

# Developmental Psychobiology Research Group

Newsletter  
Fall  
2009

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

September 2009

September 1, 2009

Welcome back to the 2010 academic year. We have an exciting year coming up as this is a retreat year. Marianne Wamboldt and her committee have organized a phenomenal program titled "The Effects of Perinatal Stress on Child Outcomes: Directions for Future Prevention and Intervention" to be held May 3 & 4, 2010. The format of the retreat will differ this year in an attempt to meet the demands of everyone's busy schedules. Shorter, nearer, and cheaper! Marianne has provided a detailed section on the retreat in this newsletter.

I have been fortunate to recruit a great series of speakers who have filled up the academic year. Yes that is correct we have no more openings for this year (2009-2010) but I am taking names for the fall of 2011. I am excited that Robert Spencer agreed to come down from CU Boulder and give us a tutorial on "The Hypothalamic Pituitary Adrenal Axis 101" as part of his presentation. This will be a great presentation as well as preparation for the biennial retreat. In the spring we have some of our new DPRG postdoc training faculty speaking as well as a friend of DPRG, Joann Robinson, who will be visiting next spring from the University of Connecticut. I have tried to mix this up a bit for the upcoming year with everything from genes to horses to stress. The annual meeting is October 13. There are some changes taking place in the near future and I hope you will be present to vote on the directions we will be taking. Remember this is your group and you have a say in how we run this program.

We will continue with fewer deadlines for DPEF applications, two in the fall and two in the spring. There are several reasons for this, one of which it creates a critical mass for the committee to review at the same time. The deadlines are listed on the DPRG webpage.

Finally I want to particularly thank Africa Armendariz, Crystal Natvig, and Melissa Sinclair for their hard work in keeping the DPRG meeting on track, the DPEF account in the black, and all of the behind the scenes things of which you are never aware.

Mark L. Laudenslager, PhD  
Executive Director

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## DPRG SEMINAR SCHEDULE

### Fall 2009

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*All seminars are held on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:45 am at The Children's Hospital,  
Gary Pavilion North, Denver Room.*

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#### **September 8**

Robert L. Spencer, PhD, Professor, CU, Boulder  
*Neurobiology of Stress Adaptation: A Top-Down Perspective*

#### **September 22**

Robin Gabriels, PsyD, Assistant Professor, Children's Hospital  
*Measuring the Effects of Therapeutic Horseback Riding in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

#### **October 13**

Annual Meeting

#### **October 27**

Angela Friend, PhD, UCD Postdoctoral Fellow  
*G X E Interaction and Environmental Remediation on Reading Disabilities in Twin Data from Brazil (K99 proposal)*

Lisa Badanes, PhD, UCD Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Understanding Preschool Depression: A Multi-Method Approach*

#### **November 10**

Patti Davies, PhD, Associate Professor, CSU  
Bill Gavin, PhD, Associate Professor, CSU  
*Electrophysiological Measures of Sensory Processing in Children with Sensory Processing Disorders and Autism*

#### **December 8**

Christie McGee, UCD Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Prenatal alcohol exposure and child maltreatment: Toward a better understanding of environmental influences on outcomes*

Joseph Dagher, UCD Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Advances in acquisition and analysis methods for fMRI*

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## AFFILIATED SEMINARS

### *Affect Seminar*

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month 1:00-2:30pm, Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, Rm. 304/305. October 13th & Dec. 8th Rm. 204, in BNC: Bob Emde

### *Developmental Disabilities Research Group*

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 8:30-9:45, Education S. Building, JFK Partners Clinic meeting room 5300. If you wish to be added to the email list please send email to [dina.johnson@ucdenver.edu](mailto:dina.johnson@ucdenver.edu): Susan Hepburn

### *Perinatal Vulnerability to Psychosis Research Group*

4th Tuesday of the month 8:15-9:45 (9:00-10:30 May –August), Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, Room 202: Randy Ross

### *Child Grand Rounds*

Please visit the DPRG website for an updated schedule.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact the leader. If there is an area not covered that you think there would be interest in, contact the DPRG office.

