



# ECPN Connections

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

[preventionresearch.org/ecpn-mission/](http://preventionresearch.org/ecpn-mission/)

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Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter, especially the Newsletter Committee: (Paula Adams, MeLisa Creamer, Katrina Debnam, Natalie Golaszewski)	
Thanks to our contributors: Jessica Duncan Cance, Sarah Chilenski, and Marie-Hélène Véronneau	

## A Note from the Steering Committee Chair



Jessica Duncan Cance

### Greetings from ECPN!

The Spring semester is ending, grant season is in full bloom, and it is my favorite time of year to be a part of SPR and ECPN – time for the Annual Meeting! The ECPN Steering Committee has been working hard to prepare for the meeting and this issue of ECPN Connections highlights the many ECPN-sponsored activities that will be occurring in Washington, DC. In addition, we include tips for the meeting from our members.

On page 4, you can read about the work of our extremely hard-working ECPN Training Committee. Over the past year this committee took the initiative to develop the pre-conference workshop *Promising Practices in Teaching as Applied to Prevention Science*. The workshop is going to combine presentations regarding innovative teaching strategies and hands-on application. During the Meeting there are three ECPN-sponsored sessions, one occurring each day of the meeting: *How to Review Articles*, *How to Be a Good Mentor*, and *Setting and Achieving Goals throughout Your Career Trajectory*. Pages 5 and 6 provide the dates and times of the three sessions in addition to a summary of the topics to be covered and confirmed speakers. While the workshop and three sessions were designed to meet the needs and interests of early-career preventionists all SPR members are welcome to attend!

While at the meeting, be sure to check out the entries of the 6<sup>th</sup> annual ECPN Student Poster Contest! Both undergraduate and graduate students were encouraged to enter the competition. The posters will be displayed during the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening SPR poster sessions. Entrants were judged by both ECPN members and senior

scientists based on innovation, importance to the field of prevention science, research methodology, and overall quality. The winners will be announced at the SPR awards ceremony on Thursday afternoon. Many thanks to Marie-Hélène Véronneau, our ECPN Chair-Elect, for organizing this year's contest.

As always, this issue contains only some of the recent research accomplishments of ECPN members. We know that there are many more accomplishments that could be shared, so when you have news or want to share the news of your colleagues, don't be shy! We also highlight two ECPN members – Adam Milam and John Monopoli – on page 3. Both men are relatively new to the ECPN Steering Committee but have made important contributions to the Annual Meeting events and are involved in exciting work in the adolescent community.

In addition to our professional sessions during the Annual Meeting we have a number of informal ways to network with members of the ECPN Steering Committee and other ECPN members. The ECPN table will be set up near the registration table – stop by to enter the raffle for an SPR membership! ECPN is now the official sponsor of the Fun Run/Walk and we hope to see everyone Thursday morning when we head out onto the National Mall for some exercise to start the day. Thursday evening we will have the ECPN Social Hour prior to the fun of the SPR dance. We hope that you will take the time to stop by one, or all, of our events and say hello!

See you in DC -  
Jessica Duncan Cance, MPH, PhD

**SPR 22nd Annual Meeting**  
**Comprehensive and Coordinated Prevention Systems:  
Building Partnerships and Transcending Boundaries**  
May 27-30, 2014  
**Preconference Workshops**  
May 27, 2014

