



**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars Program**  
**FALL NEWSLETTER**  
**November 2009**

**Headline News**

The **UC Berkeley School of Public Health** announces new PhD emphases in Population Health beginning in 2010. [Learn More](#)

The **Center for Health and Community** is proud to announce that the [Center for Obesity, Assessment and Treatment \(COAST\)](#) has been awarded a 5-year UC Multicampus Research Program and Initiatives (MRPI) Grant. The grant will establish a new multicampus center on [Stress, Socioeconomic Status, and Obesity](#).

**Meet our Program Co-Directors**



**[Nancy Adler, PhD](#)**

Nancy is the Lisa and John Pritzker Professor of Psychology in the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics and is the Director of the Center for Health and Community.

She is completing a volume which will summarize the findings of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Socioeconomic Status and Health on the question of how socioeconomic status gets into the body to affect health. The volume, entitled "The Biology of Disadvantage" will have chapters by Health and Society faculty, scholars and NAC members including Will Dow, Ichiro Kawachi, David Williams, Ana Diaz-Roux, Teresa Seeman, and David Rehkopf. She is also examining subjective social status, and how it may operate in relation to health and is chairing an Institute of Medicine study evaluating progress in research on women's health which will be completed early next year.

Nancy is also involved in new projects with Elissa Epel and Barbara Laraia on SES, stress and obesity. The three are joint PIs on two new grants. One is a "U" grant from NHLBI to develop and test novel interventions for low-income obese women and the other is from the UC Office of the President to establish a multi-campus center.

Nancy lives in San Francisco with her husband, Arnold Milstein (who is also an occasional collaborator). They have two daughters, Julia and Sarah.



**[Ray Catalano, PhD](#)**

Ray is Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology at UC Berkeley and also serves as Director of the Berkeley component of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars Program.

He earned a Masters of Regional Planning and PhD in Social Sciences from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, and has authored over 130 peer-reviewed publications most of which concern the effect of economic stressors on population health. Ray's research over the last 6 years, supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has focused on the environmental causes and population effects of selection *in utero*. He directs the UC Berkeley's Perinatal Outcomes Research Program, sponsored by the State of California, and sits as an elected member of the Divisional Council of the Academic Senate. He has also served as Acting Dean of the School of Public Health, as well as Director of the Division of Health Policy and Management, the PhD Program in Health Services and Policy Analysis, the Doctor of Public Health Program, and the Center for Health Research. Ray's service to the University of California and the community earned him the Alfred Childs Award for Service to the School of Public Health as well as the UCI Community Service Award, and the Irvine Valley College 1988 Citizen of the Year Award.

Ray lives in Piedmont with his wife June who is City Manager of Pleasant Hill. Their daughter Elizabeth, a 2008 UC Berkeley graduate, is currently studying for her Master of Public Policy at UCLA.

**Volume 3, Issue 1**

***Julie Harris,  
PhD  
Cohort 6  
Scholar***



**Scholar Spotlight**

*"Research focuses on the public health implications of emerging genomic technologies: Examining social, political, and contextual factors impacting translation and adoption of genomic information"*

[More on Julie](#)

[Cassandra Okechukwu's](#) essay, *Cook the Meat*, was featured on the local NPR Station. [Listen Here](#)

[Janet Tomiyama, PhD](#), is the lead author of "*Consumption After a Diet Violation Disinhibition or Compensation?*"

[Read More](#)

Janet has also been awarded the Joseph A. Gengerelli Distinguished Dissertation Award from the University of California, Los Angeles for her dissertation entitled "*Dieting as a Psychological and Biological Stressor.*" The award is presented each year to the most meritorious dissertation in the Psychology Department.

Congratulations Janet!



## Featured Publications

Article by Cohort 4 Alum, [Belinda L. Needham, PhD](#) from the Journal of Adolescent Health

["Adolescent Depressive Symptomatology and Young Adult Educational Attainment: An Examination of Gender Differences"](#)

Article by William Whang, MD, MS, Laura D. Kubzansky, PHD, MPH, Ichiro Kawachi, MD, PHD, Kathryn M. Rexrode, MD, MPH, [Candyyce H. Kroenke, SCD, MPH](#), et. al

["Depression and risk of sudden cardiac death and coronary heart disease in women: results from the Nurses' Health Study"](#)

## RWJ H&SS Faculty



[Jason Corburn, PhD](#) was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of City and Regional Planning at UC Berkeley. His new book, *Toward the Healthy City*, was recently published by The MIT Press. [Read More](#)



Jason Corburn, PhD

[Noralou Roos, CM, PhD](#) was elected this fall to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC), the Canadian version of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Royal Society is the country's most prestigious association of scholars and scientists. The society's primary objective is to promote learning and research in the arts and sciences. Founded in 1882, it consists of approximately 2,000 Fellows. These are men and women from across the country who are selected by their peers for outstanding contributions to the natural and social sciences and in the humanities. The new Fellows will be officially inducted November 28, 2009, at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec.

