

Doris Duke Fellowships

for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect

*This edition of the newsletter highlights events at the **Fourth Annual Doris Duke Fellowship Meeting** that took place at Chapin Hall earlier this month.*



Cohort Four Fellows at the Annual Doris Duke Fellowship Meeting on September 11, 2014.

Notes from Deb

A [recent story on NPR](#) highlighted a dilemma facing many of those who have obtained biomedical Ph.D.s. There are simply too few jobs for them in traditional academic lab settings these days as basic research funding continues to decline. Increasingly, the report goes on to note, these young scholars are adapting to their environment by moving out of their academic research labs into settings in the public and private sectors. This ability to seek out diverse opportunities has long been a key strength of those obtaining advance degrees in the social sciences. While many Ph.D.s in social work, sociology, public policy, and psychology, among other "soft science" disciplines, do embark on academic careers, others join the ranks of applied research institutions, "think tanks," and public and private service agencies. And all of them increasingly understand the importance of linking their research to resolving the policy and practice challenges that threaten our ability to effectively address key social dilemmas.

This commitment to translational research was evident throughout the Fellowship's recent Annual Meeting. Our newest Cohort Four fellows are offering a prevention perspective on such issues as sex trafficking; improving parental capacity and reducing stress among active duty US military families, non-custodial fathers, and young, single-parent households; crafting effective

ways to coordinate efforts across diverse social service systems; and building a more pro-active and preventive child protection system. Joined by their colleagues from Cohort Three, the fellows explored new science in the areas of implementation research, adolescent development, and early childhood development and parent attachment. As in the past, the 3-day meeting resulted in lively debates around core policy questions and deepened the fellows' commitment to collaborative work. We look forward to continuing our discussions with the fellows virtually, through our social networking system and quarterly webinars, and to cohosting a second meeting of the fellows this year with our colleagues at University of Southern California.

Sincerely,

Deborah Daro, Ph.D.
Fellowship Chair

Highlights from the Annual Meeting

Mentor Presentation

Brenda Jones Harden, Ph.D.
University of Maryland

Dr. Jones Harden presented on the effects of a toxically stressful environment on young children's outcomes, and how the quality of a caregiving environment can mediate these effects.

She is the academic mentor to Cohort Three fellow [Carlo Panlilio](#), who had this to say about his mentor presenting at the meeting:

"It was great to have my academic mentor present at the annual fellowship meeting for a few reasons. First, it was wonderful to be able to share her wisdom and talent with my colleagues within the fellowship as Brenda has been helpful in guiding me through my career as a doctoral student. Second, the meeting provided Brenda and me with another great arena to present our collaborative work and to receive feedback from the group. Finally, having Brenda present at the meeting allowed [the two of] us to further discuss the relevance of our work with the goals and mission of the fellowship and find ways to highlight these in the work that we do in her lab."



Fellow Small Groups

Fellows in each cohort are assigned to small groups based on their research interests. These groups allow fellows to become familiar with the work of other fellows in their cohort that focus on the same broad topic area, begin relationship building amongst the group, and identify potential collaborative projects or activities.

Fellows had time throughout the Annual Meeting to meet in their small groups. As an exercise in interdisciplinary and collaborative work, each small group is working toward a written product this year. The activities within groups are diverse and are driven by the members of each group. Some groups are working on joint papers, others are in the process of submitting abstracts for conference presentations, and some are exploring topics for more policy-related writing (such as op-ed pieces).

Mentor Presentation

Lawrence Berger, Ph.D.

University of Wisconsin

Dr. Berger's presentation focused on the potential causal relationship of poverty and child maltreatment, and the research that he is conducting to explore this link.

He is the academic mentor to Cohort Four fellow [Leah Gjertson](#), who had these thoughts on her mentor participating in the meeting:

"It was wonderful to have Lonnie at the fellowship meeting. In conversations with other fellows we came up with new research ideas. Additionally, Lonnie had great recommendations for a project I could pursue with another fellow. Staying excited about your research is key and I left the fellowship meeting ready to get back to work."



Presentation on New Field of Research

Enola Proctor, Ph.D.

Washington University in St. Louis

Dr. Proctor presented on the role of implementation science in bridging research, policy, and practice to improve child welfare services. During her presentation, fellows participated in exercises around implementing county-wide evidence-based programs and discussed key implementation strategies.



Dr. Proctor was the academic mentor for Cohort Two fellow [Byron Powell](#).

Other presenters at the meeting included:

- [Amy Dworsky](#), Ph.D., Chapin Hall
- [Deborah Gorman-Smith](#), Ph.D., University of Chicago
- Shannon Gultinan, M.P.A., Chapin Hall
- [Jennie Noll](#), Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
- [Roopa Seshadri](#), Ph.D., Chapin Hall

We were very fortunate to have had such a wonderful group of speakers participate in the meeting. The Annual Meeting was a great opportunity for our fellows to have a rich learning experience.

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](#).

An **informational webinar** will be held on October 14, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fellowship staff will be addressing common questions about applying for the Doris Duke Fellowships. To register, click [here](#).

Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2014.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please email ddfellowship@chapinhall.org.

Important Dates

Fellowship Midyear Meeting

- March 25-27, 2015
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- Attendance is expected of all current fellows; Cohort One and Two fellows are also invited to attend

Abstract Submission Open: [Society for Prevention Research \(SPR\) Annual Meeting](#)

- May 26-29, 2015
- Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
- Abstract submission deadline: November 7, 2014

Abstract Submission Open: [American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children \(APSAC\) Annual Colloquium](#)

- July 22-25, 2015
- Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA
- Abstract submission deadline: October 22, 2014

Quick Links:

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