

SPR News – September 15, 2006

Dear SPR Member:

This issue of “SPR News” includes information on the following:

- SPR 14th Annual Meeting
- SPR Service Appreciation
- 2006 SPR Award Recipients
- SPR Election Results – New SPR Board Members
- SPR’s Strategic Plan and Advocacy Update

SPR HOLDS 14TH ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s annual meeting “Applying Prevention Science to Reduce Health Disparities” held May 30 – June 1, 2006 in San Antonio, TX drew more than 500 attendees. The three-day program included 89 sessions with more than 200 paper presentations, 9 poster forums and two evening poster sessions with 200 poster presentations. The pre-conference workshops offered training focused on executive functioning and its applications in prevention science, models and methods for cultural adaptation on prevention programs, missing-data methods for casual inference and preparing for NIH e-grant proposals.

The SPR Early Career Preventionist Network (ECPN) annual meeting activities included: the “Meet the Scientist Dinner” that provided an opportunity for informal discussions between senior scientists and ECPNers, the ECPN symposia panel which addressed “Defining Success in Prevention Research” and, the annual ECPN Luncheon “Establishing Mentoring Relations in Prevention Science” that featured presentations by two research teams; one team consisted of a mid-career researcher and an early career researcher and the second team consisted of a senior career researcher and an early career researcher.

Two new events were held this year with considerable success. The SPR Diversity Network Reception took place Wednesday evening with more than 75 people in attendance. This informal event, open to all attendees, facilitated networking opportunities for SPR’s ethnically diverse membership and researchers interested in racial/ethnic populations.

The second new event was the Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup. The SPR Cup is a friendly competition amongst teams of researchers for the honor of winning the traveling Sloboda and Bukoski SPR Cup, named in honor of two of the founders and long time active members of SPR, Dr. Zili Sloboda and Dr. William Bukoski. The SPR Cup is an opportunity for early career researchers to participate in an intense workgroup experience. Three independent groups of scientists, each working with the same data set, worked together for six weeks and then presented their results at the annual meeting. Congratulations to the winning team the *Sun Devil Scholars* from the Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University,

Many thanks to our NIH partners, the William T. Grant Foundation and to our annual meeting [sponsors](#) for their exceptional financial support of meeting events and activities. With their generous support SPR awarded \$20,000 in meeting travel grants to 44 junior investigators presenting at the annual meeting. Thanks are also extended to contributors to the SPR Minority Scholarship Fund, which awarded \$2,500 in travel grants to five minority investigators presenting at the meeting. Special thanks to Felipe Gonzalez Castro, Chair of the 2006

Program Planning Committee and the members of the committee for their work for an outstanding conference.

SPR'S SERVICE APPRECIATION AWARDS

The Annual Meeting marked the end of terms for several SPR Board Members. Tony Biglan thanked the following out-going board officers and members for their commitment and dedication to SPR over the past three years: Laurie Miller Brotman, Kevin Haggerty, Hyman Hops, David Olds and Mary Jane Rotheram. Biglan also presented a certificate of appreciation to Felipe Gonzalez Castro, Chair of the 2006 Program Planning Committee.

2006 SPR AWARD RECIPIENTS

The SPR Award recipients announced at the annual awards banquet are:

- * International Collaborative Prevention Research Award – John Winston Toumbourou, Ph.D.
- * Science to Practice Award – Dennis Embry, Ph.D.
- * Public Service Award – Jon Baron, Esq.
- * Presidential Award – Eugene Oetting, Ph.D.
- * Prevention Science Award – Cheryl Perry, Ph.D.
- * Community, Culture, and Prevention Science Award – Norweeta Milburn, Ph.D.
- * Service to SPR Award – Deborah Gorman-Smith, Ph.D.
- * Friend of ECPN Award – Tracy Harachi, Ph.D.
- * ECPN Early Career Award – Ty A. Ridenour, Ph.D.

*SPR Cup – Sun Devil Scholars, Prevention Research Center, Arizona State University, Kevin M. King, Ph.D., Michelle Little, Ph.D., Freda F. Liu, B.A. and Scott Weaver, Ph.D.

