Congratulations! You’ve made it to the future, but watch out—almost everything you know about funding of healthcare services may soon be wrong. Most psychologists in practice today are used to a fee-for-service system where compensation ties directly to the number of service units we deliver.

Managed care was supposed to tweak that model into becoming more efficient by making sure that the units of services delivered qualified as “medically necessary,” “cost effective,” and (more recently) “evidence based.” In reality, the current healthcare system simply led to cost shifting in managed care. No one had any motivation to focus on the larger picture of how to deliver quality preventive care or well-integrated comprehensive approaches to managing complex chronic illness conditions. Instead, third-party payers sought to control costs using bureaucratic mechanisms that bore little relationship to promoting patients’ wellbeing.

We will soon witness a major restructuring of the healthcare system aiming at establishing and rewarding high-value integrated care. Proponents of such change have argued that insurers should prosper only when they act in ways that improve their policy-holders’ health (Porter, 2009). Porter and his colleagues argue that we should measure outcomes over a full cycle of care for a medical condition, not separately for each intervention. The argument holds that outcomes of care require multidimensional assessment, not focusing only on survival but also addressing quality of life including: the degree of health or recovery achieved, duration of care needed for recovery, comfort, and sustainability of recovery. Using the example of a comprehensive headache clinic, Porter argues for integrated provider teams and assessment of outcomes adjusted against patients’ initial conditions and case complexity (Porter, Guth, & Dannemiller, 2007).

New Directions
Pediatric psychology stands well positioned to play a critical role in pursuit of these new directions. Our assessment skills will prove essential in measurement of health outcomes across providers and conditions. Our research on enhancing quality of life, treatment adherence, symptom control, parent training, and systematic human problem solving in the hospital and out-patient clinic has significant potential to address quality improvement. We have historically worked alongside pediatricians and specialists in ways that our psychiatric colleagues—focused on psychopharmacology and lacking meaningful training in outcome assessments—simply are not prepared to address.

Two prototypical models might include asthma and obesity in children. Both conditions lend themselves to effective combinations of preventive and rehabilitative care that can significantly reduce emergency department visits (in the case of asthma) and other health complications (type 2 diabetes in the case of obesity). Scores of studies have repeatedly demonstrated the value of behavioral interventions with these populations. The time will soon arrive when pediatric pulmonary and endocrine clinics without well-integrated behavioral components will be deemed substandard and suffer under new reimbursement models.

The key to effective integration in the emerging system will involve seeking out active partnerships that demonstrate the value added by pediatric psychologists in both primary pediatric care and the management of chronic pediatric conditions. Research aimed at integrating services, collaborative care, enhancing overall quality of care, and actively measuring shifting outcomes that result from these efforts will attract attention and funding. More importantly, initiatives that can demonstrate a value-focused difference will attract considerable attention and greater reward than simple procedure counting.

You know how to do this. What are you waiting for?

References


Gerald Koocher, Ph.D., ABPP, is currently an associate provost and professor of Psychology at Simmons College in Boston. He served as APA president in 2006 and also has served as the JPP editor.
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Newsletter Deadline
Articles for the next newsletter are due before May 15, 2011. Please send your submission to newsletter editor, David M. Janicke, Ph.D. at djanicke@phhp.ufl.edu.

The 119th APA convention will be held August 4-7, 2011, in Washington, D.C., a place brimming with a unique history and ample opportunities for exploration.

Division 54 has an exciting program in store. The quality proposals for posters, symposia, papers, and skill-building sessions all underwent blind review by pediatric psychology professionals. This allowed us to assemble a fantastic program that will offer innovative presentations and hands-on sessions geared towards clinicians, researchers, educators, and trainees alike. We will also host a poster session to showcase faculty and students’ research, covering a broad range of topics. Student poster award winners will be recognized during this session.

New this year are skill-building sessions that combine theoretical and experiential approaches. Leaders offer practical experience to help participants increase their understanding and skills in a particular area. Elisabeth Cannatta and Barbara Ward-Zimmerman, along with their physician colleague will present “Strategies for Enhancing Behavioral Health and Pediatric Primary Care Service Integration,” where participants will obtain tools to develop in-service training modules for primary care practitioners to promote behavioral health screenings.

Another skill-building session, “Integrating Mindfulness Practices into Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy,” will include small and large group discussions and dyadic exercises on mindfulness applications in the clinical context. Finally, in the session, “Integrating Issues of Diversity in Pediatric Psychology Research,” participants will have the opportunity to practice incorporating and highlighting diversity issues in their research and research presentations.

