



Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program
SUMMER NEWSLETTER
July 2009

Headline News

Best wishes to our Cohort 5 RWJ Health & Society Scholars!



[Recent Graduation Luncheon](#)

Volume 2, Issue 4



Scholar Spotlight

Annaliese Beery, PhD
Cohort 6 Scholar

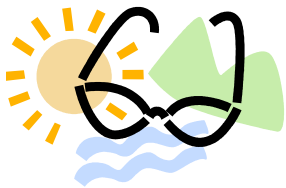
“Influence of experience on molecular physiology: cross-tissue comparisons of the effects of stress on telomere length and gene regulation ”

[more on Annaliese](#)

Scholars

Our wonderful Cohort 5 scholars, [Jenna Nobles, PhD](#), [David Chae, ScD](#), and [Kaja LeWinn, ScD](#) talk about their experience as a RWJ Health & Society Scholar. [Read scholar statements](#)

Jenna will be Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin starting this Fall. David will be Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at Emory University also in the Fall. Our site is looking forward to working with Kaja as she continues her research work as a third year in the RWJ H&SS Program.



[Cassandra Okechukwu](#)'s visit to India for the World Conference on Tobacco or Health in March 2009 provided opportunities to meet with colleagues from all over the world especially tobacco control practitioners in other countries who are interested in learning from US example.

Paper from previous conference, which documented Tobacco Industry's efforts to undermine health legislation in Sub-Saharan Africa from 1990 to 2001, was recently published in the [Third World Quarterly](#) journal. (PDF)

Featured Publications

Article by [Irene H. Yen, PhD](#) , [Wizdom Powell Hammond, PhD](#) , and Margot B. Kushel, MD

“[From homeless, to hopeless and health-less?: The health impacts of housing challenges among former foster care youth transitioning to adulthood in California.](#)”

Cohort 3 Alum, [June Tester, MD, MPH](#), was the lead author on a policy statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

[“The Built Environment: Designing Communities to Promote Physical Activity in Children.”](#)
(PDF)

Article by Esme Fuller-Thomson, PhD, [Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD, MPH](#), [Meredith Minkler, PhD](#), and Jack M. Guralnik, MD, PhD

[“Black-White Disparities in Disability Among Older Americans. Further Untangling the Role of Race and Socioeconomic Status.”](#) (PDF)

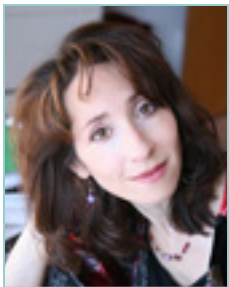
[Paula Braveman, MD, MPH](#), Director of the Center on Social Disparities in Health and affiliate faculty of the RWJ H&SSP at UCSF-UCB, has published, “**A health disparities perspective on obesity research**” [Read more](#) (PDF)

RWJ H&SS Faculty

Congratulations to RWJ H&SS Co-Director at UCSF-UCB, [Nancy E. Adler, PhD](#) for being selected as the recipient of the 2009 American Psychological Association (APA) [Distinguished Scientific Award for the Applications of Psychology](#). She will be honored at the [APA](#) Convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in August 2009.



Nancy E. Adler, PhD



Elissa Epel, PhD

RWJ H&SS Program Leader at UCSF-UCB, [Elissa Epel, PhD](#), is featured in the [UCSF Science Café](#).

Petris Center Director [Richard M. Scheffler, PhD](#), and UC Berkeley Psychology Department Chair Stephen P. Hinshaw, PhD, have been awarded an [Investigator Award](#) in Health Policy Research by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation[®] (RWJF) to write a book on attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Thanks to seed funding made available by the [RWJ Health Disparities Working Group](#) at UCSF, Julianna Deardorff, PhD, [Jeanne Tschann, PhD](#), et al., had their paper, “*Sexual Values and Risky Sexual Behaviors among Latino Youth*” accepted in the [Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) journal. The article is currently in press with an expected publication date of June 2010.

“*The role of street vendors in the after-school food environment*,” was awarded a Transition Supplement Funds grant to expand their pilot intervention with healthy snacks menus on ice cream trucks in order to investigate the effect of price manipulations, as well as continue their work looking at the regulatory issues related to healthy vending policies.

PI is RWJ H&SS Program Leader at UCSF-UCB, [Barbara Laraia, PhD, MPH, RD](#), Co-PI’s are Cohort 3 Alum, [June Tester, MD, MPH](#), and RWJ H&SS affiliate faculty, [Irene Yen, PhD, MPH](#).
[Read more](#)

Alumni Corner

Congratulations to Cohort 3 Alum, [Wizdom Powell, PhD](#), who was recently awarded a Global Health Faculty Travel Grant from to develop a partnership with University of KwazuluNatal (South Africa)! The focus of this partnership is to conduct cross-national research on the association between masculinity and health among Black South African men. Wizdom just returned from a 3 week trip, where they laid the ground work for the pilot study.

She has also received a developmental grant from the [UNC Center for Aids Research \(CFAR\)](#) to examine the contribution of masculinity to sexual risk behavior among African American men.

Wizdom will also be chairing a symposium on the “*Psychosocial Determinants of African American Male Health Status*” at the [APA 117th Annual Convention](#) in August 2009 in Toronto, Canada.



Cohort 1 Alum, [Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD, MPH](#), receives the 2009 SARLO Distinguished Graduate Student Mentoring Award

Upcoming Events

UC Berkeley
September 10, 17, 24
November 5, 12, 19

CORE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

More information available
Fall 2009

UC San Francisco
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
December 3rd

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The 2009-2010 Call for Applications for the
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars program

Deadline: **October 2nd, 2009** [more](#)



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