prevention scientists or issues.

Would you like to win a free one-year membership to SPR?
Or would like to have one more award to mention in your CV?

If you were a student when you submitted your poster abstract for the 2012 SPR meeting, be ready for the next edition of the 2012 ECPN student poster contest! If your poster is selected for presentation at the meeting, you will receive an e-mail inviting you to submit your poster to the contest. Be ready and plan ahead: you will need to send your full poster by e-mail to the chair of the selection committee about three weeks before the SPR meeting to be eligible. For more information, contact Jessica Duncan Cance, jdcance@mail.utexas.edu

Meet Bethany C. Bray

The ECPN Steering Committee is working hard behind the scenes. In this issue, we highlight the contribution of a valuable member who has been involved with ECPN for many years.



Bethany C. Bray is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Virginia Tech. She received

her Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies (2007) and her Masters of Applied Statistics (2006) from Penn State. While at Penn State, Bethany worked with Linda M. Collins at The Methodology Center, and as a pre-doctoral fellow in the Prevention and Methodology Training program she also worked with Edward A. Smith and Ty A. Ridenour.

Bethany's research is focused on the development and application of advanced latent class modeling

techniques to questions about the development of alcohol and other substance use, with a special emphasis on its relation to the development of comorbid risk behaviors like gambling and risky sexual behavior. Her methodological work provides a way to identify types of individuals characterized by similar multi-dimensional patterns of behavior, describe change over time in these patterns, and model relations among multiple behaviors. These methods provide an alternative to the traditional practice of using a sum of the pathological gambling diagnostic criteria to identify individuals at high risk for developing gambling problems. Bethany's dissertation work, focusing on the application of latent

class modeling techniques in gambling research, received the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Her research has been funded through NIH and the Alcohol Beverage Medication Research Foundation (ABMRF), and has been published in a variety of methodological and substantive journals. In addition, Bethany teaches graduate-level courses on research methods, psychometrics, and categorical data analysis, as well as hands-on workshops on latent class/transition analysis and programming in SAS and R. For more information, visit her website at <http://filebox.vt.edu/users/bcbray>.

Job and Postdoc Opportunities

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Alcohol Research at the University of Washington. This training is for individuals who wish to pursue a career in alcohol research, with an emphasis on etiology and prevention of problem drinking and alcohol dependence. This 2-year appointment is commencing no earlier than July 1 and no later than December 31 of each year, within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Addictive Behaviors Research Center in the Department of Psychology. Submit documents by January 10. For more information: <http://depts.washington.edu/cshrb/newweb/postdoc.html>

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Offord Centre for Child Studies. One to two-year Lawson postdoctoral fellowship in child development. Bringing different perspectives to common issues, trainees will work within a collaborative interdisciplinary team to establish their own research programs supported by faculty from multiple disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, pediatrics, economics, epidemiology, and statistics). Application deadline: April 30, 2012. For more info: www.offordcentre.com

Open-Rank, Tenure-Track Position in Quantitative Methods and Experimental Design at the University of Delaware, College of Education and Human Development. The college seeks applications from experienced researchers with strong quantitative skills and a record of designing and implementing cluster randomized trials and conducting sophisticated statistical analyses. Review of applications begins on December 1, 2011. For more info: <http://www.udel.edu/udjobs>; read the "Applicant Instructions" under the "Resources for Applicants" tab, or contact Ratna Nandakumar, search committee chair, at nandakum@udel.edu.

News from EPCN Members

Announcements

- **Jessica Duncan Cance**, PhD, has been voted chair-elect of ECPN at the 2011 SPR elections. She will hold this position for two years and transition into the position of ECPN chair in 2013.
- **Gregory M. Fosco**, PhD, has been appointed as an assistant professor position in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the Pennsylvania State University.
- **Kerry M. Green**, PhD, is the recipient of the 2011 University of Maryland School of Public Health Leda Amick Wilson Mentoring Award.
- **Marie-Hélène Véronneau**, PhD, has recently joined the Department of Psychology at the Université du Québec à Montréal (Canada), where she works as an assistant professor.

