

Children, Youth, and Families Signature Research Area Group Mini-conference on
Disparities in Child Health and Development

Participant Biographies (in alphabetical order)

JEANNE BROOKS-GUNN

Moderator - Session 2: Education Disparities

Dr. Brooks-Gunn is the Virginia and Leonard Marx Professor of Child Development and Education at Teachers College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. She co-directs the National Center for Children and Families at Teachers College and the Institute for Child and Family Policy at Columbia University.

Dr. Brooks-Gunn's specialty is policy-oriented research focusing on family and community influences upon the development of children and youth. She also designs and evaluates interventions aimed at enhancing the well-being of children living in poverty and associated conditions. Her books on these topics include *Consequences of growing up poor* (1997); *Escape from poverty: What makes a difference for children?* (1995); *Adolescent mothers in later life* (1987); and *Neighborhood poverty (1997): Context and consequences for children*.

She also conducts research on transitional periods focusing on school, family and biological transitions in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. She is interested in the factors that contribute to positive and negative outcomes and changes in well-being over these years. Her books on these topics include, *He and she: How children develop their sex role identity* (1979); *Social cognition and the acquisition of self* (1979); *Girls at puberty: Biological and psychosocial perspectives* (1983); and *Conflict and cohesion in families: Causes and consequences* (1999). In addition, she is the author of over 500 published articles.

Dr. Brooks-Gunn has been the recipient of several honors: election into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (2009); Honorary Doctorate of Science at Northwestern University (2009); the Society for Research in Child Development's award for distinguished contributions to public policy for children (2005). She has been elected an American Educational Research Association Fellow (2010); Margaret Mead Fellow by the American Academy of Political and Social Science (2004) and has received the James McKen Cattell Fellow Award (2002) for outstanding contributions to the area of applied psychological research from the American Psychological Society. She was honored with the Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy Award (2001) from the American Psychological Association and has also received the John B. Hill Award from the Society for Research on Adolescence for her life-time contribution to research on adolescence (1996).

JANET CURRIE

Speaker - Session 1: Overview of Disparities Research, Moderator - Session 3: Health Disparities

Janet Currie is the Sami Mnaymneh Professor of Economics at Columbia University and Director of the Program on Families and Children at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She was elected Vice President of the American Economics Association in 2010. She has served on several National Academy of Sciences panels including the Committee on Population and has also served as a member of the advisory board of the National Children's Study and as a consultant for the National Health Interview Survey and the National Longitudinal Surveys. She is a Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists, an affiliate of the University of Michigan's National Poverty Center, and an affiliate of IZA in Bonn. She is on the editorial board of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and has served several other journals in an editorial capacity including the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Labor Economics*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Her research focuses on the health and well-being of children. She has written about early intervention programs, programs to expand health insurance and improve health care, public housing, and food and nutrition programs. Much of this research is summarized in *"The Invisible Safety Net: Protecting the Nation's Poor Children and Families"*, Princeton University Press, which has just been released in paper back. Her current research focuses on socioeconomic differences in child health, and on environmental threats to children's health from sources such as toxic pollutants.

BRUCE LINK

Speaker - Session 1: Overview of Disparities Research

Dr. Bruce Link is a research scientist at New York State Psychiatric Institute, in addition to his responsibilities at the Mailman School. Dr. Link's interests are centered on topics in psychiatric and social epidemiology. He has written on the connection between socioeconomic status and health, homelessness, violence, stigma, and discrimination. Currently he is conducting research aimed at understanding health disparities by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status, the consequences of social stigma for people with mental illnesses, and the connection between mental illnesses and violent behaviors. He is the director of the Psychiatric Epidemiology Training Program, the director of the Center for Violence Research and Prevention and a director of the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at Columbia University.

KIMBERLY NOBLE

Speaker - Session 2: Education Disparities

Kimberly Noble, MD, PhD, will begin her appointment as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, with a joint interdisciplinary appointment at the Sergievsky Center, at Columbia University in July, 2010. Her research focuses on socioeconomic disparities in child neurocognitive development, with an emphasis on reading and language development. She is interested in understanding the mechanisms and timecourse via which differences in childhood exposures and experiences contribute to specific neurocognitive outcomes, and in applying this knowledge to the development of public health-focused interventional strategies.

She completed her undergraduate, graduate, and medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently completing her pediatrics residency at Columbia University Medical Center / Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York Presbyterian, where she was selected for the Community Pediatrics track. She was the recipient of the Mailman School of Public Health Dean's NYC Schools Challenge, and is a co-principal investigator on a grant to plan the follow-up of a large, epidemiological birth cohort on SES disparities and subsequent neurocognitive outcomes.