Please visit http://www.preventionresearch.org/sprnews_awards2006.php for the text of the awards presentation.

SPR ELECTION RESULTS – NEW SPR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Tony Biglan announced the election results at the awards banquet on May 31 in San Antonio, TX. The newly elected board members for the 2006 – 2009 terms are Richard Catalano, Mark Feinberg, David Murray, Mary Ann Pentz and Luanne Rohrbach. Congratulations to the new board members.

SPR's STRATEGIC PLAN and ADVOCACY UPDATE

BIOLOGY TASK FORCE

SPR has created a task force on biology in prevention science. It is chaired by Diana Fishbein. Members are Tony Biglan, Thomas Dishion, Philip Fisher, Elizabeth Ginexi, Eve Moscicki, Janae Neiderhiser, Michael Posner, and Ralph Tarter. The task force is working on ways to increase attention to biological processes in prevention science. They are currently planning a series of three meetings over the next year, each of which is intended to advance understanding of and attention to the role of biological variables in development and in prevention science. Details of the meetings will be forthcoming.

NIH/SPR BREAKFAST/RELATIONSHIP

A breakfast meeting with SPR Board representatives and NIH staff was held in San Antonio to begin discussions as to how to enhance the presence of prevention research on the NIH campus and to explore how SPR and its membership could serve to support NIH and SAMHSA staff. Through these conversations it was clear that although prevention has a key role at each of the Institutes, funding for prevention research has not been sustained over time. It was recommended that SPR Board members meet with relevant Institute directors to discuss the role of SPR and the state of prevention science and that concerted efforts be made to draw in prevention researchers from underrepresented focus areas.

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

Carnevale Associates prepared a brief for their listserv on the proposed FY 2007 budget for drug abuse control programs. In summary, \$12.656 billion is requested for FY 2007 covering the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. About 35% of the request is for demand reduction (prevention and treatment programming and research). By comparison, demand reduction was 47% of the federal 2001 drug control budget. Over 64% of the request is for supply reduction (interdiction, international and domestic law enforcement programs). By comparison these programs were 53% of the 2001 drug control budget. Demand reduction support will decline by 7% compared to the last fiscal year, driven mostly by a proposed reduction in prevention. Over the FY 2001-proposed FY2007 period, demand reduction increased \$49 million or 1.1% whereas supply reduction increased by \$3.2 billion or 66.1%.

A major proportion of community- and school-based prevention programming is supported by the Safe and Drug Free Schools (SDFSC) and Communities grants and the SAMHSA block grants. The SDFSC budget has been cut over time from \$590.5 million in FY 2005 to the FY 2007 proposed \$165.9 million. The U.S. Department of Education is reviewing the impact of the program. Secretary Spellings has appointed an advisory group to make recommendations about the program's future. Hearings were held on August 21, 2006. SPR members are involved in this process. Dr. Shepherd Kellam is serving on the Advisory group and Drs. Chris Ringwalt and Zili Sloboda presented at the hearings on a research panel. The outcomes from these deliberations could have major implications for support of evidence-based research at the local level and for the community support drug abuse prevention researchers have enjoyed over the past 10 years.

The SPR board has been concerned about the diminishing support for prevention and specifically research- and evidence-based prevention practices on the part of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. David Hawkins and Tony Biglan submitted an op-ed piece on the topic, but we have not yet found a paper that would publish it. It is available to members upon request to Tony Biglan (Tony@ori.org)

NPN/SPR LISTSERV

The National Prevention Network and SPR are creating a listserv that is designed to facilitate contacts between scientists and practitioners and encourage more effective advocacy for prevention research and practice. If you would like to be added to the listserv, please email Jennifer Lewis at jenniferlewis@preventionresearch.org.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at tony@ori.org or Jennifer Lewis at jenniferlewis@preventionresearch.org if you have any questions or comments about SPR activities.

Tony Biglan, President

P.S. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who got this far in reading this newsletter.

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