

WINTER NEWSLETTER  
March 2013

## Headline News

## Volume 6, Issue 2

We are pleased to announce our incoming  
Cohort 11 Scholars!Parissa  
Jahromi Ballard

**Parissa Jahromi Ballard** is a doctoral candidate in Developmental and Psychological Sciences at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. Her research focuses on understanding positive social development during childhood and adolescence. In her dissertation, she examines the psychological characteristics and social conditions that support civic engagement among youth from immigrant backgrounds. She believes that civic engagement can contribute to healthier lives and that unequal access to civic opportunities is an important equity issue for young people. As a RWJ scholar, she hopes to investigate whether civic engagement promotes physical and psychological health among adolescents, under what conditions, and by what mechanisms. Parissa grew up in Maryland, earned a BA and an MA in psychology from Wake Forest University, and spent a year in the Netherlands as a Fulbright fellow before moving to California. Her favorite activities include traveling, looking for reasons to travel, and planning trips. She also enjoys hiking, tennis, dancing, and yoga.

**Lindsay Hoyt** is interested in social, psychological, and behavioral contributions to positive health and wellness. In particular, her work examines positive health across adolescence, a sensitive period of development when individual experiences can have longstanding effects on lifelong health. In her dissertation, she explores the relationship between positive psychological well-being, pubertal timing, and biomarkers of stress and health. As a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar, she will be seeking new methods to measure and promote positive health for youth. Lindsay is a strong proponent of multidisciplinary and policy-relevant research. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, with a double major in Psychology and Peace Studies. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University in the Department of Human Development and Social Policy, as well as an active member of Cells to Society (C2S): The Center on Social Disparities and Health at the Institute for Policy Research. Lindsay also enjoys a number of activities that promote her own well-being, especially running, photography, and hiking.

Lindsay  
HoytKeely  
Muscatell

**Keely Muscatell** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Psychology at UCLA. Her research focuses on elucidating the neurobiological mechanisms that link the social environment with health. This work is highly interdisciplinary, as it employs theory and methods from social psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and psychoneuroimmunology. In her dissertation, for example, she is exploring the neural processes that are engaged when we experience social stress, and how these neural systems link with inflammatory responses to stress. Keely received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Spanish from the University of Oregon in 2006, and a Master of Arts in Psychology from UCLA in 2009. When not in the lab, Keely can be found exploring pristine Croatian beaches with her partner, George, reading Dave Eggers, visiting microbreweries with family and friends in the Pacific Northwest, or watching college football.

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

## Scholars

**Meredith Barrett** was quoted in the Washington Post news story, [New technology helps doctors link a patient's location to illness and treatment](#), regarding her work with Asthmapolis.

**Ezequiel Galarce** published two new articles:

[Message formats and their influence on perceived risks of tobacco use: a pilot formative research project in India](#)

[Crisis communication: an inequalities perspective on the 2010 Boston water crisis](#)

**Matt Killingsworth** was mentioned in a health blog by The Province, [Be Happy! Learn to Live More in the Moment](#), regarding his study on happiness.

## Featured Publications

Article by Barbara Laraia, Nancy Adler, Irene Yen, et al from *Preventing Chronic Disease*

["Small food stores and availability of nutritious foods: a comparison of database and in-store measures, Northern California, 2009"](#) [read more](#)

Article by Annaliese Beery, Darlene Francis, Elissa Epel, et al from *Biology Letters*

["Chronic stress elevates telomerase activity in rats"](#) [read more](#)

Article by Emily Jacobs, Candyce Kroenke, Elissa Epel, et al from *PLoS One*

["Accelerated Cell Aging in Female APOE-ε4 Carriers: Implications for Hormone Therapy Use"](#) [read article](#)

Article by David Rehkopf, Julianna Deardorff, Barbara Abrams, et al from *Social Science & Medicine*

["Education and obesity at age 40 among American adults"](#) [read article](#)

## RWJF H&amp;SSP Faculty

**Nancy Adler** was quoted in the San Jose Mercury News story, [New California Field Poll shows support for 'soda tax'](#) [Read story](#)

**Osagie Obasogie** was awarded tenure and promoted to full professor at UC Hastings

**Elissa Epel** was recently interviewed in an NIH video aimed at educating the public and policy makers about the importance of behavioral science research [View Video](#)

**Wendy Mendes** was quoted in the New York Times Magazine story titled, [Why Can Some Kids Handle Pressure While Others Fall Apart?](#) [Read Story](#)

## Alumni Corner

**Emily Jacobs** received a K Award and will be joining the faculty in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School this summer. Emily was also recently mentioned in two news stories regarding her work with cell aging in female APOE-ε4 carries

The Telegraph: [HRT could help delay onset of dementia](#)

Stanford School of Medicine News: [Accelerated biological aging evident in women with Alzheimer's risk factor, but inhibited by hormone therapy, researchers say](#)

**Jan Leu** joins HopeLab as Director of Product Innovation [See Announcement](#)

## Upcoming Events

## RWJ H&amp;SS Core Seminar Schedule

## March 7

**Ming Hsu, PhD**

Assistant Professor, HASS School of Business, UCB

## March 14

**Kristine A. Madsen, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor, Public Health  
Nutrition Division of Community Health & Human Development,  
School of Public Health, UCB

## March 21

**Niklas Krause, MD, MPH, PhD**

Associate Professor of Medicine, School  
of Medicine Division of Occupational and  
Environmental Medicine, UCB

## March 14

**Kristine A. Madsen, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor, Public Health  
Nutrition Division of Community Health & Human Development,  
School of Public Health, UCB

~All seminars listed will be held at UCB campus, University Hall, Room 401~Campus [map](#)  
Time: 12:00 pm

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