



Fall 2015 Newsletter

Carolina Consortium on Human Development Seminar Series

This fall our consortium series is co-chaired by Martha Cox and Roger Mills-Koonce and focuses on *The Family as a Context for Development, Continuity, and Change in Externalizing Behaviors in Early Childhood*. Over the course of the semester, we will explore aspects of family relationships and experiences that are associated with the development, maintenance, or change in externalizing behavior across childhood and the pathways through which those associations seem to occur. We will also consider issues of decoupling genetic and environmental influences, and the role of families in the diagnosis, treatment and management of externalizing behaviors. Our first speaker is Monday, September 21st. All meetings take place in the lower-level CDS classroom, on Mondays from 2:00-3:15, except for the Cairns Capstone Lecture on November 23rd. For more information on viewing webcasts of our series, please visit our [website](#).

Date	Speaker
Sept 21	Rhea Chase , Duke University
Sept 28	Kara Hume, Lauren Turner-Brown, Brian Boyd , UNC-Chapel Hill
Oct 5	Linda Beeber , UNC-Chapel Hill
Oct 12	Fall Break; no speaker
Oct 19	Andrea Chronis-Tuscano , University of Maryland
Oct 26	Jennifer Lansford , Duke University
Nov 2	Melvin Wilson , University of Virginia
Nov 9	Luke Hyde , University of Michigan
Nov 16	Sara Jaffee , University of Pennsylvania
Nov 23	Daniel Shaw [Cairns Capstone Lecture] , University of Pittsburgh

In the spring, Peter Ornstein will chair a symposium series on *Cognition and Development from a Neuroscience Perspective*. The committee is continuing to plan the series and we welcome your input; please feel free to contact [Jennifer Coffman](#).

Welcome New and Returning CCHD



Left to right: Drew Rothenberg, Kesha Hudson, Robert Carr, Sarah Trinh, Jamie Hanson, Hillary Langley, Noa Gueron-Sela, Todd Jensen, Margaret Anton. Not pictured: Rachael Bedford

Welcome back to our returning post-doctoral fellows, Hillary, Jamie, Noa and Sarah. This month we welcomed Rachel Bedford from the University of London Institute on Education who is joining the training program this year. We also have an incoming pre-doctoral class of five who are the first cohort on the revamped two-year pre-doctoral fellowship program.

Fellows:

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Hillary Langley	Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2013	<i>UNC-Chapel Hill</i>
Jamie Hanson	Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2014	<i>University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>
Noa Gueron-Sela	Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2014	<i>Ben-Gurion University of the Negev</i>
Sarah Trinh	Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2014	<i>University of Michigan-Ann Arbor</i>
Rachael Bedford	Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology, 2012	<i>University of London Institute of Education</i>

Pre-Doctoral Fellows

Margaret Anton	Ph.D. Candidate in Clinical Psychology
Robert Carr	Ph.D. Candidate in Education with emphasis in Applied Developmental Science
Kesha Hudson	Ph.D. Candidate in Developmental Psychology
Todd Jensen	Ph.D. Candidate in Social Work
Drew Rothenberg	Ph.D. Candidate in Clinical Psychology

Update on CCHD Training Grant Renewal

NICHD has assigned our T32 application to a special emphasis panel that will meet on December 7th-8th to be followed by a council meeting in late January/early February. Although we will may not know the funding status of our application until mid-spring, I will keep you abreast of what I know so that you will be in a position to consider potential candidates as you speak with those interested in joining our training program and working with you in the months ahead. At this time, we are not able to accept applications for the program but we will do so as soon as we are able. If you have interested applicants, you may also want to advise them to monitor the CDS website for updates. **We encourage mentor faculty to keep their myNCBI accounts updated as part of preparing for our NICHD review. We also encourage former and current fellows to stay current on manuscripts submitted to the PubMed Central Repository.** If you have questions about your myNCBI or PubMed Central, please contact [Jade Poteat](#) for more information.

Research Spotlight: Jamie Hanson



Dr. Jamie L. Hanson is a current postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Developmental Science, studying how early life stress impacts brain development. Working under the mentorship of Drs. Ahmad Hariri and Kenneth Dodge, Jamie has been focusing on how

adversities, such as child maltreatment, may be related to major depression.

Millions of children in the United States and throughout the world are exposed to chronic and uncontrollable adversities, often without adequate support from caregivers. Sadly, such experiences, like child maltreatment, can compromise a child's sense of safety and have profound effects on physical and mental development. In regards to mental health, meta-analyses suggest over a 65% increase in the risk for major depressive disorder following early life stress such as child abuse or neglect. While such an association has been well-studied and well-replicated, very little is known about how such stressful experiences get integrated into the brain and ultimately cause such problems.

During his postdoctoral fellowship, Jamie has focused on brain areas involved with reward

processing, as this neural circuitry has been theorized to underlie symptoms of major depression including anhedonia and apathy. In a series of collaborative studies with colleagues at Duke and also the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Jamie has focused on whether early life stress is related to lower brain activity in the ventral striatum, a subcortical brain structure supporting reward responsiveness and learning. Using data from the FastTrack longitudinal study, Jamie first found that greater levels of cumulative stress during childhood and adolescence were related to lower reward-related ventral striatum activity in adulthood.

Following up this work, Jamie has worked with a large cohort of adolescents followed and repeatedly scanned using fMRI to track the development of the ventral striatum. Similar to his work with FastTrack, Jamie found higher levels of early life stress were related to blunted development of ventral striatum responses to reward. In addition, this decreased reward-related ventral striatum activity partially explained the association between early life stress and subsequent depressive symptomatology. Jamie hopes this and similar future studies could help in identifying those most at-risk for associated negative outcomes after early life stress and inform interventions to improve well-being.

Sneak Peak: The opening of CDS Observes

We are excited to offer a new research service for scientific teams interested in using observational methods for studying parent-child interactions. CDS Observes is a research service unit that offers study planning, consultation, and coding support for research teams housed both within and outside of UNC. These contract services provide researchers with a cost-effective way to incorporate rich observational assessments into their studies without the necessary, intensive investment in the training and personnel required to effectively implement such assessments independently. The coding approach uses methods developed by Dr. Martha Cox and Dr. Roger Mills Koonce (CDS Observes, Director). We will provide more information in the months ahead but we wanted to let CDS faculty know now about this new service. If you have questions about the service or want to learn more, please feel free to contact [Dr. Nissa Towe-Goodman](#) (CDS Observes, Asst. Director). More details will be posted soon on the CDS website.

CDS is accepting Donations

If you visit the [CDS website](#), you will notice a new box in the upper right-hand of the screen that says SUPPORT THE CDS. This link is the website portal for donors to access the UNC foundation office and channel their financial support to the CDS. Over the next year, we are completing a strategic planning and administrative review process that will further refine the innovative activities of the Center as we pursue our research and training missions. Within the year, expect to hear from the CDS about our future directions and how you can support the important work we do to improve the lives of children and families everywhere.

Next newsletter

After a bit of a hiatus, we are back on track with newsletter circulation. If you have items to submit for our November newsletter, please contact [Tristan Long](#).