Two symposia are not to be missed. They are: “Child Assent and Parental Permission in Pediatric Research: Methodological Advances and Contextual Influences,” with Victoria Miller and Dennis Drotar; and “International Perspective on Addressing Parent and Family Factors in the Treatment of Pediatric Chronic Pain and Functional Disability” with Gerard Banez and Tonya Palermo. In addition, we will offer a two-hour paper session entitled, “Implications for Pediatric Psychologists,” that will include research with diverse populations across clinical, school, and primary-care settings. Continuing Education (CE) credits will also be offered for selected presentations – stay tuned for details.

Division 54 continues to have an outstanding and strong reputation for student involvement and we will continue to host student programming, social events, and informal sessions in the Division 54 Hospitality suite. We will also continue to partner with Division 53 through our joint social hour and the “Internships/Postdoctoral Fellowships on Parade” that allows opportunities for trainees and professionals to network during a fun social event.

We hope you plan to join us for a terrific convention in Washington, D.C. Look for the schedule of events in the next SPP newsletter. For more general convention information, visit the APA at www.apa.org/convention/.

For a complete schedule and to register online for the National Conference in Pediatric Psychology, visit www.ContinuingEd.ku.edu/programs/pediatricpsychology.

The program features invited plenary addresses, two symposia, peer-reviewed papers, and five poster sessions. A total of 13 hours of continuing education (CE) credit for psychologists will be offered during regular conference programming.

Two preconference workshops will be available for additional CE credit. They are: “Helping Patients and Families Cope: Medical Crises, Chronic Illness, and Loss” for 3 CE hours and “Research Ethics in Pediatric Psychology: A Case-Based Discussion” for 3 CE hours.

The conference will also feature occasions for networking and professional development, including a mentoring lunch and a breakfast to learn more about the JPP review process. A number of SPP Special Interest Groups also will meet.

Finally, representatives from the American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology will convene to discuss the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) certification process—students and professionals are welcome.
JPP Update

Editor's 2010 End-of-Year Report—By Denny Drotar, Ph.D.

During the past year, our editorial team received 267 submissions (down from last year's record pace of 318). It should be noted that we have seen an increase in the number of case study/series presentations from four in 2009 to 14 in 2010. The average time to first editorial decision is 27 days. The average time to final manuscript acceptance is five weeks and six to nine months to publication.

Please look for my latest editorial, “How to Write More-Effective, User-Friendly Reviews for JPP” in the January-February 2011 issue. We hope that this will facilitate more effective, targeted reviews that are even more helpful than they are now and less burdensome on authors. Also, readers will be interested in the “Special Section on the Health Care Transitions of Adolescents and Young Adults with Pediatric Chronic Conditions,” edited by Lisa Schwartz and Ahna Pai, which will be published in the March 2011 issue.

The article, “Mentoring Reviewers: The Journal of Pediatric Psychology Experience,” by Yelena Wu et al., is now available on Advance Access and should be of special interest to participants in our mentoring program.

We hope that readers will take note of three new calls for papers: 1) Families, Culture, and Health Outcomes edited by Elizabeth McQuaid and Lamia Barakat, manuscripts due June 1, 2011; 2) Research Training and Mentoring in Pediatric Psychology managed by Dennis Drotar and JPP Managing Editors, due June 1, 2011; and 3) Central Nervous System Disorders edited by Dennis Drotar, Glen Aylward, and JPP Managing Editors, due July 1, 2011.

I want to give a special thanks to our editorial board members, reviewer panel, program mentees and mentors, and ad hoc reviewers for your excellent contributions. They are much appreciated!

2010 Diane Willis Award for Outstanding JPP Article

The Diane Willis Award for Outstanding Article in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology was created to honor Diane J. Willis, who served the Society of Pediatric Psychology as founding editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, editor of the SPP Newsletter, and president of SPP.

The award’s criteria for selection are high. Articles must: 1) Have the potential to significantly contribute to scholarship in the science and practice of pediatric psychology as evidenced by having a positive impact on the field/topic area by influencing or guiding future research, or having implications for policy, practice, training, and professional developments; 2) Have potential for long-lasting utility and value to the field; 3) Demonstrate particular innovation and excellence in approaching the topic for usefulness in application, development of theory, and appropriateness or advancement of methodology and design; and 4) Provide an exemplar for others to model.

2010 Diane Willis Award Winner


2010 Honorable Mention Articles


New JPP Editor

Grayson Holmbeck, Ph.D., has been selected as the new editor for the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, effective Jan. 1, 2012. He succeeds Denny Drotar, Ph.D., whose term as editor ends Dec. 2011.

Holmbeck is a professor and director of Clinical Training in the Department of Clinical Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. He currently serves as an associate editor for JPP.

Call for Student Leaders

The SPP Student Advisory Board (SAB) is accepting nominations for five SAB member positions. SAB members hold two-year terms, beginning Jan. 2012 with transition to the position beginning Aug. 2011.

