



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholars Program
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Headline News

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We are pleased to announce our incoming
Cohort 9 Scholars!



Meredith Barrett

Meredith Barrett is an ecologist with a strong interest in how the environment shapes human and animal health on landscape scales. She is currently finishing her PhD in Ecology at Duke University, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow and worked across campus with the Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke Global Health Institute, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and the Biology Department. Her dissertation research investigated how environmental change, including increasing urbanization, deforestation and climate change, drives spatial patterns of wildlife and human health in Madagascar, and how these patterns influence the risk of disease transmission. She believes in the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to health, and has become involved in advancing the One Health perspective, which integrates diverse disciplines to achieve optimal human, animal and ecosystem health. She received a BA in Earth & Environmental Sciences from Wesleyan University. Meredith loves spending time outdoors biking, running and traveling. She grew up in Palo Alto and is excited to get back to exploring her favorite spots in California.

Olivier Humblet is an epidemiologist whose research explores how environmental factors affect health by altering the immune system. His goal is to identify causes of the recent increase in prevalence of immune-related diseases such as allergies and asthma, especially among children. His current work focuses on the relationship between air pollution and immune function (in particular, that of newly discovered immune cells called regulatory T cells) in children with asthma, and how these associations are modified by genetics. As a Health and Society Scholar, Olivier is expanding his focus to study stress and psychosocial factors in relation to health and immune function, and the extent to which these factors act synergistically with environmental pollutants. Prior to joining the HSS program Olivier was a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford School of Medicine in the division of Immunology and Allergy. In 2010 he received his doctorate in Environmental Molecular Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, where his thesis research assessed how children's reproductive development is affected by industrial chemicals in the environment. In 2005 he received an MS in Occupational Epidemiology from UMass-Lowell.



Olivier Humblet

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



David Vlahov, PhD, RN, Senior Vice President for Research and Director of the Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies at The New York Academy of Medicine is the new Dean for the School of Nursing here at UCSF. [read more](#)

Scholar Spotlight



Mark A. Pachucki, PhD
Cohort 8 Scholar

"Childhood obesity is one of the daunting population health challenges of our era. Yet despite the current emphasis on targeting health behaviors such as diet and physical activity patterns in youth, most research efforts don't account for the fact that children interact with each other. Any parent or teacher of an early adolescent knows that both boys and girls increasingly become aware of social norms within their peer group, and that social hierarchies and cliques begin to be formed during the 10-14 year-old age range. Behaviors are learned, imitated, and take shape in a child's social context."

[more on Mark's spotlight](#)

Scholars

[Nicki Bush, PhD](#), was quoted in a TIME Healthland article for her work in adolescent MH treatment and advocacy [read more](#)

[Laura Gottlieb, MD, MPH](#) article, Preventing lung cancer is cheaper than CTscans, was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle. [read more](#)

Featured Publications

Cohort 1 Alumni [Amani Nuru-Jeter, PhD](#), and [Douglas Jutte, MD](#), along with affiliate faculty Tom Boyce, MD, et al. (2011). Family Socioeconomic Status and Child Executive Functions: the Roles of Language, Home Environment and Single Parenthood. Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society. Jan;17(1):120-32.

Cohort 3 Alum [Wizdom Powell Hammond, PhD, MPH](#), et al. (2011). Determinants of Usual Source of Care Disparities among African American and Caribbean Black Men: Findings from the National Survey of American Life. J Health Care Poor Underserved.22(1):157-175.

RWJF H&SSP Faculty

[Wendy Mendes, PhD](#), was selected by the Association for Psychological Science Board of Directors as the 2011 recipient of the APS Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions, in recognition of the significant impact her work is already having in the field of psychological science.

Dr. Mendes will receive the award at the upcoming APS convention in Washington, DC on May 26-29, 2011.

[Nancy Adler, PhD](#), has been chosen to receive the Newman-Proshansky Award from division 34 of the American Psychological Association.

Alumni Corner

[David Rehkopf, ScD](#), is now an Assistant Professor with Stanford's Department of Medicine.

[Michelle McMurry, MD, PhD](#) was appointed as the Associate Director for Science at the US Food And Drug Administration.

[Julie Harris, PhD](#), is a Staff Scientist at Kaiser's Division of Research.

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