CRECH welcomes newly relocated Cornely Fellow!

CRECH would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Cornely Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Jocelyn R. Smith, LGMFT, who completed her graduate training at the University of Maryland, College Park’s School of Public Health where she received both her Ph.D. in Family Science and her M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy. Jocelyn’s research interests examine trauma, violence, and loss among boys and men of color. While at CRECH, Jocelyn is excited to investigate the intersections of these two areas of inquiry toward the development of a trauma-informed program of research that promotes health, healing, and success in the lives of Black boys and men.

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CRECH bids farewell to outgoing Cornely Postdoctoral Fellow

CRECH says Good-bye to Dr. Rohan Jeremiah, Cornely Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health (CRECH) and thanks him for the contribution to the postdoctoral community at the UM SPH! As of August 2013, Dr. Jeremiah became an Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health. Even though he has moved on to a new career in Chicago, he will maintain collaborating on several research programs at the University of Michigan including the Fathers and Sons Project, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Health Summit and the Global Public Health Practice Initiative.

When Fathers and Sons Spend Time Together

The problems of violence and tobacco, drug, and alcohol use, as well as early sexual initiation among the nation’s youth, have long been identified as critical public health issues. While many programs and education efforts exist to combat these concerns, few have previously focused on the role of fathers as responsible parents with the potential to influence their sons’ decisions about risky behaviors. But a growing body of evidence suggests that positive father involvement—whether or not the father resides with the child—is linked to better health outcomes in children and adolescents.

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What a Difference a Dad Makes: The Fathers and Sons Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

Principal Investigator: Cleopatra Howard Caldwell, PhD
Program Manager: Cassandra L. Brooks, MA, MSA
Award Period: December 1, 2012 – November 30, 2013
Funding Source: Ruth Mott Foundation

The Ruth Mott Foundation in Flint, Michigan. The Foundation’s mission is to advocate, stimulate, and support community vitality. It envisions “communities of hope and pride, whose neighborhood environments and urban core are safe, attractive, and healthy, enriched by cultural diversity and an engaged citizenry.” Projects focused on health promotion which create environments and foster behaviors essential to good health are encouraged.

The Fathers and Sons Physical Activity and Nutrition Program is funded by the Ruth Mott Foundation to test the effectiveness of a program curriculum designed to encourage African American fathers and sons to become more physically active and improve their nutritional habits. We will conduct two program groups with 10 families in each group for a total of 20 father-son families. Families from Genesee County will participate in a 10-session program over a six-week period that involves active learning and hands on experiences shared as a family through group experiences and service learning. The results from this pilot study will be compared to results from the YVPC Fathers and Sons Intervention Program which is currently being conducted in Flint with African American fathers and sons who complete a culturally-based, parenting intervention designed to influence aggressive attitudes and behaviors. Each program curriculum is tailored for the specific program to produce the desired changes in attitudes, intentions and behaviors among fathers and sons, while building upon the importance of the relationship between fathers and sons to achieve the desired outcomes.

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Child Development Perspectives

Adolescent Resilience: Promotive Factors That Inform Prevention

Marc A. Zimmerman, Sarah A. Stoddard, Andria B. Eisman, Cleopatra H. Caldwell, Sophie M. Aiyer, Alison Miller

Resilience theory provides a framework for studying and understanding how some youths overcome risk exposure and guides the development of interventions for prevention using a strengths-based approach. In this article, we describe basic concepts of the theory, such as promotive factors, and distinguish assets and resources that help youths overcome the negative effects of risk exposure. We also present three models of resilience theory—compensatory, protective, and challenge—and review empirical research on three promotive factors—ethnic identity, social support, and prosocial involvement—that include individual, family, and community levels of analysis and have modifiable qualities for informing interventions. Finally, we present examples of how research findings from the three promotive factors can be translated into interventions to enhance youth development.

American Journal of Men’s Health

Supplement Issues: The Health of African American Men: Implications for Research and Practice

Guest editors: Leonard Jack, Jr and Derek M. Griffith

Since the publication of the 10-volume Secretary’s Task Force on Black and Minority Health (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1986), it has been painfully obvious that collectively, African American men experience very poor health outcomes. Historically, life expectancy of African American men has consistently lagged behind that of Whites and most other racial and ethnic groups of men (Arias, 2006). Leading causes of death among African American men include heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, unintentional injuries, kidney diseases, chronic lower respiratory disease, and homicide (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013). Unfortunately, to date, more complete explanations offered to identify why African American men continue to experience poorer health outcomes have been limited (Jack, Tyson, Jack, & Sims, 2010).
CRECH at APHA

Oral Presentations

Monday, November 4
8:30 am - 8:45 am
Presenter: Katrina R. Ellis, CRECH Predoctoral Scholar
Title: “Effect of a family-based intervention on nonresident African American fathers’ and sons’ relationships and intentions to exercise”

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Presenter: Shervin Assari, MD, MPH - CRECH Postdoctoral Fellow
Title: “Multiple risk factor intervention a useful tool for primary prevention of hypertension in the community; the results of a randomized clinical trial with five years of follow up.”

Tuesday, November 5, 2013
8:30 am - 10:00 am
Presenter: Jennifer A. Hartfield, CRECH Predoctoral Scholar
Title: “An examination of the associations among neighborhood racial composition, neighborhood poverty, access to care, perceived discrimination and hypertension treatment: Does your zip code determine your health outcomes?”