New papers from ECPN members

Cance, J. D., Ennett, S. T., Morgan-Lopez, A., & Foshee, V. A. (2011, advance online publication). The stability of perceived pubertal timing across adolescence. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*. DOI: 10.1007/s10964-011-9720-0 (<http://www.springerlink.com/content/ax2364177w163t34/>)

Highlights from the ECPN sessions held at the 2011 SPR meeting

Developing a Successful Research Agenda

ECPN luncheon co-chaired by Shannon Brenner and Jessica Duncan Cance

A key to success in prevention science is the development of an independent research agenda. The luncheon featured speakers at various career levels and with unique insights into this process.

Advice from the 2010 ECPN Early Career Award Recipient. Dr. Catherine Bradshaw emphasized the importance of developing a program of work, not a collection of projects. Think about how you would describe your work in a grant application or a job talk. Also, look to your role models to reflect on who you want to be in the next 5-15 years. She emphasized the importance of mentors in the development of a program of research, with particular focus on networking. Be proactive in seeking out opportunities.

Developing a research agenda from the funding perspective.

According to Dr. Kathleen Etz, Program Officer at NIDA, your research agenda will help you get grant funding if it is tied together by a unifying, somewhat narrow theme. It should be distinguishable from your mentor's work. First author publications are the best way to demonstrate independence, but you can pull in relevant coursework and research. If you have disparate experiences, you should "build bridges" to tie them together into a cohesive narrative. You need to know where you are going to choose the experiences that best fit into this narrative.

Developing a Research Agenda at a Non-Academic Institution. Dr. Diana Fishbein, Senior Fellow and Scientist at RTI International, mentioned that one benefit of conducting research outside of

academia is the ability to be flexible, to create your own niche, and to develop interdisciplinary research teams to tackle prevention research issues. Also relevant to academic settings, she stressed the importance of finding collaborators to work towards your research goals.

Perseverance is key. According to Dr. David MacKinnon, Foundation Professor of Psychology at Arizona State University, it takes time to develop a program of study. Publications "are the currency of our jobs" and grants are critical. Be prepared for rejection and learn from it. In academia, teaching is important—be an involved instructor, but don't forget about publishing and submitting grants. Most importantly, he championed early career preventionists in the room—"Your work is important."

How to Establish International Collaborations Early in your Career

ECPN session co-chaired by Marie-Hélène Véronneau and Kerry Green

One of the ECPN symposia highlighted strategies that early career preventionists can use to establish international collaborations. Drs. Jay Schensul, Gregor Bukhart, Edward Smith, Kristin Kostick, and Amélie Petitclerc generously shared their advice on the topic; here are the take-home messages.

Preliminary steps. Mention your interest for international work to colleagues. They can tell you about good opportunities. Be aware of the skills you have that may be valued in other countries where they are less common.

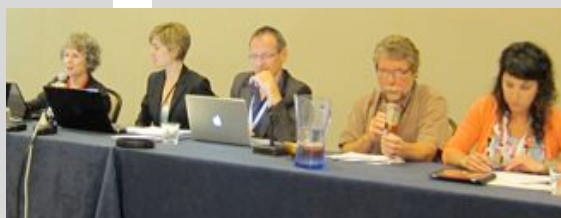
How to initiate collaborations. If you are about to start a graduate program or a postdoctoral training, you can seek an advisor with a program of international research. Later in your career, your

professional network can introduce you to international acquaintances... and the SPR meeting is excellent for networking! It is fine to approach potential collaborators directly, but make sure to express a genuine interest for their program of research or culture.

Keys to success. Patience is fundamental. International projects take a long time to develop, and establishing trusting relationships with foreign colleagues takes time. Getting involved in an existing project or cultivating your relationships with international colleagues is a good start. Successful collaborations should benefit both parties equally, so be careful not to impose your ideas and

not to pressure your collaborators.

Conclusion. If possible, spend at least a few months abroad when you start your collaboration, so your colleagues can see how you will be a valuable collaborator. This will increase the odds of staying in touch. Even if you feel slowed you down in your research, spending time abroad is an investment if you develop valuable intercultural knowledge and skills. One last point: enjoy the full experience of being abroad. Explore, connect with people, and have fun!



Drs. Schensul, Petitclerc, Bukhart, Smith, and Kostick.