Hello DPRG Community –

Fall is here and another academic year begins! On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board, I’d like to welcome you back to the Developmental Psychobiology Research Group Seminar Series.

It is our hope that our twice-monthly DPRG Seminars will foster a sense of community and connection for researchers across all levels of career development. Our goal is to provide a forum that encourages and supports the multi-disciplinary collaborative research projects that contribute in meaningful ways to scientific knowledge. Tied closely to the fellowship program that supports the early career development of extremely talented and promising investigators, we want the DPRG seminars to promote active discussions that are relevant to all, regardless of a person’s area of interest.

We are very fortunate to kick off this year’s program with an outstanding lead speaker – David Olds, Ph.D.; Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health. To learn more about Dr. Olds and his incredibly active research group, please see: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/pediatrics/research/programs/prc/Pages/PreventionResearchCenter.aspx

A working version of the seminar program for the rest of the year is provided below and is expected to be finalized in the next few weeks. We are excited to hear about the projects of the DPRG postdoctoral fellows and to host investigators from the Anschutz Medical Campus, the “downtown” UC Denver campus, the University of Denver, and Colorado State University. We have tried to bring in new faculty at these institutions whose research interests are compatible with the mission of DPRG. We hope to encourage collaborations across campuses, as well as disciplines.

We recognize that everyone is very busy, juggling multiple responsibilities and roles. Research funding continues to be challenging to obtain and busy scientists may be tempted to use every waking minute to proof a paper, improve a grant application or check off some administrative tasks. And yet, as we all know, science is actually a social process and interaction with colleagues – both within and outside of our specific areas of interest – is essential for innovative project development and implementation.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR (cont'd)

In an effort to meet this objective, we've revised the guidance we provide to our potential speakers.

Here's a snippet of what we've asked our seminar leaders to consider:

_We like to hear about projects in the planning stages, particularly if the speaker can identify a few key questions for discussion._ Given that seminars are regularly attended by scientists from various disciplines, presenting at DPRG can be an opportunity to obtain helpful perspectives on projects in the development stage. As such, our members tend to enjoy focused “works-in-progress” presentations, with approximately half the time (i.e., 30-45 minutes) devoted to a presentation and half to discussion. We recognize that most speakers have more experience delivering finished/polished talks, so we've included a few examples of a “works-in-progress” seminar at the end of this document.

_We value discussion and interaction._ Our group is relatively small, with 64-40 participants attending most seminars, thus meaningful discourse is possible and encouraged.

_We appreciate a brief introductory overview of your research topic, delivered in a way that can be understood_ by colleagues from other disciplines and thus generate rich cross-disciplinary dialogue.

_We are interested in hearing about innovative research that is reflective of a variety of scientific perspectives_ (e.g., biological, behavioral, public health) and methods (e.g., observational, psychophysiological, informant-based).

_Regardless of scientific discipline, we are interested in development._ Most of our members study dynamic processes, complex systems and interactive models in animals, people or systems and many of our discussions reflect this developmental orientation.

Please also remember that participants who attend 50% or more of the seminars are eligible to apply for small grants (up to $7500) from the Developmental Psychobiology Endowment Fund (DPEF). These funds can be used to jump-start new endeavors or enhance existing projects. Please see our website for application dates and guidelines (http://medschool.ucdenver.edu/psychiatry/dprg).

We welcome your feedback on this year’s program and look forward to lots of lively discussions and active interdisciplinary collaborations.

Sincerely,

Susan Hepburn, Ph.D.
Executive Director DPRG
**Undergraduate Students**
The NIMH-supported summer undergraduate research training program, Scholarly Trainees Acquiring Research Skills (STARS), brings 7 students from rural community colleges across Colorado to the medical school campus to participate in research programs each summer. If you are interested in serving as a faculty mentor, please contact Randy Ross, Randy.Ross@ucdenver.edu, 303-724-6203.

**NIMH Postdoctoral Trainees**
The training program welcomes Erin Hambrick, PhD, who will be mentored by Heather Taussig, PhD. Continuing DPRG postdocs include Heather Caballes, PhD (Mentor: Tim Benke, MD, PhD, co-mentor: Ken Maclean), Kristy Howell, PhD (Mentor: Amanda Law, PhD), Anita Quintana, PhD (Mentor: Bruce Appel, co-mentor: Tamim Shaikh), Lisa Wilson, PhD (Mentor: Don Rojas, PhD), and Kory Wylie, MD (Mentor: Jason Tregellas, PhD). You will be hearing from the fellows who have not yet presented at upcoming DPRG seminars.