## NIH MEDICAL STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAM AWARDED TO RANDY ROSS

As a reminder, the University of Colorado medical students now have a scholarly activity requirement, meaning that over the 4 years of medical school, a student must develop, complete, and present a scholarly project. In response to this opportunity, the DPRG post-doctoral faculty applied for and received NIH funding to support medical student research training. This new DPRG medical student program will coordinate with an already-present Department of Psychiatry program to provide faculty mentors for students to complete their scholarly project. The Department of Psychiatry program is presented on the web at [www.uchsc.edu/psychiatry](http://www.uchsc.edu/psychiatry), click on medical students, then click on Psychiatry Scholars. The website will be updated to include the DPRG program over the next couple of weeks. Any DPRG faculty that would like to be considered as a faculty mentor for medical student scholarly activities, please contact Randy Ross ([Randy.ross@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Randy.ross@ucdenver.edu)), Mark Laudenslager ([Mark.laudenslager@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Mark.laudenslager@ucdenver.edu)), or Sharon Hunter ([Sharon.hunter@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Sharon.hunter@ucdenver.edu)).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

***Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)*** held its biennial meeting in Denver, April 2-4, 2009. Leading national and international experts attended the meeting to hear and present the latest research in child development. At this time a Psychopathology Course is being offered. It will be held in Tallahassee, Florida from February 8-10 & March 15-16, 2010. It is designed for professionals working with troubled families and individuals. For more information please visit the website, <http://www.srcd.org/>.

***The 5th International Conference on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection in the Newborn***, scheduled for January 21-23, 2010 in Clearwater Beach, Florida focuses on new strategies and technology in the assessment of early brain function. It is intended to bring the most current research and application in clinical practice to a forum where the results can be translated for use by clinicians. For more information, please visit the website, <http://www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/brain10/>.

***The 23rd Annual Gravens Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant***, scheduled for February 3-6, 2010 in Clearwater Beach, FL focuses on developmental care and the impact of the physical environment on premature and high risk babies. For more information, please visit the website, <http://www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/gravens10/>.

***The 2nd Annual Frontiers in Pregnancy Research Symposium*** is scheduled for September 17 & 18, 2009 at AMC in Denver, CO. It focuses on prematurity research, treatment and prevention. For more information please visit the website, [http://www.marchofdimes.com/colorado/43608\\_60970.asp](http://www.marchofdimes.com/colorado/43608_60970.asp).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **2010 Biennial Retreat**

Coming in May, 2010 –The 16th Developmental Psychobiology Research Group Retreat, "The Effects of Perinatal Stress on Child Outcomes: Directions for Future Prevention and Intervention," to be held May 3 & 4, 2010. We have three exciting speakers: For Basic Science, Michael Meaney; for "Bench to Bedside," Dr. Zachary Stowe; and for "Bedside to Community," Dr. Thomas O'Conner. This year, in response to requests from a number of DPRG members, we will be holding the retreat closer to town, in Golden, CO, and shortening it to a two day event. Each speaker will have their traditional 90 minutes for a talk, and each talk will be followed by five 10 minute "Data blitz" presentations by DPRG members or postdocs. We have three excellent discussants to discuss the speaker's work as well as work and ideas presented in the data blitz at each level: Dr. Diego Restrepo will discuss Basic Science; Dr. Robert Freedman will discuss "Bench to Bedside", and Dr. Robert Emde will discuss "Bedside to Community." We hope all will plan to attend, as well as to submit abstracts for the data blitz presentations.

Marianne Z. Wamboldt

### **Postdoc Training Program**

Members of DPRG - if you are giving a talk and want to inform the audience that we have training programs available, there is a PowerPoint slide offered that you can include at the end of your presentation. If you have any further questions you can email [Linda Greco-Sanders](mailto:Linda.Greco-Sanders).

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## **DPRG NEWSLETTER UPDATE FORM**

In order to keep information in our newsletter and our records current, it is important to hear of the activities of our DPRG community members. To make that task easier, please use this form (attach additional sheets if necessary). We will include this information in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Name:

Phone #(s):

Title/Affiliation:

Address:

E-mail:

1. Since the last issue of the newsletter was published, have you:

a. Presented posters/papers at any meetings, conferences, etc.? (Please give date, location, name of conference, presentation title.)

b. Published any papers? (**NOTE:** Please list full citation. "In press" citations will not be printed in the Newsletter. Please include **ONLY** published material.)

c. Attended any conferences of interest to DPRG members? (Please give date, location, and name of meeting.)

d. Received any awards, honors, recognition for your work? (Please give title of award, awarding agency and date that the award was given.)

2. Have you received funding for any research? (Please list sources, amount, dates and title of project.)

3. Do you know of any upcoming meetings that would be of interest to DPRG members and should be listed in the Newsletter? (Please provide name, date, locations, and who to contact.)

**Return form to: [dprg@ucdenver.edu](mailto:dprg@ucdenver.edu)**

**THANKS!**

