



Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program
SPRING NEWSLETTER
May 2009

Headline News

Introducing our incoming RWJ Health & Society
Cohort 7 scholars



[Nicole Bush, PhD](#)
[Laura Gottlieb, MD, MPH](#)
[A. Janet Tomiyama, MA](#)

Their appointments will begin at UCSF-UCB on
September 1, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 3



Scholar Spotlight

Kaja LeWinn, ScD
Cohort 5 Scholar

“Understanding how the social
environment is embodied at an
early age: amygdala reactivity to
threat-related stimuli as a
function of social status”

[more on Kaja's spotlight](#)

Scholars



[Jenna Nobles, PhD](#) and Elizabeth Frankenberg, PhD have published, “Mothers’
Community Participation and Child Health.” [Read more](#)

[Annaliese Beery, PhD](#) has accepted a tenure track faculty position at
[Smith College](#) starting September 2010, soon after her appointment ends as a
Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar. She will be joining their
departments of Psychology, Biology, & Neuroscience. Annaliese plans to
continue the research she has started on stress and telomere length as well as
starting new projects on early life experience and development of behavior.

Featured Publications

Article by [Claire Brindis, DrPH](#), Sara P. Geierstanger, MPH, Adrienne Faxio

[“The Role of Policy Advocacy in Assuring Comprehensive Family Life Education in California”](#)

Cohort 3 Alumni, [June Tester, MD, MPH](#), and Rachel Baker have published,

[“Making the playfields even: Evaluating the impact of an environmental intervention on park use and physical activity”](#)

Article by Alinne Z. Barrera, PhD, [Eliseo J. Perez-Stable, MD](#), Kevin L. Delucchi, PhD, [Ricardo F. Munoz, PhD](#)

[“Global Reach of an Internet Smoking Cessation Intervention among Spanish- and English-Speaking Smokers from 157 Countries”](#)

Article by [Nancy E. Adler, PhD](#) and Judith Stewart, PhD

[“Reducing Obesity: Motivating Action While Not Blaming the Victim”](#)

[Elissa Epel, PhD](#), has published, [“Telomeres in a Life-Span Perspective: A New “Psychobiomarker”?”](#)

RWJ H&SS Faculty



Congratulations to RWJ H&SS Co-director at UCSF-UCB, **Nancy E. Adler, PhD** for her election to the [American Academy of Arts & Sciences](#)!

Claire Brindis, DrPH was the recipient of the UCSF Chancellor’s Award for the Advancement of Women
[“In Recognition of Outstanding Contributions to the Advancement of Women”](#)

Alumni Corner

Jacqueline S. Mattis, [Wizdom Powell Hammond, PhD, MPH](#), Nyasha Grayman, et. al, have published,

[“The Social Production of Altruism: Motivations for Caring Action in a Low-Income Urban Community”](#)

[Julian Jamison, PhD](#), will start his new position as Senior Economist at the Research Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision making at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and will be a part of their [behavioral economics center](#). In addition to his current work, Julian will also be researching how preferences affect health behaviors in developing countries as well as the US and will be especially attuned to the policy implications of the research. He looks forward to starting this position in May of this year and collaborating with some of the other economists in their research group.

Congratulations to [Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD, MPH](#) for being the recipient of the [2009 Sarlo Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award](#)! This award is in recognition of her outstanding work as a mentor to graduate students at UC Berkeley. The awards are funded by a grant from the Sarlo Foundation of the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, which supports the promotion of excellence in teaching.

[Ryan A. Brown, PhD](#), et. al, have published, [“Moving from ethnography to epidemiology: Lessons learned in Appalachia”](#)

Upcoming Events

Psycho-Biological Pathways:

A Workshop on Immunology and Neuro-endocrine Measurement in Clinical and Behavioral Research

Speakers will include:

Steve Cole, PhD	Margaret Kemeny, PhD
Firdaus Dhabhar, PhD	Judy Moskowitz, PhD,
Elissa Epel, PhD	MPH
Frederick (Rick) Hecht, MD	Elizabeth Sinclair, PhD
	Owen Wolkowitz, MD

May 5-6, 2009

8:00am-5:00 pm
UCSF Center for Health and Community
3333 California Street, Conference Room 474
San Francisco, CA 94118
Contact: Leslie Murchy at
murchyl@ocim.ucsf.edu

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program

Annual Meeting will take place on **May 11-14, 2009** in San Diego, CA.

Our current scholars, leadership team, and incoming scholars will be in attendance. Members of the RWJF H&SS National Program Office, National Advisory Committee, and scholars and faculty from the other program sites will also be present.



**Center for Obesity Assessment, Study and Treatment
(COAST) Seminar**

Topic: Hypothalamic PI3K Signaling and Energy Balance: Defective in Leptin and Insulin Resistance?

James Warne, PhD
University California at San Francisco

This year, COAST meetings at Laurel Heights are focused on supporting development of obesity research (discussion-oriented meetings) to support new research, particularly on the theme of SES, stress and food behaviors.

Website: [COAST](#)

Friday, May 15, 2009

12:00 - 1:30 pm

UCSF Laurel Heights Campus

3333 California Street, Conference Room 474

Contact:

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The 2009-2010 Call for Applications for the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars** program has been released and is available at the following link: http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/cfp_HSS2009.pdf



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