## News from ECPN Members

### Recent Publications

- Bergen, G., **Yao, J.**, Shults, R.A., Romano, E., & Lacey, J.H. (2014). Characteristics of Designated Drivers and their Passengers from the 2007 National Roadside Survey in the United States. *Traffic Injury Prevention, 15*(3), 273-277.
- Boyd-Ball, A. J., **Véronneau, M.-H.**, Dishion, T. J. Kavanagh, K. (in press). Monitoring and peer influences as predictors of increases in alcohol use among American Indian youth. *Prevention Science*.
- Kelley-Baker, T., Moore, C., Lacey J.H., & **Yao, J.** (2014). Comparing drug detection in oral fluid and blood: data from a national sample of nighttime drivers. *Traffic Injury Prevention, 15*(2), 111-118.
- **Lindstrom Johnson, S.**, Blum, RW, Cheng, TL. (In press) Future Orientation: A Construct with Implications for Adolescent Health and Wellbeing. *International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health*.
- **Lindstrom Johnson, S.**, Tandon, SD, Cheng, T. (In press) Career Readiness: A Potential Pathway through which Urban Youth Exposure to Stress Influences Adult Health. *Journal of Community Psychology*.
- Perry, C., and **M. Creamer.** (2014) "The Childhood Obesity Epidemic: Lessons Learned from Tobacco." *Journal of Pediatrics* 164(1): 178-185.
- **Rulison, K.L.**, Gest, S.D., & Osgood, D.W (2014). Adolescent Peer Networks and the Potential for the Diffusion of Intervention Effects. *Prevention Science*.
- Velazquez, C. E. & **Pasch, K. E.** (2014). Attention to Food and Beverage Advertisements as Measured by Eye-Tracking Technology and the Food Preferences and Choices of Youth. *Journal of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, Apr;114 (4):578-82
- **Véronneau, M.-H.**, Hiatt Racer, K. D., **Fosco, G. M.**, & Dishion, T. J. (In press). The contribution of adolescent effortful control to early adult educational attainment. *Journal of Educational Psychology*.
- **Yao, J.**, Johnson, M.B., & Beck, K.H. (2014). Predicting DUI Decisions in Different Legal Environments: Investigating Deterrence with a Conjoint Experiment. *Traffic Injury Prevention, 15*(3), 213-221.
- Yarnell, L. M., **Pasch, K. E.**, Brown, H. S., Perry, C. L., Komro, K. A. (2014). Cross-Gender Social Normative Effects for Violence in

Middle School: Do Girls Carry a Social Multiplier Effect for At-Risk Boys? *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, Feb 25, epub

### Grants & New Positions

- **Paula Adams** will begin a new job effective June 1. She will be the Associate Director of Health Promotion at Health & Wellness Services, Washington State University
- **MeLisa Creamer** will begin a new position as a faculty associate at the University of Texas School of Public Health Austin Regional Campus in June.
- **J.D. Smith** will begin a new position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Baylor University in August.
- **Muzafar Razali** is now an international visiting scholar at Virginia Commonwealth University from the Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia in the Department of Psychology and Counseling.

## A New ECPN—International Task Force Liaison

Marie-Hélène Véronneau is now the ECPN representative on the SPR International Task Force (ITF). This task force is chaired by Dr. Brenda Miller and SPR members from various countries are involved in this group to promote international networking among prevention scientists, contribute to the sharing of prevention science knowledge around the world, and facilitate

financial support of international collaborations on prevention-related projects. ITF members are keen to learn how its current or future activities can be useful to ECPN members. What aspects of international collaboration are you interested in or curious about? In what ways do you think SPR could help you better develop international aspects of your work?

If you have ideas to share, contact [Marie-Helene](mailto:Marie-Helene@uqam.ca) at [veronneau.marie-helene@uqam.ca](mailto:veronneau.marie-helene@uqam.ca). Or even better: come and share your thoughts in person at the annual meeting. The ITF will sponsor the International Networking Forum (1-5pm), followed by the NIDA international poster session, on **Tuesday May 27**. See you there!

The ECPN Steering Committee is working hard behind the scenes. In this issue, we highlight the contribution of two early career professionals who have proved to be valuable members of our network.

## Meet Adam Milam



Adam J. Milam, Ph.D., MHS is a Faculty Associate in the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH). Adam received his Masters in Health Science and Ph.D. in Public Health from the Department of Mental Health at JHSPH. During his doctoral studies, Adam was funded through the NIMH Children's Mental Health Services training grant. His dissertation focused on the impact of alcohol outlets on children and adolescents' safety and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

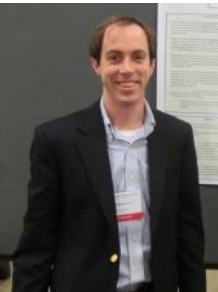
Adam currently serves as Co-Investigator on the CDC-funded JHSPH Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence. The Center has developed and is now implementing and evaluating a multifaceted intervention to reduce youth violence (ages 10-24) in one of Baltimore's most violent neighborhoods. Adam is overseeing several components of the observational data collection and is assisting in the evaluation of the intervention. Adam also serves as a data analyst for a large-scale trial of school climate in high

schools. He assisted with the development of an observational measure, the School Assessment for Environmental Typology (SAfETY), which captures several components of the school environment related to school safety and climate.

Adam's research focuses on the prevention of adolescent alcohol and tobacco use. He research has explored the impact of alcohol outlets on adolescent exposure to and use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). This research has helped guide legislation of the zoning of alcohol outlets. He has also focused on tobacco use policies to reduce adolescent and young adult smoking. Adam also has a special interest in geospatial methods to address important public health issues.