Applicants must be Division 54 student members and enrolled in an APA-accredited graduate program in professional psychology with specific interests in pediatric psychology. Applicants must not be eligible for graduation from their program until after their term is complete in Jan. 2014.

To apply, e-mail the following to SPP Student Representative Christopher Cushing at christophercushing@ku.edu: 1) CV; 2) contact information—email, phone, address; 3) letter of recommendation from your primary mentor (can be e-mailed directly by mentor); and 4) a short statement indicating preference as to how you would serve on the Student Advisory Board (i.e., Membership Committee, Student Spotlight/Website Committee, Programming Committee), including highlights of how you would contribute.

Deadline is April 15, 2011.
Elissa Jelalian, Ph.D.

Elissa Jelalian is an associate professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and Pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Her NIH-funded research focuses on innovative weight control interventions for children and adolescents, as well as evaluation of policy initiatives to promote healthier nutrition and physical activity. Her research has had a significant impact on the development of behavioral weight control interventions for adolescents.

Jelalian has served as a mentor for predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees in pediatric psychology at Brown for the past 15 years. She is strongly committed to training and was the recipient of a departmental award for outstanding mentor in 2004 and the Martin P. Levin Mentorship Award from Division 54 in 2010.

Jelalian is a Fellow in both Division 54 and the Obesity Society, and has served on more than 20 ad hoc and special-emphasis review panels for the National Institutes of Health. She also serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, the Journal of Family Psychology, and Health Psychology.

Jelalian received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Miami University in 1991. She completed her internship at the University of Rochester and a postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology at Brown.

Candidate Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Division 54 president. During my 18 years as a member of the Society of Pediatric Psychology, the scope and influence of the Division have grown significantly to remain current with the compelling health and policy issues impacting children of today.

As an obesity researcher, I am invested in health promotion across a continuum of health levels and care settings—from studying physical activity interventions for obese adolescents to adapting the Livestrong program to enhance the well being of pediatric cancer survivors. Division 54 has made tremendous strides in moving science into real-world practice and enhancing health outcomes of families from low-income and diverse backgrounds. Continued growth in these directions requires dissemination as well as adaptation of evidence-based strategies to the communities where children live and play.

If given the opportunity, I would build upon the Division’s strong focus on evidence-based practice to extend to community dissemination. We will work toward this goal by training pediatric psychologists to have the foresight and critical thinking skills to enhance existing interventions to better meet the needs of children and families. It would be a privilege to serve as Division 54 president.

Sean Phipps, Ph.D.

Sean Phipps is chair of the Department of Psychology at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis. He also holds a secondary appointment as professor in the Department of Pediatrics, University of Tennessee College of Medicine, and the Department of Psychology, University of Memphis. He obtained his Ph.D. in Psychology from Case Western Reserve University followed by postdoctoral training in pediatric psychology at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles.

Phipps has maintained an active research program, with over 15 years of consecutive NIH funding for his work. His interest is in the area of children’s coping and adaptation to stress, particularly that associated with chronic or life-threatening illness. More recently, he has focused on psychological growth and resilience, applying positive psychology models to identify pathways and mechanisms for healthy outcomes in seriously ill children.

Phipps serves on the editorial board of several journals, including the Journal of Pediatric Psychology. He has been a member of two NIH study sections, as well as several ad hoc grant review panels.

Candidate Statement

It is an honor to be nominated as president of SPP, which has been my professional home throughout my career. Our organization has grown in strength and stature, thanks to the enthusiasm of its members and the guidance of past and current leaders. My goal would be to maintain and build on this strength moving forward.

An issue I believe is important for our organization to address relates to gender, and the paucity of young men that have been entering our specialty. I hope I will not be considered a misogynist for raising this issue, but I believe this is a potential problem for our group. In recent years, female applicants for our pediatric internships and postdocs have outnumbered males by 20 to 1 or more. As a clinic director, I have experienced the pragmatic challenges that can ensue from a shortage of male clinicians (because we all recognize clinical circumstances where gender does matter). The contributions of women to our field have been enormous, and we will undoubtedly remain a specialty where women are the majority, but I believe we must find ways to encourage more young men to view pediatrics as a viable career option early in their psychology training. Ensuring that a critical mass of talented male clinicians and researchers continue to enter our field will help to maintain the vitality of our specialty.
Michael A. Rapoff, Ph.D.

Michael Rapoff received his Ph.D. in Developmental and Child Psychology in 1980 from the University of Kansas and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He is the Ralph L. Smith Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics, vice-chair for Research/Scholarship, and director of the Faculty Mentoring Program in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and a licensed psychologist in Kansas and Missouri.

With NIH and Arthritis Foundation funding, his research over the past 30 years has focused on pediatric pain and adherence to pediatric medical regimens. He has 88 publications in journals or books, including the single-authored Adherence to Pediatric Medical Regimens (Second Edition, 2010), Norwell, MA: Springer.