For more information about the program, please visit our website, [www.dprgpostdoc.org](http://www.dprgpostdoc.org).

**Request to Advertise the NIMH Postdoctoral Research Training Program**
Members of DPRG - if you are giving a talk and want to inform the audience that we have training programs available, there is a PowerPoint slide offered that you can include at the end of your presentation. The slide is located on the ANNOUNCEMENTS tab of the DPRG website. If you have further questions you can email Linda Greco-Sanders.
DPRG SEMINAR SCHEDULE
FALL 2014

All seminars are on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:45 AM at The Children’s Hospital, Gary Pavilion, in the Denver Room. Prior to each seminar there is a "coffee hour" from 9:30 - 10:00 AM.

**September 9**
DPRG KickOff Speaker:
David Olds, PhD, Professor of Pediatrics and Director Prevention Research Center for Family and Child Health, Dept. of Pediatrics, UCD
*Improving the life chances of vulnerable mothers and children with the Nurse-Family Partnership*

**September 23**
Kristy Howell, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD
*The neurobiological role of Akt3 in cognitive development and Schizophrenia*

Tim Sannes, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD
*Intraindividual Variability: a Window into Hormonal and Circadian Rhythm Disruption*

(DPRG Executive Committee meeting immediately following the presentation)

**October 14**
DPRG Annual Business Meeting

**October 28**
Deborah Fidler, PhD, Professor, Human Development & Family Studies, Colorado State University
Lisa Daunhauer, ScD, Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Studies, Colorado State University
*TBD*

**November 11**
Erin Hambrick PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, UCD
*Implementation of Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatments for Foster Children: Child and Organizational Engagement*

**November 25**
*Seminar Cancelled Due To The Holiday Break*

**December 9**
TBD

(DPRG Executive Committee meeting immediately following the presentation)

**December 23**
*Seminar Cancelled Due To The Holiday Break*
Location & Parking Information

The Children's Hospital Campus

Anschutz Medical Campus

We really encourage people to take the stairs down to the room. The stairs come out much closer to the room and require the use of only one secured door. Unfortunately, the secured doors are for patient safety and therefore we can’t get around the door access issue. There will be someone manning the door to allow access before the seminar begins.

Check-in Process

Arrive a few minutes early to ensure plenty of time to get a photo ID badge upon entry. All visitors in The Children’s Hospital are required to wear photo identification, for the safety of patients, families and staff.

⇒ You will need to show your UCD or TCH badge at the security counter

⇒ If you are coming from another location you will need to show your driver license for verification

Upcoming Meetings Of Interest

The 2nd Annual Molecular Psychiatry Meeting scheduled for November 7th-9th, 2014 in San Francisco California. For more information, please visit: http://www.molecularpsychiatry.net/meetings/2014-san-francisco/

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology 53rd Annual Meeting will be held at the at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge in Phoenix, Arizona on December 7-11, 2014. For more information, please visit: http://www.acnp.org/annualmeeting/default.aspx

AFFILIATED SEMINARS

Affect Seminar

September-May, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month
1:00-2:30pm, Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, 2nd Floor North East Conference Room
241. BNC: Bob Emde

Perinatal Vulnerability to Psychosis Research Group

4th Tuesday of the month
8:15-9:45 (9:00-10:30 May –August), Ben Nighthorse Campbell Building, Room 304: Randy Ross

Child Grand Rounds

Please visit the DPRG website for an updated schedule.

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, contact the leader. If there is an area not covered that you think there would be interest in, please contact the DPRG office.
MEIXNER POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH:
The estate of Charles Meixner has generously funded the Autism Speaks' Translational Research Initiative with the goal of advancing delivery of products and services that improve life for those with autism. An initial distribution of $1.75 million will support postdoctoral fellowships in translational research, continuing an exciting and successful program that began in 2011. More information about this generous gift is available [here].

Autism Speaks is pleased to announce the second year for the Meixner Postdoctoral Fellowships in Translational Research. This fellowship is designed to support well-qualified postdoctoral scientists in pursuing training and research in the field of translational autism science. Successful applicants will detail a project that bridges basic laboratory research and behavioral or biomedical clinical research, and a training plan that includes significant mentoring in both basic and clinical research environments. Projects must have the fundamental translational research aim of accelerating the conversion of basic scientific discoveries into novel and more effective methods or products used to diagnose, prevent, or treat ASD. Applicants MUST have at least two mentors - one in clinical research and one in basic research.

