



ECPN Connections

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet the Steering Committee Chair and Chair-Elect of ECPN
- Find out about the recent work and awards of your colleague
- Learn about prevention science jobs and funding opportunities

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Welcome from the Steering Committee

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ECPN Newsletter! We are very excited to begin this endeavor with you. Four times a year, members of the Early Career Prevention Network Steering Committee will share information that will hopefully be of great interest to early career prevention scientists. Our goal is to keep you informed about prevention science and to develop a community among ECPN members.

Each issue will include the following sections:

- Prevention Science In the News — This issue: Why do high school seniors drink?
- Introducing ECPN Members — highlighting the interesting work of a few ECPN members.
- ECPN Member News — sharing papers, grants, honors and awards of the membership.
- Funding and Job Opportunities — keeping us all informed of exciting funding and job opportunities in prevention science.

We welcome your feedback and your contributions!

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee

About ECPN

ECPN is a web-based organization that seeks:

- to link individuals who are interested in prevention science and
- to foster the development of early career preventionists.

Membership into ECPN requires no dues or obligations other than your contribution to the field of prevention science. Through our listserv and newsletter, ECPN members have access to prevention-related opportunities, topical interest groups, and information exchanges. At the annual meeting (this year in San Francisco), ECPN hosts sessions and a luncheon of particular interest to early career prevention scientists. Help us build our membership by sharing ECPN with your colleagues.

Interested in joining ECPN? Please go to www.preventionresearch.org/earlycareer.php and submit your listserv information.



“ECPN provides a wonderful opportunity for networking, service, training, and introduction to the profession of Prevention Science.”



“Prevention is not merely a science or a profession but an applied philosophy.”

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the ECPN Newsletter! This newsletter is our most recent attempt to provide an opportunity for members of ECPN to share information regarding professional accomplishments, job postings, personal profiles, upcoming meetings, ECPN events at the annual meeting for the Society for Prevention Research, current issues in Prevention Science, etc. Thanks to the efforts of Keryn Pasch, Kerry Green, Jennifer Lewis, and other members of the current steering committee, the vision for this newsletter has become a reality. The excitement around the practical applications of this newsletter has energized the Steering Committee as well as the Board of Directors for the Society for Prevention Research. I presented the concept of the newsletter to the SPR Board at our midyear meeting

in Chicago and received only positive feedback. While their support is encouraging, we will need the active participation of the whole ECPN membership for the newsletter to be sustainable over time. Content contributions are critical and will allow us to provide coverage that truly represents the diverse ECPN membership. Please take this opportunity to share information that you would like to see published in upcoming issues of the newsletter. Additionally, take the time to introduce yourselves at the May SPR annual meeting in San Francisco. The members of the Steering Committee will have special ribbons attached to their conference ID badges so that it will be easy to identify us. The committee has scheduled two exciting conference symposia and a luncheon that will highlight the current research of

one or more members of ECPN. In addition to these events, we will host a breakfast on Friday morning for those individuals who are interested in joining the ECPN Steering Committee. We secured several new committee members at last year's meeting. These new members have brought a refreshing energy and innovative ideas as reflected by this newsletter. ECPN provides a wonderful opportunity for networking, service, training, and introduction to the profession of Prevention Science. I encourage each of you to involve yourselves with ECPN and to take advantage of the resources that are available. I wish you all the best of luck and look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

See <http://www.preventionresearch.org/earlycareer.php> for more information

Introducing Ty Ridenour

First, I want to congratulate the committee on the first Newsletter of the Early Career Preventionist Network. It is an important step in our efforts to support a community atmosphere among early career preventionists. Additionally, I am pleased to introduce myself as the Chair-Elect of ECPN.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the ECPN Steering Committee since 2003 because I perceive the prevention approach, broadly speaking, to have great potential for improving the human condition. Like many members of ECPN and SPR, my passion for prevention has grown out of a perception that proactive intervention is needed to avoid problems that are difficult to curb after they are manifested. Preventionists represent greatly varied applied and research arenas where this notion is evident. My training and experience resembles this diversity, including Psychological Science (B.S.), School and Educational Psychology (Masters and Ph.D.), juvenile justice (six years

as a counselor in a court-appointed boys residential unit), Psychiatric Epidemiology (second Masters degree), drug addiction etiology (one research focus), translational research (second research focus) and selective / indicated prevention in youth. My research has been continuously funded by NIDA since 1999. Currently, I am a member of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR) at the University of Pittsburgh, a diverse group of faculty representing the fields of prevention, developmental psychopathology, genetics, methodology, psychiatry, and neuroscience.

My research emphases related to prevention are twofold. The first emphasis is advancing methods with practical applications. Currently, my methodological projects largely entail development of self-report instruments for children, most of which involve the *Assessment of Liability and EXposure to Substance use and Antisocial behavior*® (ALEXSA®, Ridenour, 2003;

www.prevention.psu.edu/projects/ALEXSA.htm). Another area of methodological interest is developing statistical techniques for small sample, within-subject clinical trials. The second research emphasis is etiological investigations on substance addiction that has strong implications for prevention.

There also are personal reasons for investing my efforts in prevention, as I am blessed to have a wonderful family. I relish the time that I get to spend with my wife and children, but also know there are hazards that each of us have to negotiate now and in the future. So for me, prevention is not merely a science or a profession but an applied philosophy.

Ridenour, T.A. (2003). *Assessment of Liability and EXposure to Substance use and Antisocial behavior*® (ALEXSA®), *CORE Measures*. Allison Park, PA: Assessments Illustrated.