In his spare time (or lack thereof), Adam is a second year medical student at Wayne State University. Adam joined SPR in 2009, but is new to the ECPN family. Learn more about Adam's research interest at the conference this year where he will be presenting his talk, "Alcohol Outlet Policies to Reduce Crime & Improve Student Safety".

## Meet John Monopoli



John Monopoli is a clinical research assistant on Dr. Stephen Leff's team at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He received a master's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo in June 2013, and graduated with high honors from Dickinson College with a B.A. in psychology in 2011. John's interests thus far have transcended several different topics and age groups; under the mentorship of Dr. Rebecca Houston in Buffalo, his master's thesis explored forms and functions of impulsivity in college students. In 2010, under the supervision of fellow SPR member Dr. Sharon Kingston, he was awarded a Psi Chi grant to investigate emotion regulation and social skills in second grade students.

In his current position, John contributes to a variety of clinical and research initiatives. He co-facilitates PRAISE, a bullying prevention program for elementary school students in Philadelphia city schools. He also runs focus groups with local middle school students, which has

fostered an appreciation for the challenges in working with children of different ages and backgrounds. During the last two summers, John worked at a comprehensive treatment program for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, an experience that he considers among his most influential. When he's not working in schools, John appreciates the opportunity to manage the team's data and using that data to address questions and issues that guide the team's writing process. He plans to apply to doctoral programs in clinical psychology this fall, in preparation for a career that will enable him to contribute to clinically the field as well as through research.

When not working, John enjoys contributing to ECPN, where he helped to develop this year's teaching pre-conference. He has been a member of SPR since 2012. In his limited free time, John follows the downward trajectory of several hopeless sports franchises, including the New York Jets. He also enjoys spending time with his family, which includes a 20-pound cat and a loyal German Shepherd, in his native community, upstate New York.

## ECPN Spotlight: The ECPN Training Sub-Committee

Historically, one ECPN Member has represented the interests of all early career prevention researchers by serving on the larger SPR Training Committee. However, interest in helping inform, plan, and execute training opportunities for early career (and later career) members seems to have grown in the last three years, so much so that the ECPN now has a dedicated training sub-committee that consists of seven consistent members: Sarah Chilenski, Nadine Finigan-Carr, John Monopoli, Keryn Pasch, Christina Pate, Kelly Rulison, and Valerie Shapiro. This consistent membership group has helped allow the group to not only provide feedback and input on broader SPR training events but also to take a leadership role in planning and executing training-related events and activities, in concert with the broader SPR Training Committee.

Over the last year, this work has led to the preparation of a pre-conference session at this year's conference focused on supporting teachers of prevention science, and specifically prevention science-related statistics. The session titled, ***Promising Practices in Teaching as Applied to Prevention Science***, organized by Nadine Finigan-Carr, John Monopoli, Kelly Rulison, and Valerie Shapiro, will include a review of key principles of teaching, as well as introduce strategies during an interactive component that participants can employ in their classrooms. Its broad focus will make it applicable to all attendees at the SPR meeting that have an interest in teaching. The session will include presenters with a

variety of backgrounds, ranging from clinical and community psychology to public health and epidemiology. Each presenter will draw on their own teaching experiences, which range from undergraduate courses at a small liberal arts college to graduate classes at research-focused institutions, and discuss their experiences in the context of the empirical research on teaching, and in prevention science. Session participants will leave the session with immediately actionable strategies that they can use in their own classrooms. Please see <http://www.preventionresearch.org/2014-annual-meeting/pre-conference-workshops-and-international-networking-forum/> or contact John Monopoli ([monopoliw@email.chop.edu](mailto:monopoliw@email.chop.edu)) for more information.

This subcommittee has also discussed many possible future activities including a follow-up survey from the 1998 effort spearheaded by Dr. Mark Eddy that is focused on identifying the current training needs of prevention researchers at all levels, video-recording training-related sessions at the SPR conference to make them available on the Internet to prevention researchers world-wide, and building on the teaching theme at future pre-conferences. If you are interested in assisting with these, or have other training-related ideas that could help build the skills of today's prevention scientists, please contact the co-chairs of the sub-committee: Sarah Chilenski ([sem268@psu.edu](mailto:sem268@psu.edu)) or Keryn Pasch ([kpasch@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:kpasch@austin.utexas.edu)).

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CONFERENCE

While sitting through presentations or walking through the poster session, have you ever wondered, "Could I be getting more out of this?" The thought has definitely crossed our minds so we've decided to ask the ECPN Steering Committee members' about their tips for getting the most out of the sessions that they attend.