In 2003, Dr. Rapoff received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals, a division of the American College of Rheumatology. Also in 2003, he was elected Fellow in the Society of Pediatric Psychology. In addition to teaching residents and medical students, he teaches and advises clinical psychology students in pediatric and health psychology, and sees patients in his Behavioral Pediatrics Outreach Clinic in Lawrence, Kansas.

Candidate Statement

It is a distinct honor to be nominated for president of the Society of Pediatric Psychology. The SPP has been my professional home for 30 years, and I have many valued colleagues and former students who have benefited as I have from membership in the society.

If elected president, my two chief priorities will be mentoring and e-Health interventions. As director of mentoring in Pediatrics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, I see every day the value of mentoring for residents, graduate students, and colleagues in medicine and psychology. I will therefore enthusiastically continue and enhance the SPP mentoring program started in 2004 by past President Mary Jo Kapst.

In addition, I will convene a task force on e-Health interventions, for we are in the electronic age, and our proven face-to-face interventions and assessments need to evolve into web and media-based programs. We now have the opportunity to work with IT specialists to provide interventions to children and adolescents and their families in a cost-efficient manner via technology-based platforms.

I appreciate your support for my candidacy.

Ann McGrath Davis, Ph.D.

Ann McGrath Davis received her undergraduate degrees in Psychology and English from the University of Kansas in 1991, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University in 1999. She completed her internship year at Father Flanagan’s Boys Home and a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

She joined the University of Kansas Medical Center Department of Pediatrics in 2001. In 2003, she was given a joint appointment in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, and in 2006 she received another appointment in the University of Kansas, Department of Applied Behavioral Science. In 2007 she was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Because of her long-standing interest in chronic health conditions, Davis earned her master’s in Public Health in 2008, and has recently become a board-certified psychologist.

As a faculty member Davis has both clinical and research interests. Clinically, she serves as a member of the multidisciplinary KUMC Pediatric Feeding Team and as director of the KUMC Pediatric Obesity Program, Healthy Hawks. She is also an NIH-funded researcher, currently working in the areas of pediatric overweight in rural children and in multidisciplinary outpatient treatments for young children with food refusal. Davis also reviews for many journals, including the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, and served as a co-chair for the 2004 National Conference on Child Health Psychology and the 2009 Midwest Conference on Pediatric Psychology.

Candidate Statement

I am honored my colleagues have nominated me for SPP Member at Large for Membership. I was first introduced to SPP during my fellowship training and have found a wonderful group of colleagues and friends through the organization. Being a psychologist in a medical setting can be an isolating experience, but being an active member of SPP allows one to feel a sense of home with similar colleagues across the country. SPP currently offers a wide variety of opportunities for members, such as the listerv, regional and national conferences, the great programming for students, and others.

As Member at Large I would work to increase SPP’s membership as well as to increase the voice of and service to members. I firmly believe that being an active SPP member has greatly enhanced my career, and I would work to recruit others to join our active organization. I appreciate your support and would be honored to serve as your Member at Large.
Lauren Mednick, Ph.D.  

Lauren Mednick received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Pediatric Psychology from George Washington University in 2005. She completed both her pre-doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Children’s Hospital Boston. In 2006, she joined the faculty at Children’s with an appointment at Harvard Medical School.  

During her time on staff at Children’s, she has worked as a member of the inpatient psychiatry consultation-liaison service, and currently dedicates her clinical time to providing outpatient therapeutic services to patients having difficulty coping with chronic and acute medical conditions. Mednick is committed to enhancing her clinical skills through involvement in clinical research examining psychosocial functioning of parents and children diagnosed with various medical conditions, including type 1 diabetes, bladder extrophy, and thalassemia.  

Prior to beginning her Ph.D. program, Mednick worked as a child life specialist at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. She continues her dedication to helping children effectively cope with invasive medical procedures through volunteer work with Operation Smile, where she spends several weeks a year in developing countries preparing children and their caretakers for reconstructive surgeries.  

Candidate Statement:  

I am honored to be nominated by my colleagues as a candidate for SPP Member at Large for Membership and would welcome the challenge of helping to increase involvement in Division 54. Since joining SPP as a student member in graduate school, my membership and participation in Division 54 has significantly contributed to my growth as a pediatric psychologist and has proved to be invaluable in helping to guide me on the path toward my current career. I am excited about the prospect of helping to afford such opportunities to others who are interested in embarking upon their own career paths within our field.  

Thus, as the SPP Member at Large for Membership, I would aim to promote increased involvement by trainees and early-career psychologists in the Division. I would particularly focus on outreach and promoting professional development opportunities to trainees who are in settings that lack experienced mentors in pediatric psychology. Further, given that many of us work collaboratively in academic medical centers with clinicians from other health disciplines, I look forward to the opportunity to diversify membership by increasing involvement of these professionals.  

