NEW WORLDS OF ADOPTION

CONFERENCES 2011

Research-Based Interventions Promoting Attachment

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE
Mary Dozier, Ph.D.
Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development & Professor of Psychology, University of Delaware.

“Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up: An Intervention for Parents of Young Children Who Have Experienced Adversity.”

PANEL DISCUSSION
Panel and Audience Discussion of Clinical and Research Implications of Keynote Address.

POSTER PRESENTATION
Attendees will learn about current adoption research projects and programs.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
• Adoption Mentoring Partnership
• Adoption-Specific Psychotherapy: A Manualized Approach For Children Adopted From Foster Care
• Attachment In Adoption And Foster Care: Current Research.
• Going To The Source: Adoptive Parents Discuss Attachment Trauma
• How Many Families Does It Take To Make An Adoption?
• Reactive Attachment Disorder.

April 8th
8am-5.30pm
2011
UMass Amherst
8:00 – 9:00  REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Cape Cod Lounge, Student Union - University of Massachusetts Amherst

9:00 – 9:15  WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Hal Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair of Psychology, UMass Amherst.
Melinda Novak, Chair, Department of Psychology, UMass Amherst.

9:15 – 10:45  PLENARY ADDRESS
Mary Dozier, Ph.D., Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development & Professor of Psychology, University of Delaware.
“Attachment And Biobehavioral Catch-Up: An Intervention For Parents Of Young Children Who Have Experienced Adversity”

10:45 – 11:00  BREAK

11:00 – 12:00  PANEL DISCUSSION
Panel and Audience Discussion of Clinical and Research Implications of Keynote Address.
Chair: Chris Overtree, Director, Psychological Services Center, UMass Amherst.
Panelists:
UnJa Hayes, Assistant Professor, Psychology, UMass Amherst.
Joyce Maguire Pavao, Founder & CEO of Center for Family Connections.
Jennifer McDermott, Assistant Professor, Psychology, UMass Amherst.
Sally Powers, Professor, Psychology, UMass & Director, Center for Research on Families, UMass Amherst

12:15 – 1:00  LUNCH
Amherst Room (Level 10), Campus Center

1:00 – 1:30  POSTER SESSION, BOOK SALE, NETWORKING
Amherst Room (Level 10), Campus Center

1:45 – 3:00  TOPICAL CONCURRENT SESSIONS - SESSION 1

1. How Many Families Does It Take To Make An Adoption? | Room 917, Campus Center
Joyce Maguire Pavao, Founder and CEO of Center for Family Connections, Cambridge, MA.

2. Reactive Attachment Disorder | Room 904-908, Campus Center
Anna Smyka, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Tulane University.

3. Going To The Source: Adoptive Parents Discuss Attachment Trauma | Room 804-808, Campus Center
Chair: Nancy Solow, Adoption Journeys.
Speakers: Debra Abel, Margo Chapski and Maura Lessard.

3:15 – 4:30  TOPICAL CONCURRENT SESSIONS - SESSION 2

1. Adoption-Specific Psychotherapy; A Manualized Approach For Children Adopted From Foster Care | Room 917, Campus Center
Debbie Riley, Center for Adoption Support and Education, Baltimore and Jill Waterman, Department of Psychology, University of California Los Angeles.

2. Adoption Mentoring Partnership | Room 904-908, Campus Center
Jen Dolan, Program Manager, Rudd Adoption Research Program UMass Amherst;
Quade French, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student, UMass Amherst;
Hal Grotevant, Rudd Family Foundation Chair of Psychology, UMass Amherst;
Renee Moss, Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County and Jessica Robbins, Case Manager, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County.