JOYCE PRESSLEY

Speaker - Session 3: Health Disparities

Joyce Pressley, Ph.D., M.P.H. is Director of Injury Free Health Policy and Population Studies and an Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Clinical Health Policy and Management at The Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. Her research interests include the study of injury-related disparities across the age span. She has examined a number of injury issues affecting child health, including window falls; home safety issues for burns, falls, poisoning, suffocation; motor vehicle injury including occupant protection, infant and child restraint systems; pedestrian injury; graduated driver licensing laws for teenagers; laws governing teenage drinking and driving laws and other related injury issues.

RANDALL REBACK

Speaker - Session 2: Education Disparities

Randall Reback is an assistant professor of economics at Barnard College and a Faculty Fellow at Columbia University's Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy. His research focuses on the economics of education, especially as it relates to domestic elementary and secondary school policies. He has published research articles concerning school accountability programs, inter-district school choice policies, teacher labor markets, and schools' mental health services. His most recent study, "Schools' Mental Health Services and Young Children's Emotions, Behavior, and Learning," is forthcoming in the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. His work has been recognized by grants and awards from the Institute for Education Sciences, the Spencer Foundation, the American Education Research Association, the American Education Finance Association, and the National Institute of Mental Health. At Barnard, Professor Reback teaches courses including The Economics of Education, Spatial Analysis in Urban Economics, and Econometrics.

ANDREW RUNDLE

Speaker - Session 3: Health Disparities

Dr. Andrew Rundle's research focuses on physical activity and body weight with a primary interest in whether sedentary lifestyles and overweight/obesity are risk factors for cancer development. This work includes investigations of the determinants of physical activity and body weight, creating new methods to measure physical activity, molecular epidemiologic investigations of mechanisms through which physical activity may prevent cancer, and studies of associations between activity and cancer incidence. Dr. Rundle also provides epidemiologic expertise for a study investigating environmental causes of prostate cancer and a study seeking to discover and validate biomarkers for lung cancer risk. At the Mailman School of Public Health, he teaches the Environmental Epidemiology course and guest lectures in the Molecular Epidemiology courses. Dr. Rundle also is involved with IARC's international training workshops on Molecular Epidemiology.

JOHN SANTELLI

Conference Organizer

John Santelli, MD, MPH, is the Harriet and Robert H. Heilbrunn Clinical Professor of Population and Family Health and the Department Chair at the Mailman School. Dr. Santelli is a pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist who recently joined the School of Public Health at Columbia University. Prior to coming to New York, he was the Chief of the Applied Sciences Branch in the Division of Reproductive Health at U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is also a senior consultant for the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Adolescent Medicine, and the editorial board for the Journal of Adolescent Health. He has conducted research on adolescent sexual behaviors, programs to prevent STD/HIV/unintended pregnancy, school-based health centers, clinical preventive services, and research ethics. He has been a national leader in insuring that adolescents are appropriately included in health research and in opposing abstinence-only sexuality education.

JULIEN TEITLER

Speaker - Session 3: Health Disparities

Dr. Teitler's research focuses on the effects of social contexts on health and fertility, and on how social environments and policies affect families and children. Recent studies include cross-national comparisons of fertility trends and health disparities, how welfare participation and mental health affect marriage, and the effect of neighborhood racial composition on birth outcomes. His current projects focus on the measurement of social networks and neighborhoods, changes in immigrant health over time spent in the U.S., explaining trends in teen fertility, and the role of prenatal care on successive fertility.

JANE WALDFOGEL

Speaker - Session 2: Education Disparities, Moderator - Session I & Working Lunch

Dr. Waldfogel is a professor of social work and public affairs at Columbia University School of Social Work and a visiting professor at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. During the 2008-09 academic year, she was the Marion Cabot Putnam Memorial Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University where she was writing a book about Britain's war on poverty. Waldfogel received her Ph.D. in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She has written extensively on the impact of public policies on child and family well-being. Her books include Britain's War on Poverty (Russell Sage Foundation, 2010), Steady gains and stalled progress: Inequality and the Black-White test score gap (Russell Sage Foundation, 2008), What children need (Harvard University Press, 2006), Securing the future: Investing in children from birth to college (Russell Sage Foundation, 2000), and The future of child protection: How to break the cycle of abuse and neglect (Harvard University Press, 1998). Her current research includes studies related to work-family policies, poverty, social mobility, and income-related gaps in school readiness.