I am very excited for this opportunity and hope that you will support me in my wish to serve on the SPP board.

Wendy Ward-Begnoche, Ph.D.  

Wendy Ward-Begnoche is an associate professor with tenure in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and provides services through Arkansas Children’s Hospital. Ward-Begnoche received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center and her postdoctoral fellowship at UAMS, both in pediatric psychology.  

She is currently co-director of Pediatric Psychology Training. She is also the director of Psychological Research and Services for the Child Obesity Center, the Arkansas Center for Respiratory and Technology Dependent Children, and the Cystic Fibrosis Center. She coordinates the inpatient consultation/liaison service for one of the largest children’s hospitals in the nation and an outpatient psychology consult service for a network of pediatric specialty clinics including Genetics, Chronic Pain, High Risk Newborn, Sleep Disorders, Endocrinology, GI, Obesity, and Pulmonary.  

Ward-Begnoche has published extensively on medical adherence and is supported by grant funding. She manages a Div 54-approved SIG on Pediatric Obesity. She currently serves as a mentor in the jointly sponsored Div 54/APPIC Mentoring Project for students and early-career professionals, as well as for the Journal of Pediatric Psychology mentored reviewing program.  

Candidate Statement:  

I am privileged to have been nominated for SPP Member at Large for Membership and hope to be elected to serve SPP members in this role. I have been a member of SPP for 14 years, through its transition from a section of Division 12 to a separate APA Division.  

I am excited at the prospect of taking my passion for our field and working with others to enhance its role in national advocacy and policy-making, training initiatives for young members, supporting research endeavors, and promoting the use of evidence-based standards of practice guidelines in clinical work. I feel well-prepared for this position given my experience serving on multiple national committees/sub-committees, such as an Executive Committee member in the National Association for Children’s Hospitals Research Institute FOCUS I and II groups on Pediatric Obesity. I was also selected for Leadership training by the Association of American Medical Colleges as well as APA’s Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology (LIWP), which further prepared me for service on Div 54’s Board.  

Given my passion and commitment to the field of pediatric psychology, I am confident that if elected I would fulfill the role of member at large with energetic enthusiasm and cooperative collaboration with other board members to bring SPP’s initiatives to life.
Student Grants

Marion and Donald Routh Student Research Grant
SPP has established an annual research scholar grant program for student members. Research proposals should address areas consistent with the field of pediatric psychology. Topic examples might include relationships between psychological and physical wellbeing of children and adolescents, including behavioral and emotional components of disease and treatment, the role of pediatric psychology in pediatric medical settings, or the promotion of health and the prevention of illness among children and youth. Funding is available up to $1,000.

Lizette Peterson-Homer Injury Prevention Grant
This grant, open to students and faculty, provides support for research related to the prevention of injuries in children and adolescents. Funding is available up to $5,000 and is sponsored jointly by APA Division 54 and the American Psychological Foundation (APF) www.apa.org/apf/.

Student Awards

SPP Student Research Award Competition
SPP encourages and rewards quality research on issues related to pediatric psychology and health care of children. All research must have been completed while the candidate was a student. The student must be the primary (first) author. An award of $500 is available.

Student Poster Awards
Student Poster awards are available for SPP student members who are first author of a poster to be presented during the Pediatric Psychology National Conference and the Division 54 poster session at the APA Convention. Deadlines will be announced via the Division 54 listserv. For more information, contact Paul Robins at robinsp@email.chop.edu.

New SPP/CDC Injury Prevention Award
SPP and the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control jointly announce a new Student Research Competition to encourage and reward quality research on issues related to unintentional injury prevention in children and adolescents. An award of $1,000 is available, contingent upon funding. The individual selected will be named a SPP/CDC Injury Prevention Fellow.

Deadline for all grants and awards is Oct. 1, 2011, with the exception that the Deadline for the Student Poster Award be announced via Division 54 listserv.

Send all award applications electronically to:
Paul Robins, Ph.D.
E-mail: robinsp@email.chop.edu

For more info, visit www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org.