3. Attachment In Adoption And Foster Care: Current Research | Room 804-808, Campus Center
Chair: Ruth McRoy, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work
Speakers:
a) Family Stress And Functioning In Clients Of A Post-Adoptive Service Who Were Referred For Attachment Therapy with Elizabeth A. Schilling; Amy James; Robert H. Aseltine, Jr.; Allyson Powell; Joeslyn Benoit and Susan Gervais.

b) Attachment Stories: A Comparative Study Of The Attachment Experiences Of Special Needs Adoptive Families with Colette Duciaume-Wright; Ruth G. McRoy; and Susan Ayers-Lopez.

c) Hoarding Behavior In Foster Care: A Series Of Case Studies with Alana Curewitz, Edward Plimpton, and Randy Frost.

d) Becoming A Family: Parenting Stress And Internationally Adopted Infants’ Stress Responsivity with Jessica A.K. Matthews; Chie Kotake; Beth J. Mullins; Katie L. Aasland; Ellen E. Pinderhughes; and M. Ann Easterbrooks.

4:30 – 5:30  POSTER SESSION, RECEPTION, AND CLOSING
Amherst Room (Level 10), Campus Center
ALANA CUREWITZ, B.A.  
Research Coordinator, Transplantation Pain Research Group, Brigham & Women's Hospital, MA  
Alana Curewitz received her B.A. in psychology from Smith College in May, 2009. She is currently the lead research coordinator for the Transplantation Pain Research Group at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA where she collaborates on regenerative studies for diabetic neuropathy and investigates chronic pain among spinal cord injury patients. Her main research interests include child abuse and trauma, family interactions, and disruptive behaviors.

JEN DOLAN, M.P.H.  
Program Manager, Rudd Adoption Research Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Jan Dolan, M.P.H., is the Program Manager for the Rudd Adoption Research Program. Her undergraduate degree in social work and master’s degree is in public health contribute daily to her current work in the Rudd Program. She is completing her doctoral degree from the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts. Her dissertation research is focused on learning how white adoptive parents support their Asian born children around race related issues.

MARY DOZIER, PH.D.  
Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development, University of Delaware  
Dr. Dozier holds the Amy E. DuPont Chair of Child Development at the University of Delaware, where she is the Principal Investigator of the Infant Caregiver Project. She obtained her Ph.D. from Duke University in clinical psychology in 1983. Her interests in understanding connections between experience, brain development, and behavior have led to the ABC Intervention techniques, a practical application of findings from years of research. Since coming to Delaware, she has studied the development of young children who are neglected and young foster children. She has developed training programs for the caregivers of these children, with efficacy trials funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. Her work has been supported by NIMH continuously since 1989 through career development awards and large research grants. She is the recipient of the Bowlby-Ainsworth Award for Translational Research on Adoption and the National Institute of Mental Health Innovation Nominations.

COLETTE DUCIAUME-WRIGHT, PH.D.  
Social Worker and Professor, Texas State University  
Dr. Duciaume-Wright has 15 years experience as a clinical social worker and has treated numerous children who were in foster care and families who adopted children from the foster care system. These many years of working with this population sparked an interest in attachment, and this topic became the subject of her dissertation. Colette obtained her Ph.D. from Smith College and her MSW from Our Lady of the Lake University. She presently teaches part time at Texas State University and continues her clinical work in private practice in Austin, Texas.

QUADE FRENCH, M.A.  
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Quade French provides leadership for the Adoption Mentoring Partnership, which seeks to match adoptive undergraduates at UMass Amherst with adopted children in Amherst and nearby communities. His interests include adoptive identity, racial/ethnic identity development, and issues in clinical therapy that arise when working with adopted individuals. He received his M.A. in Clinical Psychology at California State University, Northridge, studying the effects of foster care on biological stress reaction systems in children, and his B.S. in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego.

HAROLD D. GROTEVANT, PH.D.  
Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Dr. Grotevant holds the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research focuses on relationships in adoptive families, and on identity development in adolescents and young adults. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, and the National Council on Family Relations; Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute; and member of the Board of Directors of the North American Council for Adoptable Children. He directs the longitudinal Minnesota / Texas Adoption Research Project, which focuses on relationships in adoptive families and contact between adoptive and birth family members.