Dr. Roos' research is currently focusing on what we have learned/can learn about determinants of children's health and well-being from integrating broader social data sets from Ministries of Education and Family Services (welfare and children in care/receiving protection services) with health data.

The First International E-Mental Health Summit 2009 award for the best presentation is awarded unanimously to Professor [Ricardo Muñoz](#), University of California, San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital, for his presentation titled: "*Using the internet to reduce health disparities worldwide.*" Professor Ricardo Muñoz research is based upon sound academic work combined with social and personal involvement. His work is directed to support people to overcome their mental health and addiction problems by means of e-mental health and in particular self help all over the world.

Congratulations on this award!

## Alumni Corner

[Julian Jamison, PhD](#) was featured in the New York Times Opinion - Freakonomics Blog titled: "*Random Lives in Northern Uganda.*" [Read Blog](#)

[Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD, MPH](#) is the recipient of the 2009-2010 Hellman Award for her research entitled, "*The Psychological Effects of Racism Stress Among Black Women of Childbearing Age*"

Congratulations Amani!

[Sara Johnson, PhD, MPH](#) serves as Co-Director of the Neuroscience and Public Health Initiative at the [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#).

On October 2nd, Sara and her colleagues convened the first working group on adolescent brain science and public health, bringing together 15 prominent experts from around the country to discuss the appropriate role of brain science in public health issues that affect adolescents. They have also launched a new training program in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health, to link neuroscience and public health, which is an exciting opportunity to train the next generation of transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholars.

In advance of this meeting, they published the paper, “*Adolescent Maturity and the Brain: The Promise and Pitfalls of neuroscience Research in Adolescent Health Policy*,” which appeared in the September 2009 issue of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. [Read Article](#)

[Ryan Brown, PhD](#) has accepted a new position as Associate Behavioral/Social Scientist in the Health and Labor and Population Department at [RAND Corporation](#) in Santa Monica, CA.

## Upcoming Events

### CORE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

#### UC BERKELEY PROGRAM SITE

##### NOVEMBER 12

**Penny Hawe, BScPsych, MPH, PhD**

Professor, Population Health Intervention Research Centre, University of Calgary

Topic: “*Can we strengthen the effectiveness of community-level, preventive interventions by reconceptualising their mechanism of action?*”

##### NOVEMBER 19

**Alan Shiell, PhD**

Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences University of Calgary

Topic: “*Economic Evaluation of Social Interventions to Promote Health and Reduce Inequalities*”

Location: UC Berkeley, University Hall, 714C

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[Map](#)

#### **NOTE:**

No seminar will be held on **November 26**.

#### UC SAN FRANCISCO PROGRAM SITE

##### DECEMBER 3

##### SCHOLAR SESSION

(Scholars and Core Faculty Only)

**Cassandra Okechukwu, ScD**

**Julie Harris, PhD**

**Kaja LeWinn, ScD**

Topic: *TBA*

Location: UC San Francisco, Laurel Heights Campus, Conference Room 474

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[Map](#)



### COAST SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Friday, November 20, 2009

Topic: “*Mindfulness-Based Approaches to Stress Reduction During Pregnancy: Potential Implications for Perinatal Obesity Interventions*”

**Cassandra Vieten, PhD**

Associate Scientist, California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute

Director of Research, Institute of Noetic Sciences

Time and Location: 12:00-1:30 pm, UCSF Laurel Heights campus, Conference Room 474

### ADVANCE ALCOHOL RESEARCH SEMINAR

University of California, Berkeley  
Division of Community Health & Human Development School of Public Health

**November 10, 2009**

Tuesday, 12:20 - 1:50 PM  
Alcohol Research Group  
6475 Christie Ave., Ste. 400  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
(510) 597-3440

Topic: *"Selection in Utero: the alcohol connection"*

**Ray Catalano, Ph.D.**

Professor of Public Health  
Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program  
University of California, Berkeley

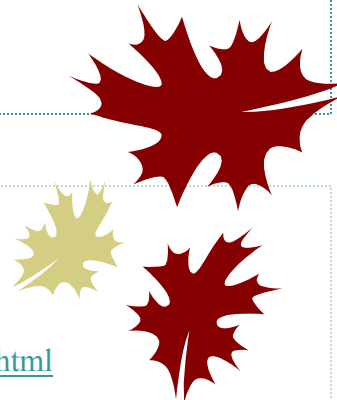
### **RWJ Health & Society Scholars Program Short Course on Sleep**

Columbia University

**December 8, 2009**

10:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm

More Information: <http://www.chssp.columbia.edu/events/sc/Sleepshortcourse.html>



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<http://www.chc.ucsf.edu/events.htm>

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