

FACULTY ASSOCIATES

Researchers from across Case Western Reserve University who are engaged in child-related studies convene as a campus-wide consortium of Schubert Center Faculty Associates. This group is particularly interested in bridging research with practice and policy to improve child well-being in the greater Cleveland community and to create knowledge and approaches that are generalizable to a larger population of children.

Highlighted accomplishments of our Faculty Associates (identified with their names in bold) from the past year are included in this report.

Visit case.edu/schubertcenter to learn more about our Faculty Associates program.

ACTION

Funded by the Provost's Think Big seed grant opportunity, **Faye Gary** (Nursing) and **Lee Thompson** (Psychological Sciences) developed *Parents' College at Case: Expansion of a Health Initiative*, which will deepen relationships forged over the past seven years through the Provost Scholars Program, an academic and mentorship program for teens in East Cleveland City Schools. The Parents' College aims to increase the parents'/guardians' capacity to provide support for their children by improving their own physical and mental health and their parenting skills.

As co-chair of the Ohio Lead-Free Kids Coalition, **Gabriella Celeste** (Schubert Center Policy Director) helped release the Ohio Action Plan for Lead-Free Children and has kept lead prevention as a priority in the state and locally through multiple collaborative efforts.

Through the Case School of Engineering and the Leonard Gelfand STEM Center, **Me'lani Labat Joseph** facilitates several outreach opportunities for a few thousand youth in northeast Ohio to engage annually with CWRU's faculty, students and staff through transformative STEM enrichment experiences.

ACTION (CONTINUED)

Lauren Calandrucio (Psychological Sciences) recently received a grant from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association to create the Innovative Mentoring and Professional Advancement through Cultural Training (IMPACT) program. IMPACT provides formal mentoring to undergraduates in communication sciences from underrepresented backgrounds to help diversify the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology by supporting students through graduate program applications and preparing them for success. IMPACT is a collaboration between Calandrucio and Jessica Sullivan of Hampton University, an historically Black university in Virginia.

CWRU's First Year Cleveland program, of which **Bernadette Kerrigan** is executive director, played a leadership role in the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County declaring racism as a public health crisis.

Peg DiMarco (Nursing) helped lead The Partners in Health Lead Screening project, which screened over 2000 children in 56 schools until schools shut down in March. Since then they have entered all the data and notified all families of their child's lead levels in a letter and, if their child's level was high, a call from a school nurse.

Marie Clark (Pediatrics) and **Claudia Hoyen** (Pediatrics) created a virtual reality poverty simulation and, despite restrictions of the pandemic, were able deliver it successfully to 154 health care providers across the state to very positive reviews. They are part of a larger group of Ohio Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program simulation project grantees which includes **Michael Konstan** (Pediatrics), **Scott Frank** (Population and Quantitative Health), **Amy Sheon** (Urban Health Initiative) and Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew.

Lisa Huisman Koops (Music) is leading an inter-disciplinary team including collaborators from The Music Settlement in developing a remote early childhood music class with a guided socialization component, addressing social-emotional development of children age 12-36 months who participate. Koops also led an international policy team of researchers and practitioners this summer in developing a set of values, guidelines, and best practices for teaching early childhood and elementary general music in the time of COVID-19. The guidelines will be published by the National Association for Music Education.

ACTION (CONTINUED)

Kimberly Burkhart (Pediatrics) is the Co-Chair of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ASPR Behavioral Health Workgroup created to identify and disseminate a national evidence-based behavioral health disaster response for the Great Lakes Pediatric Center of Disaster Excellence.

Since May 2020, **Sarah Cain Spannagel** (Psychological Sciences) has been deep in the clinical trenches. In her private practice, she has worked to support educators and students with distance learning (and in early Fall, the re-entry to the classroom). At Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, she and her team have maintained the Rainbow Autism Diagnostic Clinic. They have moved from virtual appointments to practicing with a hybrid model. They also are developing a research project to assess COVID's impact on access and maintenance of services for families with developmental disabilities.

RESEARCH

Susan Ludington (Pediatric Nursing) received funding for a study of preterm infant stress associated with diaper changes in different positions and with different diapers. She and a DNP graduate of the Bolton School of Nursing, Cami Addison, wrote the newly published national clinical guidelines for prevention and management of Sudden Unexpected Postnatal Collapse in term newborns.

Nancy Rolock (Applied Social Sciences) is working with the Research Triangle Institute on a nationally representative survey of young adults who were adopted through the foster care system. They will be surveying the young adults and their parents to understand their long-term well-being outcomes. In addition, Nancy and **David Crampton** (Applied Social Sciences) are evaluating a federally funded child abuse prevention program administered by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties.

Darcy Freedman (Environmental Health) worked with an amazing team, including many from the Schubert Center, to launch the Ohio COVID-19 Child Care Study, a statewide study examining factors driving transmission of COVID-19 in child care settings.