2010 SPP Grants and Student Award Winners

Marion and Donald Routh Student Research Grant
Winner: Chris Fitzgerald, Marquette Univ.
“The Role of Neuropsychological Functioning in Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: An Examination of Executive Functioning, Family Support, and Illness Management”
Honorable Mention: Shannon Hourigan, Virginia Commonwealth University
“Improving Nutrition in Toddlers and Preschool Children with Cystic Fibrosis: Behavioral Parent Training Intervention”

Student Research Award
Winner: David Fedele, Oklahoma State University
“An Examination of the Factor Structure of Parenting Competency Measures in Chronic Illness Populations”
Honorable Mention: Erin Moon, Dalhousie University
“Dads are Like Moms and Boys are Like Girls: The Effects of Parent and Child Sex and Gender on Child Cold Pressor Pain”

Injury Prevention Student Research Award
Winner: Jessica Joseph, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
“Prevention of the Choking Game: Parent Perspective”

A special thank you to the reviewers who worked diligently to review many high quality applications—
Melissa Alderfer
George Blackall
Ron Blount
Robyn Claar
Valerie Crabtree
Ed Christophers
Kurt Freeman
Jami Gross
Jill Harris
Jeanne Hoffman
Astrida Kaugers
Mariella Lane
Colleen Lukens
Staci Martin
Gary Mesibov
Susan Simonian
Laura Simons
Dante Spetter
Michael Steele
Anna Wilson
Nataliya Zelikovsky
On the Student Front

Maximize your Membership in SPP
Opportunities for Networking and Building Your CV
By Christopher Cushing, M.S.

As you prepare for another semester in your undergraduate or graduate training experience, I would like to take a moment to remind you about some of the wonderful ways that SPP can help you to make connections in the field of pediatric psychology, and add some desirable lines to your Curriculum Vitae.

Attend the National Conference in Pediatric Psychology
The National Conference in Pediatric Psychology promises to be full of opportunities for students to network with other students and meet leaders in the field of pediatric psychology. SPP students often find that presenting a poster at the National Conference is an excellent place to meet other students with similar interests and develop research collaborations with leaders in pediatric psychology who frequent the poster sessions.

Even if you did not submit your own work this year please consider attending the conference. There will be many formal and informal opportunities for networking. The Student Advisory Board (SAB) is in the process of coordinating a mentoring lunch similar to the Midwest Conference in 2009. Conference organizers have provided the opportunity for students to discuss issues that are important to you (e.g., publishing, networking, diversity issues, internship, etc.) with leaders in the field of pediatric psychology. I know it can be intimidating to sit down at a table with the big names in the field. However, I assure you that you will find them to be committed mentors who are genuinely interested in developing the next generation of pediatric psychologists.

Consider Applying for the Student Advisory Board
The SAB is a wonderful opportunity for students to begin understanding the inner workings of SPP, network with leaders in pediatric psychology, and add leadership experience to their professional credentials. Currently, we are looking to replace hardworking members from the membership, website/student spotlight, and programming committees. As an SAB member you will have the opportunity to write formal proposals to the Board of Directors, serve on committees with SPP leaders, and contribute ideas to help keep SPP a strong division for students to establish a professional home.

Submit Your Thesis or Dissertation Project to Progress Notes
In order to increase student opportunities to present their research, we are beginning a new newsletter feature—the Student Research Spotlight. This feature will highlight in-progress, meritorious student research. The brief format feature will include a streamlined description of the background, aims, design, methods, and potential impact of the study on research and practice. Our first Student Research Spotlight winner is Melanie Noel. Her brief research report is displayed in this issue on page 9.

Join us on Facebook
That is right—SPP is now on Facebook! The Board of Directors recently approved a SAB proposal to create an official Facebook page. The newly launched page will provide an online arena for students to network, discuss current issues, and receive timely information about opportunities within the Division.

The SAB membership committee will administer the page to ensure that it is updated regularly with topics that are relevant to students. For example, in the coming months I encourage you to look for articles and discussion board posts on selecting internship sites, negotiating authorship, dealing with the stress of graduate school, and obtaining grants.

The areas discussed above are not a comprehensive list of ways for students to benefit from membership in SPP, but they do all have a low cost and can go a long way toward helping you feel integrated into a larger professional community.

Please consider submitting your work for the research spotlight, join us on Facebook, apply for the SAB, and register early for the National Conference. As always, please email me at christophercushing@ku.edu with your thoughts about the Division.

Student Spotlight Award

Katherine Follansbee-Junger is a fourth-year graduate student in Clinical and Health Psychology with a concentration in Pediatric Psychology at the University of Florida. With a demonstrated record of excellence in her research and clinical work, her areas of interest include pediatric obesity, health promotion, management of pediatric chronic illness, psychosocial correlates of pediatric chronic illness, and treatment outcome.

Follansbee-Junger is currently conducting a longitudinal study under the mentorship of David Janicke, Ph.D., for her dissertation examining the role of health behaviors and psychosocial functioning in anti-epileptic drug-induced weight gain among children with epilepsy. Impressively, she has received a grant from Children’s Miracle Network to support her novel project. Her thesis examining the impact of behavioral weight management programs on unhealthy eating attitudes was also recently published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

Follansbee-Junger is applying for pre-doctoral internships in pediatric psychology. She hopes to work in a pediatric hospital setting conducting research and delivering evidence-based interventions with a focus on promoting individual and family adaptation to illness.