MARY KANTER, PH.D.  
Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Dr. Kantor's research examines the influence of reproductive experiences on attachment between parent and offspring. The goal of her work is to determine what experiences and neurobiological changes are necessary to prepare mothers for their new postpartum roles. This research uses a transdisciplinary approach that examines pre- and postpartum behaviors of female prairie voles (Microtus ochrogaster) and women. This research looks at the physiological mechanisms that cause animals to suppress aggressive behaviors against vole offspring and show parental behaviors. Her current clinical research investigates how obstetric interventions affect postpartum feelings of depression and sensitive caregiving. This research is conducted for potential clinical application for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and postpartum depression.

RUTH GAIL MCROY, PH.D.  
Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Dr. McRoy received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in psychology and political science in 2007. After graduating, she worked in the Department of Child Development at the University of Maryland, taught in the Palo Alto Unified Public School District, and worked on research at Stanford University. Her research focuses on the neurological underpinnings of institutionalization and the impact on later social and emotional cognition after adoption. She is now attending Tufts University where she is earning her Masters degree in Child Development and working on the International Adoption Project with Drs. Ann Easterbrooks and Ellen Pinderhughes.

JENNIFER MARTIN MCDERMOTT, PH.D.  
Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
Dr. McDermott received her doctorate in Human Development from the University of Maryland in 2006 and came to UMass Amherst in 2010 after a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. Her research focuses on how children learn to regulate their behaviors and emotions, with a special emphasis on the role of individual differences and influence of early experience. To explore these issues Dr. McDermott charts the developmental sensitivity of cognitive and affective regulation across contexts using a combination of behavioral and physiological approaches. The primary goal of this research is to determine the manner by which regulatory abilities promote efficient learning and contribute to adaptive sociomotional outcomes in children.

JESSICA A. K. MATTHEWS, B.A.  
Graduate Student, Child Development, Tufts University  
Jessica Matthews received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in psychology and political science in 2007. After graduating, she worked in the Department of Child Development at the University of Maryland, taught in the Palo Alto Unified Public School District, and worked on research at Stanford University. Her research focuses on the neurological underpinnings of institutionalization and the impact on later social and emotional cognition after adoption. She is now attending Tufts University where she is earning her Masters degree in Child Development and working on the International Adoption Project with Drs. Ann Easterbrooks and Ellen Pinderhughes.

UNJA HAYES, PH.D.  
Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Dr. Hayes’ research examines the influence of reproductive experiences on attachment between parent and offspring. The goal of her work is to determine what experiences and neurobiological changes are necessary to prepare mothers for their new postpartum roles. This research uses a transdisciplinary approach that examines pre- and postpartum behaviors of female prairie voles (Microtus ochrogaster) and women. This research looks at the physiological mechanisms that cause animals to suppress aggressive behaviors against vole offspring and show parental behaviors. Her current clinical research investigates how obstetric interventions affect postpartum feelings of depression and sensitive caregiving. This research is conducted for potential clinical application for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and postpartum depression.

RUTH MCROY, PH.D.  
Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Chair, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work  
Dr. McRoy is a Research Professor and the Ruby Lee Plester Centennial Professor Emerita at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work and Professor of Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Chair at the Boston College School of Social Work. She is also a Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute. A practitioner, researcher, and lecturer in the field for over 30 years, her interests include family preservation, open adoptions, older child adoptions, transracial adoptions and post-adoption services. As part of the Collaboration AdoptUsKIDS, she leads a research team at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work examining barriers to adoption and factors associated with successful special needs adoptions.
JOYCE MAGUIRE PAVAO, ED.D.
Founder & CEO, Center for Family Connections, Cambridge, MA
Dr. Pavao is a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and Clinical Member of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. She has received the North American Council for Adoptable Children award for Child Advocate of the Year and Adoption Activist, the Baran/Pannor award for Excellence in Open Adoption, and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption award for Angels in Adoption 2000. Dr. Pavao is a Lecturer in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and has lectured at Harvard, Smith, Wellesley, UCLA, USC and Antioch, among other universities. She has consulted with public and private child welfare agencies, adoption agencies, schools, community groups, probate and family court judges, lawyers, and clergy. She works clinically with individuals, couples, and families on issues related to adoption, foster care, guardianship and kinship, as well as complex families formed through reproductive technology, single parent families, gay and lesbian families, and families through remarriage.