Access the full RFA for the Meixner Postdoctoral Fellowship on the Open Grants Webpage - [HERE](#) (deadlines are in the RFA)

DENNIS WEATHERSTONE PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS:
Autism Speaks is pleased to announce the seventh year of the Dennis Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowships. We invite applications from predoctoral students who aim to pursue careers in autism research. The Fellows will work with mentors who are leading scientists in autism research. This program supports the growth of a promising new group of young scientists who have made autism-related research their chosen field. In order to facilitate a network of collaboration and exchange of ideas, the Weatherstone program includes group interaction among the class of fellows and an annual meeting with the Weatherstone family and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. Find more information on the Weatherstone program [here](#).

Access the full RFA for the Weatherstone Predoctoral Fellowships on the Open Grants Webpage - [HERE](#) (deadlines are in the RFA)

We also encourage you to join the RFA Notification List ([http://events.autismspeaks.org/openRFAs](http://events.autismspeaks.org/openRFAs)).

Thank you,

Autism Speaks Science Grants Team

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd and December 9th immediately following the seminars.

OTHER NEWS

We are currently working on our Spring 2015 DPRG Seminar schedule. Please contact Dr. Hepburn if you are interested in presenting.

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We are currently working on our Spring 2015 DPRG Seminar schedule. Please contact Dr. Hepburn if you are interested in presenting.
NRG1-IV impacts cortical glutamatergic and GABAergic development and cognition in a mouse model of schizophrenia. Society of Biological Psychiatry (Society of Biological Psychiatry). 2013. (Symposium Speaker). Law AJ.

NRXN1, Brain Development, risk for schizophrenia and antipsychotic drug response (Winter Conference on Brain Research). 2014 Symposium speaker. Law AJ.

Biological effects of COMT haplotypes in 22q11 deletion syndrome (Winter Conference on Brain Research). 2014 Symposium speaker. Law AJ.

Effects of transient overexposure of Neuregulin-3 during early postnatal development on adult behaviors related to schizophrenia. Poster. 2014 (Winter Conference on Brain Research). Paterson C and Law AJ.


Beyond AKT1: Emerging Role of the Akt Signaling Network in neurodevelopment, Cognition and Developmental Psychiatric Disorders. 2014 (American College of Neuropsychopharmacology). Law AJ Panel Symposium Chair and speaker.


RECENT CONFERENCES ATTENDED

FASEB Science Research Conference, Folic acid, vitamin B12 and one carbon metabolism August 3-8 2014, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Winter Conference on Brain Research, Jan 2014, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

FUNDING

Christian Hopfer received:
· 1 R01 DA035804-01A1 Multiple PI (Hopfer, Stallings, Wall)
  Genetics and Progression of Early-onset Substance Dependence and HIV Risk
  NIH/NIDA Project Total Costs: $4,880,390 04/01/14-03/31/19

Amanda J Law received:

Ken Maclean received:
· April 2014 William Hummel HCU research fund ($50,000) Pathogenic mechanisms in HCU
· July 2014 Cystathionine as a treatment for vascular calcification (Colorado BioScience Discovery Evaluation Grant) $170,000

George A. Morgan received:

AWARDS RECEIVED

**DPRG NEWSLETTER UPDATE FORM**

In order to keep information in our newsletter and our records current, it is important to hear of the activities of our DPRG community members. To make that task easier, please use this form (attach additional sheets if necessary) or fill out online. We will include this information in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

Name: ___________________________ Phone #(s): ___________________________

Title/Affiliation: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________

E-mail: ___________________________

1. Since the last issue of the newsletter was published, have you:

a. Presented posters/papers at any meetings, conferences, etc.? (Please give date, location, name of conference, presentation title.)

b. Published any papers? (NOTE: Please list full citation. "In press" citations will not be printed in the Newsletter. Please include ONLY published material.)

c. Attended any conferences of interest to DPRG members? (Please give date, location, and name of meeting.)

d. Received any awards, honors, recognition for your work? (Please give title of award, awarding agency and date that the award was given.)

2. Have you received funding for any research? (Please list sources, amount, dates and title of project.)

3. Do you know of any upcoming meetings that would be of interest to DPRG members and should be listed in the Newsletter? (Please provide name, date, locations, and who to contact.)

Return form to: dprg@ucdenver.edu

THANKS!