

# Doris Duke Fellowships

## for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

*Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect*

### FEATURED FELLOWS

*Kaela and Barbara, both Cohort Three fellows, interviewed one another about their academic and professional work, as well as what has inspired their commitment to maltreatment prevention.*

#### **Kaela Byers** **Social Welfare** **University of Kansas**

by **Barbara H. Chaichati**

Kaela worked for a number of years as a licensed master's social worker focusing on children's mental health. As she began her career in early childhood social-emotional well-being, she was struck by the complex and multifaceted crises facing many young children and families. She became impassioned about addressing the systemic issues leading to those crises and saw the need for early identification and intervention to prevent families from entering into crisis.

Kaela decided to put this passion to use and is pursuing her Ph.D. in social welfare at the [University of Kansas](#). She developed a screening tool to identify at-risk children earlier, by assessing objective risk and protective criteria rather than already-present manifestations of deviated child well-being. This screening tool also has the potential to identify missed cases of families with children experiencing social-emotional disruption, a clear need she saw during her clinical practice. Kaela is also implementing [Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up \(ABC\)](#), a well-established early intervention for at-risk families, [in a new setting](#). Parent coaches who have implemented the program as part of Kaela's research have reported enthusiasm about the changes they see with the families they serve.

Kaela is looking forward to continuing her career in the promotion of child well-being through research and collaborative policy efforts.



# **Barbara H. Chaiyachati**

## **Medical Scientist Training Program**

### **Yale University**

by Kaela Byers

Barbara is a joint M.D./Ph.D. student at [Yale University School of Medicine](#). She is interested in the long-term consequences of early exposure to stress and the epigenetic determinants of health and disease. While attending [Macalester College](#), she worked in a [crisis nursery](#) providing voluntary residential services to children at risk of maltreatment and who were experiencing chronic adversity. For Barbara, this experience highlighted the importance of early intervention to promote healthy child development. In turn, that influenced her choice to pursue pediatrics as a specialty and to positively impact the lives of children experiencing risk.



Barbara completed her Ph.D. doing research in the area of epigenetic gene control. Her current research examines Connecticut's statewide home visiting program to determine its impact on reports to child protective services and its effectiveness in preventing child maltreatment. Barbara's future plans include pediatric residency and a clinical fellowship in child abuse pediatrics. She hopes to pursue a career in child abuse pediatrics where she looks forward to integrating research, policy, and clinical practice. Barbara is also excited to be involved in ongoing policy and program development discussions on many topics. These discussions include examining the potential utility of crisis nurseries in Connecticut, thus continuing her engagement in the work that first inspired her interest in child maltreatment prevention.

## **NEWS FROM THE DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

### **Lola Adedokun Appointed as Program Director for Child Well-Being**

We are very pleased to congratulate [Lola Adedokun](#) on her recent appointment as program director for child well-being and director of the African Health Initiative at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Lola has been with the foundation since 2007 and has been the interim program director for child well-being for the past six months. We have worked closely with her on all aspects of the fellowship during that time and we are very excited to continue to work together on the strategy and vision for the fellowship in the future! To read the Foundation's full press release announcing Lola's appointment, click [here](#).

## **COHORT FIVE APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN**

The application period for the Doris Duke Fellowships, Cohort Five is now open. You can find application instructions and materials on our [website](#). Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2014.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please email [ddfellowship@chapinhall.org](mailto:ddfellowship@chapinhall.org).

**Quick Links:**

Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

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