

Implementing Evidence-Based Prevention in Communities to Promote Mental and Behavioral Health in Children, Youth, and Families: A Workshop

Committee

Jose Szapocznik

Co-Chair

José Szapocznik is professor and chair in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. He is also director of the Miami Clinical Translational Science Institute at University of Miami, the only Clinical and Translational Science Award program co-funded because of its focus on culturalized health sciences by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences and the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHHD). Dr. Szapocznik's primary research focus has been the role of context (culture, family) on adolescent problem behavior, and the development and testing of family-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and problem behavior in Hispanic adolescents. With colleagues at the Center for Family Studies, he has conducted theoretical and empirical work testing some of the basic assumptions of family therapy, developing the evidence-based intervention Brief Strategic Family Therapy™ and a number of culturally-specific variations of this approach, extending strategic structural family therapy techniques to overcoming the problem of engaging hard-to-reach families, and investigating the underlying mechanisms of action in Brief Strategic Family Therapy™. As principal investigator of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded Florida Node Alliance of NIDA's National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network, he is translating treatment research into clinical practice throughout the State of Florida, and in sites in Colorado, North Carolina, and Puerto Rico. This partnership between 13 university-based centers and more than 250 community-based substance abuse treatment and health care provider settings is implementing drug abuse treatment effectiveness research in the front lines of practice. Dr. Szapocznik also developed a highly interdisciplinary program of research on the relationship between the built environment, behavior, psychological functioning, social processes, biomedical mediators and physical health outcomes. This work has focused on aspects of the built environment that affect school age Hispanic children's behavioral adjustment, the psychological and physical adjustment of Hispanic elders, and most recently, the risk factors to weight gain and related chronic disorders in Hispanic immigrants. According the Blue Ridge Institute's last report, Dr. Szapocznik is among the top 100 National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded investigators in the world. He has mentored a large cadre of minority graduate students and junior faculty who are now in academic positions. He has held a number of policy advisory roles including membership in the National Advisory Councils for NIMH, NIDA, NIMHHD, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami.

Leslie R. Walker-Harding

Co-Chair

Leslie Walker is chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Seattle Childrens Hospital and professor and vice chair of faculty affairs in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Walker also co-directs the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) at Seattle Childrens Hospital and is director of the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) multidisciplinary training program. Before moving to Seattle, Dr. Walker established the Section of Adolescent Medicine at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Her professional interests focus on policy development, advocacy in adolescent health, improving pediatric workforce diversity, and research on substance abuse and parental involvement in adolescent development. Dr. Walker is the past president of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine. She received her M.D. from the University of Illinois School of Medicine, completing her pediatric residency training at the University of Chicago, and her adolescent medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

Kareemah Abdullah

Member

Kareemah Abdullah is the director of the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute and vice president of Training Operations at Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, (CADCA). She is responsible for executive and strategic direction of the Institute in order to make existing coalitions more effective and to expand the number of community coalitions, with an emphasis on the development of coalitions serving economically disadvantaged areas throughout the United States, territories and tribal communities. Ms. Abdullah has played an integral role in many agency accomplishments including national recognition as a successful government partner by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; CADCA Outstanding Coalition; White House, Office of the President, National Drug Control Policy Drug-Free Communities Coalition, Outstanding State Workforce Development Partner and the establishment of the Genesis Intel Computer Clubhouse, an international collaboration with Intel, the Boston Museum of Science, MIT Media Laboratory and the Clubhouse Network. Ms. Abdullah has acquired and leveraged significant funding from federal, state, local and private organizations and other resources via contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, workforce development and interagency collaboration. She had a successful career in corporate America that span more than 20 years. She is a distinguished administrator, master trainer, facilitator and coach, an effective interviewer, broadcast moderator, talk show host and keynote speaker.

Wilma P. Cross

Member

Wilma P. Cross is a senior public health advisor at the Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She is the chair of the Prevention Research Coordinating Committee, a trans-NIH committee that provides a broad perspective on the current state-of-the-science and disseminates information about prevention-related activities sponsored by Federal and non-Federal organizations to NIH Institutes and Centers. She is the primary contact for planning and legislative affairs for the ODP and helps to coordinate scientific, programmatic, and policy issues. Ms. Peterman Cross serves as the ODP representative on several NIH-wide and Federal Government agency-wide committees including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Reform Prevention Work Group and the HHS National Prevention Strategy Intradepartmental Workgroup. Prior to joining ODP, Ms. Peterman Cross served as the deputy director of the Office of Science Policy and Planning at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, where she facilitated a number of strategic planning and program evaluation activities. She received her M.S. in Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology from Springfield College.