Introducing David Wyrick

As many of you have experienced or are experiencing, my path to becoming a Prevention Scientist was not completely planned. My undergraduate studies prepared me to become a high school health and physical education teacher. I thought I would teach and coach high school students for the rest of my "working" life. While working on my Masters degree I was introduced to the field of Prevention through Bill Hansen, Ph.D., President of Tanglewood Research. Dr. Hansen mentored me through my thesis that focused on high school-based drug prevention. That work motivated me to continue graduate school and I've never regretted the direction those decisions have taken me.

I am currently employed as an Associate Professor of Public Health Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG). My research and program interests are

focused on alcohol and other drug prevention, primarily at the college and high school levels, promotion of physical activity, and survey research methods related to the collection of sensitive information. I teach courses related to evaluation theory and methods, adolescent health, and substance use among college students. Recently, I have worked with the Athletic Director at UNCG to incorporate an innovative approach to alcohol prevention by requiring all new incoming student-athletes to take a I-credit hybrid course that focuses on alcohol-related content of particular interest to student-athletes.

In addition to my responsibilities at UNCG, I am President of Prevention Strategies, LLC. I started Prevention Strategies with help from UNCG to manage the prevention-related prod-

ucts that result from my funded research projects and to conduct research that can contribute to the knowledge base of effective prevention strategies. Specifically, the company strives to provide schools, colleges, and community agencies with up-to-date information and evidence-based programming for the prevention of health compromising behaviors. The experience of starting and growing Prevention Strategies has been very rewarding. I live in Greensboro, NC with my wife, Cheryl, and three daughters, Katherine, Caroline, and Elizabeth. Cheryl serves as the Vice President of Prevention Strategies which provides us the opportunity to work closely together (which we do enjoy). Family is the number one priority in my life and provides meaning and purpose to everything else I'm involved in.



"My path to becoming a Prevention Scientist was not completely planned"

ECPN Member News

Congratulations to Sharon Lambert for receiving her first R01 award from the National Institute of Mental Health entitled *Etiology and Course of Depressive Symptoms in African American Adolescents*

A new article from Cheryl Wyrick:

Fox, J.P., **Wyrick, CH.**, (in press). A Mixed Effects Randomized Item Response Model. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*.

Look forward to Elizabeth Stuart and Kerry Green's article on propensity score matching in the special methods issue of *Developmental Psychology* coming out this year.

Stuart, E. & **Green, K. M.** (in press). Using Full Matching to Estimate Causal Effects in Non-Experimental Studies: Examining the Relationship between Adolescent Marijuana Use and Adult Outcomes. *Developmental Psychology*.

Do Tweens Need Alcohol Prevention Interventions? Look for the upcoming article by Keryn Pasch:

Pasch, K.E., Perry, C. L., Stigler, M. H., Komro, K.A. (In press). Sixth grade students who use alcohol: Do we need primary prevention programs for "tweens"? *Health Education & Behavior*

Vote for the 2008 SPR Awards!! Visit <http://www.preventionresearch.org/awards.php> for criteria and award categories

Job and Training Opportunities

- ◆ Post-Doctoral Clinical and Research Fellowships at Brown University
- ◆ Postdoctoral Position in Methodology at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
- ◆ 2-Year Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Culturally-Grounded Health Disparities Research, Arizona State University, College of Public Programs, Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
- ◆ Post-Doctoral Positions in the Integration of Prevention and Statistical Methodology at Pennsylvania State University
- ◆ Research Assistant Professors at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work



See <http://www.preventionresearch.org/trainingcareershome.php>

**Early Career
Prevention
Network
A Standing
Committee
of SPR**



**Fostering the development of early
career preventionists**

**Mark your calendar for the
SPR 16th Annual Meeting, May 28-30 at the
Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Center in
San Francisco, CA.
Preconference Workshops, May 27, 2008**

For more information visit
www.preventionresearch.org/meeting

Look for the Two ECPN
Sponsored Symposia in the Conference Program
And
ECPN's Lunch Session on Wednesday May 28th

Each year the SPR/ECPN awards travel support to
ECPNers who are presenting at the annual
conference. Please look for the announcement and
application on the SPR/ECPN website and listservs in
early March 2008. For questions, e-mail
info@preventionresearch.org.



www.preventionresearch.org

Prevention Science in the News

Teen drinking, anger a bad mix

By [Kathleen Fackelmann](#),
USA TODAY

High school seniors who drink alcohol to cope with anger or other problems already show a risky pattern of alcohol use that could continue later in life, a study reports.

More than three-quarters of seniors say they have experimented with alcohol, so the findings may not help prevent alcohol use in high school, says researcher Lori Palen of Pennsylvania State University. But such research might help identify high-risk teens before they develop a severe problem, says Zili Sloboda of the international Society for Prevention Research.

The findings in the December issue of the journal *Prevention Science* raise important questions for parents, especially during the holidays, Sloboda says. Some believe teen drinking is OK with adult supervision. But parents may not realize the teen brain is not fully developed and is especially vulnerable to alcohol's effects, she says.

Palen and her colleagues studied 1,877 high school seniors nationwide; 32% said they drank mostly for the thrill of it, and 15% said they used alcohol to relax. Another 36% said they drank just to experiment. Teens might experiment with all kinds of things, including alcohol, but they're not necessarily developing worrisome habits such as daytime drinking, Palen says.

A smaller group, 18%, said they drank for multiple reasons, including an inability to deal with frustration or anger. This group did show problematic behavior around alcohol: They were more likely to get drunk during the day, possibly during school hours. They also said they got drunk frequently; many had started to drink by sixth grade.

See *Prevention Science* for the full article by Donna L. Coffman, Megan E. Patrick, Lori Ann Palen, Britany L. Rhoades and Alison K. Ventura (also known as the "Daughters of Prevention" participants in the 2006 SPR Cup) in *Prevention Science Why Do High School Seniors Drink? Implications for a Targeted Approach to Intervention*. Volume 8, Number 4 / December, 2007