



**Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars Program**  
**WINTER NEWSLETTER**  
February 2009

**Headline News**

We are pleased to announce our Cohort 7 scholars

**Nicole Bush, PhD**  
**Laura Gottlieb, MD, MPH**  
**A. Janet Tomiyama, MA**

*(more details in our next newsletter)*

THANK YOU to all faculty and scholars for their participation in this year's interview process!

The **UC Berkeley School of Public Health** has received a \$15 million gift from the Fred H. Bixby Foundation to enrich and expand the efforts of the Bixby Program by creating the Bixby Center for Population, Health, and Sustainability.

RWJ H&SS Co-Director, [Ray Catalano](#), states, "This [gift] is in addition to our recent success in securing an NICHD Population Center and R21 and R24 grants concerned with population manifestations of shared early life experiences. We all believe that the UC San Francisco/UC Berkeley RWJ Health and Society Scholars program, particularly the support for research initiatives, catalyzed our strong and growing commitment to population health at Berkeley."

[read more](#)

**Volume 2, Issue 2**



**Scholar Spotlight**

**Jenna Nobles, PhD**  
**Cohort 5 Scholar**

**"Correlation or causation:  
understanding the contextual  
determinants of health"**

[more on Jenna's spotlight](#)

**Scholars**

Cohort 6 Scholar, [Cassandra Okechukwu, ScD](#) will be in Mumbai, India from March 8-12 for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health. She will be presenting a paper, titled "Apprenticeship Site-Based Smoking Cessation Intervention for Blue-Collar Workers in the United States," at an oral session on population-based smoking cessation. The conference occurs every three years and rotates between developing and developed countries. Cassandra's participation at the last conference in Washington DC led to collaboration on a study with researchers from the University of Edinburgh and the London School of Hygiene. Their paper will be published in the July issue of Third World quarterly journal.

Visit the [14<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health](#) website for more information.

**Featured Publications**

Article by Howard H. Moffet, Nancy E. Adler, Dean Schillinger, Ameena T. Ahmed, Barbara Laraia, Joe V. Selby, Romain Neugebauer, Jennifer Y. Liu, Melissa M. Parker, Margaret Warton, and Andrew J. Karter

["The Diabetes Study of Northern California \(DISTANCE\): Objectives and design of a survey follow-up study of social health disparities in a managed care population"](#)

Cohort 4 Alumni, [Ryan A. Brown, PhD](#), RWJ H&SS Co-Director, [Nancy Adler, PhD](#), and William Copeland, PhD, E. Jane Costello, PhD, and Adrian Angold, MRCPsych, from Duke University Medical Center, have published,

["Cultural and Community Determinants of Subjective Social Status among Cherokee and White Youth"](#)

**RWJ H&SS Faculty**

Former RWJ Health & Society Scholar, **Jason Corburn, PhD**, is now Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning and a member of the Global Metropolitan Studies initiative, and co-directs the joint Masters in City Planning and Masters in Public Health degree program at the University of California, Berkeley. He teaches graduate courses in healthy city planning, sustainable urban development and health impact assessment. [view profile](#)

**Sylvia Guendelman, PhD, MSW**, Professor of Community Health and Human Development at UC Berkeley, discusses new studies that links maternity leave and the health benefits for mothers and newborns. [read more on study](#)

## Alumni Corner

Cohort 1 Alumni, **Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD, MPH**, to give talks on the topic of racism stress and health. [see schedule](#)

## Upcoming Events

*“Delaying the Degenerative Diseases of Aging through Nutrition”*

Bruce N. Ames, PhD  
Professor of the Graduate School, UCB  
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Dept, and  
Senior Scientist, Children's Hospital Oakland  
Research Institute

**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

4:10-5:00 pm  
114 Morgan Hall  
UC Berkeley

Contact information: 510-642-6490

### 2nd Annual Mary Dallman Symposium

focus of this year's symposium will be

*Stress, Gestational Weight, and Implications for the Life Course*

#### Panel of speakers:

Pathik Wadhwa, MD, PhD (Keynote)  
Barbara Abrams, DrPH, RD  
Barbara Laraia, PhD, MPH, RD  
Janet King, PhD  
Naomi Stotland, MD  
Janet Wojcicki, PhD, MPH

**Friday, February 27, 2009**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
UCSF Laurel Heights Conference Center  
Chancellors Room

[additional symposium information](#)

Sponsored by the  
[Goldman School of Public Policy](#)

*“Changing Inequality: What produces and changes levels of inequality?”*

Dr. Rebecca M. Blank  
Brookings Institution

**March 12, 2009**

7:30 – 9:00 pm  
Sibley Auditorium, Bechtel Engineering Center  
UC Berkeley

[additional event information](#)

### Fellowship of the Fellows Seminar

*“Are Biological Notions of Racial Difference Making a Comeback? Commercial and Forensic Applications of Human Biotechnology and the Promise of Race Impact Assessments”*

Osagie K. Obasogie, JD, PhD  
Senior Fellow at the Center for Genetics and Society  
Associate Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings in San Francisco

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

12:00-1:00 pm  
UCSF Laurel Heights, Conference Room 263

[additional seminar information](#)



## RWJ H&SS Core Seminar Schedule

FEBRUARY 26

**Social regulation of the brain: What are the mechanisms?**

**Russell Fernald, PhD**

Professor, Biological Sciences Department Stanford University

View PDF versions of Russell Fernald's above presentation reading articles

[Genes and Social Behavior](#)

[Rapid Behavioral and Genomic Responses  
to Social Opportunity](#)

Location: UC San Francisco, Laurel Heights campus

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[campus map](#)

MARCH 5

**TOPIC: TBD**

**Barbara Abrams, DrPH, RD**

Professor of Epidemiology, Maternal and Child Health, and Public Health Nutrition  
School of Public Health, UC Berkeley

Location: UC Berkeley, University Hall

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[campus map](#)

MARCH 12

**TOPIC: Imaging the aging brain**

**William Jagust, MD**

Professor of Public Health and Neuroscience UC Berkeley

Location: UC Berkeley, University Hall

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[campus map](#)

MARCH 19

**TOPIC: Some macroeconomic consequences of the demographic transition**

**Ronald D. Lee, PhD**

Director, Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging (CEDA), UC Berkeley

Location: UC Berkeley, University Hall

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm

[campus map](#)

Note: **No Seminar on March 26**

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [hss@chc.ucsf.edu](mailto:hss@chc.ucsf.edu)