Alexa Eggleston

Member

Alexa Eggleston leads implementation of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation's youth substance use prevention and early intervention initiative. Previously, she served for three years as Substance Abuse Program director with the Council of State Governments Justice Center in Bethesda, Maryland where she was responsible for advising governmental and non-governmental agencies on developing and implementing substance abuse treatment and other rehabilitative services for individuals in the criminal justice system. Ms. Eggleston also worked as director of Public Policy for the National Council for Behavioral Health where she conducted public policy activities to increase access to substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery services through federal legislation. She also spent several years as the director of National Policy for the Legal Action Center where she directed policy and government relations activities to improve laws and policies that affect people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records. She received her J.D. from University of Maryland.

Amy Goldstein

Member

Amy Goldstein is associate director for prevention at the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health. She is a clinical child psychologist whose expertise and interests lie in the areas of prevention science, school based mental health services, emergency psychiatry, suicide prevention, and psychological assessment. Her career focuses on the execution of and participation in high impact projects to improve the outcomes and trajectories of children and youth at-risk for mental illness. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Case Western University.

Amy Leffler

Member

Amy Leffler is a social science analyst within the Violence and Victimization Research Division at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to her appointment at NIJ, she served as a Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) executive fellow at NIJ where she worked closely with the Children Exposed to Violence and Teen Dating Violence portfolios. In August 2015, Dr. Leffler completed a yearlong congressional fellowship in the Office of Senator Al Franken. In this role, she served on the Senator's labor and economics portfolio, which included analyzing the role economics and labor policy play in the lives of families. Dr. Leffler's prior research focused on dually involved youth, a population of youth who are involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Specifically, her dissertation brought together data from two separate state agencies (juvenile justice and child and family services). Through combining these data, Dr. Leffler was able to provide a picture of this population to the state agencies as well as analyze offense and demographics differences among youth who are multisystem involved and those with no child welfare involvement. Additional research projects and articles have included transracial adoptions, home evaluations for prospective adopters, and multi-methods research. She received her M.S.W. from the University of Pennsylvania and her Ph.D. in social work from Boston College.

Eve Reider

Member

Eve Reider is a Health Scientist Administrator in the Division of Extramural Research at the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. She previously worked in the Prevention Research Branch at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), where she served as Deputy Branch Chief from 2001 to 2009, 2010-2012, and Acting Branch Chief from 2009 to 2010. Dr. Reider has contributed to portfolio development in many priority areas for the developmentally-focused NIDA Prevention Research Branch, including expanding the prevention portfolio for vulnerable populations and integrating drug abuse and HIV prevention for youth. For the last several years, Dr. Reider has led NIDA in an initiative on substance use and associated comorbidities in military personnel, veterans, and their families, which has involved collaborations with the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, and other National Institutes of Health. She received her Ph.D. in child and family clinical psychology at Michigan State University and worked in the Department of Psychiatry at Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine prior to becoming a program official at NIDA in 2000.

Belinda Sims

Member

Belinda Sims joined the Prevention Research Branch at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in June 2005. Her program areas include preventive interventions that span the prenatal period through pre-adolescence. Within this developmental age range, her portfolio includes interventions for early childhood, and family-based and school-based preventive interventions. In addition, Dr. Sims' portfolio includes prevention services research (e.g., dissemination and implementation research, economic analysis) and institutional training grants (T32 grants). She was the program official for the Child and Adolescent Preventive Intervention program at the National Institute of Mental Health prior to becoming a program official at NIDA, and a Faculty Research Associate in the Department of Mental Hygiene (now Mental Health) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health prior to joining the National Institutes of Health. She received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Loyola University Chicago.

Deborah K. Walker

Member

Deborah Klein Walker is a nationally honored public health leader and behavioral science researcher with a career that has spanned 40 years. She has a special interest in maternal and child health, chronic disease prevention, disabilities, birth defects, early childhood systems and the epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases. As a vice president in Abt's U.S. Health Division and leader of the Public Health and Epidemiology Practice, Dr. Walker plans, conducts and oversees numerous evaluations, many in community settings, using experimental and quasi-experimental designs that employ both quantitative and qualitative methods. She has written three books, more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and numerous op-eds and commentaries on topics that include infant mortality, disability, early childhood, and chronic disease prevention. Her writing has appeared on the news sites of CNN, the Huffington Post and the Boston Globe. Dr. Walker is a former president of the American Public Health Association and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. She is also a former board member of the Massachusetts Public Health Association, founder of New England SERVE and founding member of the Research Consortium on Children with Chronic Conditions. She is currently a trustee of the Cambridge Health Alliance, a board member of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, the president-elect of the American Orthopsychiatry Association, an editorial board member for the Maternal and Child Health Journal and a member of the Governing Council for the World Federation of Public Health Associations. Prior to joining Abt, Dr. Walker was the associate commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and a full-time faculty member at Harvard University. She also taught at the Boston University School of Public Health where still retains a position on its faculty. She is a Fellow of the American Orthopsychiatry Association (1983), the Association for Psychological Science (1990), and the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (Hon FRSH) (2007). She received her Ed.M. and Ed.D. in human development from Harvard University.