RESEARCH

Sarah Hope Lincoln (Psychological Sciences) and colleagues at the The Clinical Neuroscience Laboratory have focused their attention this past year on social determinants of mental health, particularly as it relates to psychotic disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults. They have completed a study looking at the intersectionality of race and ethnicity and LGBTQ status as it relates to the development of psychotic symptoms. They are currently working on a study looking at the neurobiology of social exclusion in adolescents at risk for psychotic disorders.

In collaboration with **Rita Obeid, Amy Przeworski, Sarah Hope Lincoln, Angela Ciccia,** and **Barbara Lewis, Elizabeth Short** (Psychological Sciences) is training the Developmental Master's Program students through a research study designed to optimize learning and engagement in families during COVID-19 by comparing the effectiveness of telehealth and in-person Programming. They have published several papers and submitted multiple grants to continue the research efforts.

Jane Timmons-Mitchell (Begun Center) has a new research project in suicide prevention, a collaboration between the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Boys and Girls Clubs, and CWRU to evaluate the effectiveness of staff training and group-based interventions for youth in the economically neediest Ohio counties.

Highlights of **Valerie Boebel Toly's** (Pediatric Nursing) research with families caring for children dependent on medical technology include final analysis of her R15 RCT, conversion of her R01 RCT (consent, data collection) to all remote operations and development of a video demonstrating self-collection of hair samples for study participants.

Angela Ciccia's (Psychological Sciences) lab has completed the prototype for the illustrated version of the Risk Assessment that was part of the funded Mt. Sinai seed grant and awarded a grant from the CDC to study return to school after brain injury for students in grades K-12.

Together with her collaborators, **Laura Voith** (Applied Social Sciences) secured NICHD funding to study the effects of adverse childhood experiences, resilience, and post-traumatic growth with predominately low-income, Black youth who present at the emergency department with a severe violent injury.

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Sandra Russ (Psychological Sciences) and **Anastasia Dimitropoulos** (Psychological Sciences) published *Believing in Make-Believe: Efficacy of a Pretend Play Intervention for School-Aged Children in the High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder* in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, which detailed a pretend play intervention with an ASD population that was effective in increasing imagination in play and emotional understanding when compared with a waitlist control group.

Jill Korbin (Anthropology) is working on the second edition of her co-edited *Handbook of Child Maltreatment* (Springer) to be published in 2021 and has returned to teaching in the Department of Anthropology.

Cara Byrne (English) presented and presided over a roundtable titled *Confronting Racism and Celebrating Diversity: Cleveland's Anisfield-Wolf Book Award* at the annual MLA conference in Seattle in January 2020. She continues to research and publish on issues related to inclusivity and diversity in children's picture books, and has developed partnerships with local elementary schools and early literacy organizations.

In the Department of Psychological Sciences, **Elizabeth Short, Sandra Russ, Barbara Lewis** and **Rita Obeid** published a study that examined the role of language skills in adults' perceptions of play in children with developmental disabilities.

Jean Frank (PRCHN) developed the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhood's upcoming report *Healthy People 2020: Where Do Cuyahoga County Adolescents Stand?*, which summarizes six bi-annual high school administrations of the Cuyahoga County Youth Risk Behavior Survey and reveals how adolescent health behavior has changed over the previous decade with respect to nationally identified Healthy People 2020 goals and objectives.

A collection of four articles was published in the *Infant Mental Health Journal* describing evidence for the effectiveness of a statewide publicly funded infant mental health home visiting intervention through a collaboration of over five years between the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Collaborative for Infant Mental Health Research, of which **Alissa Huth-Bocks** (Pediatrics) is a part.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Brian Gran (Sociology, Law) has a forthcoming book, *Sociology of Children's Rights*, with Polity Books. He also submitted a comment to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on children's rights to science.

In July, **Lolita McDavid** (Pediatrics) **and Marie Clark** (Pediatrics), together with pediatric resident Andrea Matthew, authored an opinion piece for cleveland.com titled *Combating racism needs to start at a young age*. "Parents may fear that speaking with children about race will cause further division. However, the opposite appears to be true," they explained. "Speaking with children about race early and often is necessary to help children develop healthy and positive views about diversity and dispel any misconceptions about race they may have absorbed. Setting this course for our children early can help to raise a generation of more tolerant and generous citizens, willing to see individuals beyond the color of their skin."

Rita Obeid (Psychological Sciences) published a study that examined the role of implicit and explicit biases in autism identification. She recently was invited to round two of the Foundation for Child Development Young Scholars Grant competition.

EDUCATION

Jim Spilsbury (Population & Quantitative Health Sciences) was honored to receive the 2020 John S. Diekhoff Award for Graduate Teaching, and he's grateful for the willingness of CWRU faculty to participate in his courses over the years.

Kathryn Mercer (Law) taught child welfare to a group of eager law students this summer via zoom.

Amy Sheon (Urban Health Initiative, School of Medicine) is teaching a new class this term: *Bioethics 413: A Social Justice Perspective on the Digital Divide and Digital Medicine*. The course will discuss the tremendous equity issues of access to complete online education in the era of COVID-19.