Christopher Cushing, M.S.
SPP Student Rep.
An Experimental Investigation of the Role of Anxiety on Children’s Memories of Pain and Their Subsequent Pain Experiences

By Melanie E. Noel, Dalhousie University
Mentor: Christine Chambers, Ph.D.

Background and Purposes
Many children are required to repeatedly undergo medical procedures and often find these experiences to be painful and frightening. The deleterious effects of poorly managed pain do not end when procedures are over. The way that children remember painful procedures affects their experience of pain and distress during subsequent procedures (see von Baeyer et al., 2004). Children who develop negatively exaggerated memories of pain and anxiety following lumbar punctures tend to experience more pain and distress at subsequent procedures than children who accurately recall their experience (Chen et al., 2000). Children who have high levels of trait anxiety and who experience more pain during medical procedures are more likely to develop negatively exaggerated pain memories (Rocha et al., 2008). Individuals who are anxious consistently show a memory bias for threatening information as compared to non-anxious individuals (Mitte, 2008).

This research has only examined adults’ memories for words as opposed to children’s memories for more ecologically valid stimuli, like pain. Cognitive theories hold that anxious individuals develop memory biases because they selectively encode and retrieve threatening information, particularly when they experience high levels of state anxiety (Beck & Clarke, 1997). However, research has neglected to investigate the role of state anxiety, and the interaction between children’s state and trait anxiety, in the development of memory biases, despite the need for such research (Mitte, 2008). Furthermore, only one study (Chen et al., 2000) has directly examined the impact of pain memories on subsequent pain experiences.

By using an innovative experimental design and laboratory techniques, the current study systematically examined the impact of state anxiety and stable anxiety-related variables on the development of children’s memories for pain. It also examined the role that these memories play in children’s distress and coping during subsequent exposure to the same painful experience.

Design and Methods
110 children between the ages of 8-12 years participated. Children underwent an ethically acceptable experimental pain task (the cold pressor task; CPT) in which they submerged their hand in a cooler of 10°C ± 1°C water and kept their hand submerged for as long as they could tolerate, up to 4 minutes.

Half of the children were randomly assigned to complete a stressful task (a modification of the Trier Social Stress Test for Children) prior to the CPT in which they anticipated having to give a speech and completing a difficult mental arithmetic task in front of judges. The remaining children anticipated having to watch a nature video.

Children completed measures of pain intensity (Faces Pain Scale- Revised), pain affect (Facial Affective Scale), and pain anxiety (Faces Anxiety Scale) immediately following the pain task and two weeks later over the telephone. Children repeated the pain task and pain ratings one month later to determine how their memories affected their subsequent distress. Measures of state and trait anxiety (State Trait Anxiety Index for Children- STAIC) and anxiety sensitivity (Children’s Anxiety Sensitivity Index) were also completed.

Potential Clinical/Research Implications
This research will provide innovative data on the role of state anxiety and stable anxiety-related variables on the development of memory biases for painful events. It will also provide pediatric psychology researchers with information about the long-term impact of these memories by showing how memories affect children’s coping during future painful experiences. The findings of this lab-based research project will translate into clinical practice and caregiver-led interventions.

If we are able to identify how anxiety contributes to the development of negatively exaggerated memories, we would be able to design individualized evidence-based interventions aimed at reducing child anxiety and distress during medical procedures. Furthermore, if the present findings suggest that positively framed memories are linked to more optimal coping during subsequent painful experiences, interventions aimed at positively reframing children’s memories could also be developed. This would improve not only the experience of children undergoing painful medical procedures, but also their health outcomes into adulthood.

References

Call for Student Spotlight Nominations
PP’s Student Advisory Board is accepting nominations for outstanding undergraduate students in pediatric psychology. Three selected students will be featured in Progress Notes and on the D54 website based on their commitment and contributions to the field.

Nomination forms can be found at www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org/students/. Please send the form, recommendation letter and the nominee’s CV to Christopher Fitzgerald at christopher.fitzgerald@marquette.edu and/or Elizabeth Schneider at ElizabethMSchneider@gmail.com. Deadline is April 15, 2011.
The program’s research track is supervised by Drs. Cohen and clinical child and pediatric psychology assessment and therapy skills. The project, “Enhancing Training of Graduate Students to Work with Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) with disadvantaged pediatric populations.”

Lindsey Cohen of Georgia State University (GSU) recently received a Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Graduate Program Education training grant to provide culturally competent, evidence-based, psychological research and clinical services within an interdisciplinary team at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) with disadvantaged pediatric populations. The program’s research track is supervised by Drs. Cohen and Masuda of GSU and Drs. Johnson, Griffin, and Schmidt of CHOA and Dong of CHOA. The students funded on this program have protected time to work with children diagnosed with SCD and their families, and receive weekly supervision from onsite pediatric psychologists as well as with Cohen and Masuda.