4:45 pm - 6:00 pm
Presenter: Jorge H. Soler, CRECH Predoctoral Scholar
Title: “LGBT-specific sources of support and the mental health of young lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) women”

Poster Presentation

Monday, November 4
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Presenter: Alana M.W. LeBron, CRECH Predoctoral Scholar
Title: “Influence of discrimination within an anti-immigrant sociopolitical context on cumulative biological risk for Latinos in Detroit, MI.”

APHA Online Program
Browse by Author
Preventing Injury: From Research to Practice to People

September 30 - October 1, 2013
Palmer Commons
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the University of Michigan Injury Center are joining forces to present a special fall injury conference. This two-day event will feature national and regional experts in injury prevention and translation. As co-lead of the Training and Education Core for the Injury Center, Dr. Cleopatra Caldwell noted that this event will provide practical approaches for communicating prevention strategies and methods to reduce and prevent injury and is appropriate for public health practitioners, researchers, and others interested in injury prevention.

Click here To Register

Health Equity Speaker Series

2013-2014
1690 Lane Auditorium
3:30-5:00 p.m.
School of Public Health
University of Michigan

CRECH is pleased to collaborate with the faculty allies’ Health Equity Speaker Series by co-sponsoring visits of invited speakers whose research focuses on reducing health disparities and improving access to care in underserved communities. This co-sponsorship will provide opportunities for current CRECH students to engage with invited scholars and discuss professional development/career issues in more informal settings.

Sponsored by Rackham Faculty Allies Diversity Grant.

2013-2014 Health Equity Speaker Series Schedule
NAME: Ebony Reddock  
SPH DEGREE PROGRAM: PhD, Health Behavior and Health Education  
GRADUATING CLASS: 2013

Ellis: Where are you working right now?  

Reddock: I’m currently working at the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor as manager of the Michigan Partners Project. This is a new CEW initiative focused on addressing economic security among women who have low to no incomes in Michigan.

Ellis: What do you do in your current position? What is the focus of your work?  

Reddock: In my current position with the Michigan Partners Project, I focus on building and developing partnerships between organizations, activists and researchers who address the needs of women and families. We are working on a policy agenda to addresses barriers women face for exiting poverty. As we advance this work, we also provide information to members of the collaborative about research on policy issues related to barriers that partners identify, such as housing, child-care, and completing higher education. Right now we are deciding on our priority areas. We engage in “turbo planning” – our facilitator’s name for efficient, quick planning sessions – to decide what partners will do to address barriers and advance our policy agenda.

In addition to my work at CEW, I also have interests in research and writing. I plan to continue my independent research, including publishing work from my dissertation for both academic and mainstream audiences. This work focused on African American paternal grandmothers (mothers of African American teenage fathers). I am particularly interested in the influence of relationship quality between mothers and sons on the mothers’ health outcomes. Another one of my interests is supporting the writing of others. I’m now in the process of building a writing, editing and writing coaching business to support my writing and others’ work.

Ellis: What led you to your areas of work and interest?  

Reddock: My work with families and communities began many years ago. Prior to beginning graduate school I worked in the
non-profit sector with programs focused on prevention and outreach with young women. We focused on issues such as violence, substance abuse and sexual risk behavior. I realized that no matter how much support programs give to young women for avoiding some behaviors, the influence of family remained one of the most important factors. This led to my interest in family based approaches to working with young women.

In graduate school, I continued with my interest in women’s health and became increasingly interested in the topic of mothering. As I delved deeper into the research literature, I realized that there isn’t much support for mothering that isn’t focused also on the child’s outcomes. It seems that mothers’ outcomes are usually addressed because of their impact on the child. A feminist lens led me to consider the ways that mothering in itself influences women’s outcomes.

My current work with CEW is a great fit for me because I wanted to utilize my research skills in a different way to impact women’s health and wellness. This work also allows me to build on my ability to work with community partners and build community relationships.

Ellis: Twenty-five years from now, what would you like the impact of your work to be?

Reddock: Overall, I want to make a difference with individuals and with families through my work. I also would be happy to make a difference through my writing. If I hear about families being profoundly affected by my writing, or that the students that I coach in writing have been successful (and therefore my work has indirectly made a difference on a population level), I would be perfectly happy. I’m not interested in famous, or being known as an expert; I am more interested in knowing someone has taken my writing or something I said and in turn, that has positively impacted their family.

Ellis: If you could travel to any time or place, where would you go? What would you want to see?

Reddock: Right now, I’m interested in the Black Club Women’s Movement, so I’d like to travel to the early or middle of the 20th century. During that time groups of Black women of means embraced the belief that the resources they had at their disposal weren’t just for themselves but also to support those Blacks who didn’t have the same means. I’m thinking of Ida B. Wells, groups like The Links - that kind of attitude. I come from humble means; I grew up poor and there were no PhDs around. Now that I have resources at my disposal, I’m very reflective about what I will do with this degree. How will I make a difference? That’s why that period of time interests me. I would like to see women in that time who were in a similar position who made it their duty to make a difference in the lives of others.

To Learn more about Dr. Reddock
To Learn more about the Michigan Partners Project

Katrina Ellis is a CRECH scholar and fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the School of Public Health University of Michigan.