SALLY POWERS, ED.D.
Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Dr. Powers’ research investigates the interaction of normal developmental processes and psychopathology in adolescents. She focuses on understanding the role of cognitive, personality, and life history risk factors, interpersonal behavior in close relationships, and neuroendocrine functioning in the development of psychopathology. Her NIMH-funded studies investigate factors hypothesized to contribute to the gender difference in the prevalence of adolescent and young adult depression. Colleague Paula Pietromonaco and she are also conducting a NCI-funded longitudinal study of close relationships and factors hypothesized to contribute to the gender difference in the prevalence of adolescent and young adult depression. Colleague Paula Pietromonaco and she are also conducting a NCI-funded longitudinal study of close relationships and factors hypothesized to contribute to the gender difference in the prevalence of adolescent and young adult depression. Colleague Paula Pietromonaco and she are also conducting a NCI-funded longitudinal study of close relationships and factors hypothesized to contribute to the gender difference in the prevalence of adolescent and young adult depression. Colleague Paula Pietromonaco and she are also conducting a NCI-funded longitudinal study of close relationships and factors hypothesized to contribute to the gender difference in the prevalence of adolescent and young adult depression.

DEBBIE RILEY, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer, The Center for Adoption Support & Education, Baltimore, Maryland
Debbie B. Riley is the Chief Executive Officer of The Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc., an independent pre and post-adoption organization in the Baltimore-Washington area, and co-author of Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens. Ms. Riley holds a Master’s degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Maryland. She has more than 30 years of professional experience, including extensive health care management and administrative expertise, hands-on experience at designing and developing nationally acclaimed adoption-support programs for professionals, and delivery of specialized counseling services to adopted children, teens, adults and their families. She leads the national initiative to develop and implement a standardized training program designed to provide mental health practitioners with the requisite adoption competencies to provide quality care for adoptive families.
A generous gift from Andrew and Virginia Rudd, combined with matching funds, established the Rudd Family Foundation Endowed Chair. The Rudd’s gift reflects their personal commitment to stimulate the development of new knowledge about adoption in order to benefit adoption practice (placements, education, post-adoption services, clinical work) and policy (at agency, state, federal, and international levels).

The Rudd Adoption Research Program is one of the key activities of the Rudd Chair. The program is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department and is affiliated with the multidisciplinary Center for Research on Families.

The program has four goals:

- to advance knowledge about the psychology of adoption
- to provide evidence-based knowledge to inform adoption policy and practice
- to build capacity for excellence in adoption research
- to promote adoption research initiatives of emerging scholars

In short, the program seeks to develop synergy among scientists, practitioners, and policymakers from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. The ultimate goal of these activities is to contribute to evidence-based practice in adoption and to provide research-based information that will influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.

The program is directed by Harold D. Grotevant, Ph.D., who holds the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology at UMass Amherst. He is Principal Investigator on the Minnesota / Texas Adoption Research Project (MTARP), a 20-year longitudinal research study that focuses on the consequences of variations in openness in adoption arrangements for all members of the adoptive kinship network: birthmothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children, and for the relationships within these family systems. His work has resulted in over 100 articles published in professional journals as well as several books, including Openness in Adoption: Exploring Family Connections (with Ruth McRoy, Sage Publications, 1998). He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Association for Psychological Science, and the National Council on Family Relations; Senior Research Fellow of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute; former Board President of Adoptive Families of America; and recipient of research, teaching, and leadership awards. Here he is pictured with Andrew and Virginia Rudd, whose generous gift established the Rudd Family Foundation Chair in Psychology.
The Rudd Adoption Research Program, funded by the Rudd Family Foundation, is located within the University of Massachusetts Amherst Psychology Department and is affiliated with the interdisciplinary Center for Research on Families. The goal of the program is to establish UMass Amherst as a leader in state-of-the art research on the psychology of adoption through conferences, workshops, graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities, and stimulation of research activities. The program will develop synergy among scientists and practitioners from varied disciplines who share interests in the many topics relevant to adoption. Program activities will contribute to evidence-based practice in adoption and will provide research-based information to influence policy at agency, state, federal, and international levels.