By Lindsey Cohen, Ph.D., Naomi Joffe, M.A., and Josie Welkom, M.A.

Pediatric Obesity SIG

The group’s mission is to promote the health and well-being of overweight and obese youth and their families by fostering the provision of evidence-based assessment and treatment methods utilizing the principles of psychology. Contact: Co-Chair Wendy L. Ward-Begnoche, Ph.D. at wardbegnochewendyl@uams.edu

Pediatric Cardiology SIG

The group’s activities will include research and clinical collaboration around psychosocial issues pertinent to children with congenital heart disease, cardiac transplant, or other cardiac conditions. Contact: Cheryl Brosig Soto, Ph.D. at ccbrosig@chw.org

Diversity SIG

This group’s goal is to promote diversity in pediatric psychology research and clinical care, to increase the number of SPP members from diverse backgrounds, and to provide services and resources for SPP members who are members of underrepresented groups. Diversity refers to issues related to age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disabilities, and socio-economic background. Contact: Celia Lescano, Ph.D. at lescano@usf.edu

Complementary and Integrative Medicine SIG

This group provides a forum for communication and discussion about the role of CIM as it relates to advancing the health and wellbeing of pediatric populations with emphasis placed on the application of psychological principles to the science and practice of CIM. Contact: Co-Chair Keri R. Hainsworth, Ph.D. at khainswo@mcm.edu

Pediatric Epilepsy SIG

This group’s goals are to: 1) increase awareness of epilepsy among SPP members, 2) foster communication between and support for pediatric psychologists who provide clinical care for youth with epilepsy (YWE), 3) encourage collaborative research endeavors, 4) provide recommendations to SPP for the care of and research with YWE, 5) facilitate pediatric psychologist interaction with epilepsy health care providers, and 6) liaison with the American Epilepsy Society. Contact: Co-Chair Janelle L. Wagner, Ph.D., at wagnerjl@musc.edu

New SIG under development and looking for members—Pediatric Bioethics SIG (Proposed)

A variety of ethical challenges can arise in the increasingly complex and fast-paced environment of pediatric health care and clinical research. This SIG will have the following goals: 1) Promote a network of researchers and clinicians with an interest in pediatric bioethics, 2) Share and distribute resources related to pediatric bioethics, and 3) Raise awareness of the broader SPP community of (a) empirical research in pediatric bioethics and implications for clinical practice and research conduct, and (b) strategies for addressing ethical dilemmas that arise in clinical and research settings. Contact: Co-Chair Victoria Miller at millerv@email.chop.edu
Society of Pediatric Psychology
Division 54, American Psychological Association

Join Division 54!

Membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the Journal of Pediatric Psychology
- Representation and advocacy for pediatric psychology
- Option to join the SPP member listserv, with postings about job openings, discussions of clinical issues, referral requests, etc.
- Option to join the SPP student listserv addressing training and early-career issues
- Programming specific to pediatric psychology at the annual APA meeting
- Subscription to the SPP newsletter, Progress Notes
- Opportunities to be involved and volunteer in SPP
- Various awards and grants for students and psychologists at all career stages
- Opportunity to participate in various Special Interest Groups within SPP
- Participation in the SPP mentoring program—as mentee or mentor
- Access to online member directory and option to be listed in the directory

Accessing Member Services

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  Send an e-mail to: listserv@lists.apa.org. Leave subject line blank and in the e-mail, type “SubscribeDiv54-members@lists.apa.org” then type your first and last name (without quotes).
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- Change your e-mail address or for problems using the listserv
  Send an e-mail to: Lindsey Cohen at lcohen@gsu.edu.
- Access the Journal of Pediatric Psychology online
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Society of Pediatric Psychology
Vision Statement

Pediatric psychology is an integrated field of science and practice in which the principles of psychology are applied within the context of pediatric health.

The field aims to promote the health and development of children, adolescents, and their families through use of evidence-based methods.

Founded in 1969, the field has broad interdisciplinary theoretical underpinnings and draws from clinical, developmental, social, cognitive, behavioral, counseling, community and school psychology.

Areas of expertise within the field include, but are not limited to: psychosocial, developmental and contextual factors contributing to the etiology, course and outcome of pediatric medical conditions; assessment and treatment of behavioral and emotional concomitants of illness, injury, and developmental disorders; prevention of illness and injury; promotion of health and health-related behaviors; education, training and mentoring of psychologists and providers of medical care; improvement of health care delivery systems and advocacy for public policy that serves the needs of children, adolescents, and their families.

—Approved, August 10, 2006
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