- Oral presentations:
  - Make an effort to think about interesting questions to discuss with the presenters.
  - Good questions don't always come up by themselves, they require you to make a little effort.
- Poster sessions:
  - Don't spend too much time reading the posters; if the poster seems interesting, just ask the presenter to walk you through their study. It's more fun and it feels much less awkward.
  - If you are the presenter and someone has spent 10 seconds reading your poster, offer him / her to walk them through the study; they will usually say yes.
  - Plan some breaks in your schedule. Even if there seems to be something interesting at all times, you cannot take everything in if you don't take some rest from time to time.

## ECPN Sessions at the Spring 2014 Annual Meeting

### HOW TO REVIEW ARTICLES (LUNCH SESSION)—REGISTRATION REQUIRED

WEDNESDAY MAY 28TH, 11:30AM-1PM, REGENCY B

#### Session Chairs: Amanda Sisselman, D.S.W. and Nancy Travino-Schafer, M.S.

Peer review is an integral part of most (if not all) SPR members' professional responsibilities. Some ECPN members are at a stage in their career when they are learning how to answer peer reviewers comments (e.g., when revising a manuscript). Other ECPN members are currently transitioning into the role of being a peer reviewer themselves. Being a peer reviewer eventually becomes a significant part of a researcher's work. To help ECPN members to become competent peer reviewers, this session has several goals:

- To outline a few principles that can help us do a good job when conducting a peer review;
- To use these principles in an interactive reviewing activity, moderated by ECPN members;
- To provide guidelines about when to say "yes" and when to say "no" to a peer review request.

This topic is especially timely considering that Catherine Bradshaw, the upcoming editor of *Prevention Science*, has put together a mentored-review program for the journal, wherein graduate students will get the chance to learn how to conduct good peer reviews of submitted manuscripts.

#### Confirmed Speakers:

- Catherine Bradshaw, Ph.D., M.Ed. (Professor, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, University of Virginia; Editor, *Prevention Science*)
- Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University; Associate Editor, *Journal of Early Adolescence*)
- Elise Pas, Ph.D., NCSP (Assistant Scientist, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)

### SETTING AND ACHIEVING GOALS THROUGHOUT YOUR EARLY CAREER TRAJECTORY-

THURSDAY, MAY 29TH, 1:15-2:45PM, CONCORD

#### Session Chairs: Diego Garcia-Huidobro, M.D. and Crystal Barksdale, Ph.D.

As with everything, a good start is important to one's career trajectory. This session will focus on how to plan, set, achieve and adjust goals throughout the first years of a prevention scientist's career. This session will also discuss how early career activities inform middle and late careers from both academic and non-academic perspectives.

#### Confirmed Speakers:

- Rhonda Boyd, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor, Children's

Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine)

- Philip Graham, Dr.P.H., MPH. (Senior Public Health Researcher, RTI International)
- Sarah Bacon, Ph.D. (Behavioral Scientist, CDC)
- Gerald August, Ph.D. (Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School and Director of the Center for Personalized Prevention Research in Children's Mental Health)

**ECPN Social Hour!** Please join us for the ECPN Social Hour Thursday from 8:15-9:15PM

Make sure to check out the student poster contest. Winners will be announced on Thursday afternoon!

## HOW TO BE A GOOD MENTOR

### FRIDAY MAY 30TH, 8:30-10AM, COLUMBIA FOYER

**Session Chairs: Katrina Debnam, Ph.D., MPH and Brittany Cooper, Ph.D., M.S.**

While past sessions have focused on the importance of receiving good mentorship and have given guidance as to how to be a good mentee, little attention has been paid to the fact that the majority of ECPN members also find themselves as mentors. In fact, a recent survey of ECPN members suggest that they spend a substantial part of their week in various mentoring activities. While universities may provide teaching and research support, advice on mentoring, particularly for early career professionals, is less likely to be available. This session will seek to:

1. Use data from the mentorship survey conducted in 2010 to discuss the dual roles of mentee/mentor for ECPN members
2. Elucidate best practices in mentoring, particularly

geared towards the type of mentorship roles that ECPN members are most likely to identify (e.g., mentoring graduate and undergraduate students)

3. Provide strategies for balancing the time spent mentoring with other activities necessary for promotion
4. Provide an opportunity for small group discussion with experienced mentors regarding potential challenges encountered while mentoring as an early career professional.

Confirmed Speakers:

- Michael Hecht, Ph.D.
- Sharon Lambert, Ph.D.
- Brian Flay, Ph.D.
- Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Ph.D.
- Amanda Sisselman, D.S.W.

## HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A GOOD POSTER SESSION AND/OR PRESENTATION

We've decided to share some of the ECPN Steering Committee members' suggestions about how to put together a good poster/presentation. Whether you are presenting at the annual SPR conference in a few weeks or have any other upcoming presentations, we hope these tips are useful!

1. Write as few words as possible (which also allows to use bigger font).
2. Less is more. Fill in the blanks as you make your presentation or discuss your poster with people.
3. Present ideas in point-form as much as possible.
4. Display images, photos, figures, or graphs/flowcharts and say the words.
5. Include interesting photos that illustrate your topic and that will attract people to your poster.
6. In your results section, use figures instead of tables or words whenever possible.
7. Create a story you want to tell about your study.
8. Know your audience.
9. Make it easy for the eyes to follow.
10. Be aware of colors and busy backgrounds.

**Thursday May 29th ECPN SPR**

**Fun run/walk**

**Join us at 6:45am —7:45 am for a  
run/walk around the nation's capital**

#### Members of the ECPN Steering Committee

Paula Adams, Crystal Barksdale, Jessica Duncan Cance, Sarah Chilenski, Brittany Rhoades Cooper, MeLisa Creamer, Max Crowley, Katrina Debnam, Jennifer Doty, Nadine Finigan, Diego Garcia-Huidobro, Natalie Golaszewski, Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, Brandi Martell, Adam J Milam, John Monopoli, Christina Pate, Keryn Pasch, Sarah Racz, Jessie (Connell) Rudi, Kelly Rulison, Valerie Shapiro, Amanda Sisselman, Anna Talley, Jeff Temple, Nancy Trevino-Schafer, Marie-Hélène Véronneau, Julie Yao

## JOB, TRAINING, AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Drug Dependence Epidemiology and Substance Abuse Prevention**

The Drug Dependence Epidemiology Training Program (DDET), funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (PI: Dr. C. Debra Furr-Holden), is designed to develop expert scientists in the field of the epidemiology and consequences of drug and alcohol dependence. A primary goal of research emphasized within the DDET Program is to explicate biological and environmental factors associated with changes in drug taking behavior, variations in problem severity of drug use, and risk and protective factors associated with the consequences of drug taking behavior, including environmental correlates.

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references to: Sarah Lindstrom Johnson, PhD, Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; [slj@jhmi.edu](mailto:slj@jhmi.edu)

- **Two Post-Doctoral Fellowships available in Tobacco Regulatory Science**

The new Tobacco Center for Regulatory Science on Youth and Young Adults at the University of Texas School of Public Health, Austin Regional Campus, funded by the NIH and FDA, seeks two post-doctoral level fellows to join their traineeship program. These post-doctoral fellows will be selected for a 12-month fellowship beginning fall of 2014, with an opportunity for renewal up to 36 consecutive months. For more information, including details on how to apply and eligibility criteria, contact Kacey Hanson, Project Coordinator at [Kacey.A.Hanson@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Kacey.A.Hanson@uth.tmc.edu)

- **Funding Announcement**

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has recently published two discretionary research funding announcements titled “*Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants*” and “*Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Child Care Research Scholars*”. If you have questions regarding these grant announcements, please email [HSGraduateResearchReviews@icfi.com](mailto:HSGraduateResearchReviews@icfi.com) or [ChildcareScholars@icfi.com](mailto:ChildcareScholars@icfi.com), respectively, or call 1-877-350-5913.

- The full announcements for “Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Head Start Graduate Student Research Grants:” <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2014-ACF-OPRE-YR-0785>
- The full announcement for “Early Care and Education Research Scholars: Child Care Graduate Student Research Grants:” <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2014-ACF-OPRE-YE-0775>

### ECPN TABLE

We all love the session breaks for the endless coffee and treats, but now there is another reason: the ECPN Table! Drop by to meet other early career prevention scientists, pick up information about ECPN conference sessions, and pick up your ECPN badge tag. In fact, all you need to be an ECPN member is to be a student or within 10 years post-degree. Also, take a look at the jobs board and feel free to share information about open postings with your colleagues. We look forward to seeing you there! [Make sure you enter our raffle for two free SPR memberships for one year, which come with a subscription to the \*Prevention Science\* journal.](#)

### We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or ideas about the newsletter, or if you would like to share good news (publications, grants, new position), contact Melisa Creamer at: [melisa.r.creamer@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:melisa.r.creamer@uth.tmc.edu). The next issue of the newsletter will come out in Fall 2014.