

Division Photo



F. Putnam, J. VanGinkel, R. Ammermann

Division Data Summary

Research and Training Details

Number of Faculty	1
Number of Joint Appointment Faculty	3
Number of Support Personnel	12
Peer Reviewed Publications	2

Division Collaboration

Collaboration with Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Collaborating Faculty: [Altaye, M.](#)

ECS is working with Dr. Mekibib Altaye from the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Dr. Altaye is coinvestigator and biostatistician on funded studies of retention and adherence in home visitation and treatment of postpartum depression in mothers in home visitation.

Collaboration with Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness

Collaborating Faculty: [Donovan, EF](#)

ECS has been working with Dr. Edward Donovan from Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness. Dr.

Donovan is a co-investigator in ongoing research efforts in Every Child Succeeds examining infant mortality and related clinical issues.

Collaboration with Health Policy and Clinical Effectiveness

Collaborating Faculty: Phelan, KJ

ECS and Dr. Kieran Phelan are working on adapting an intervention to prevent injury in young children for use in the context of home visitation. The injury prevention intervention, designed and evaluated by Dr. Phelan in the ongoing Home Study, has significant promise for the high risk populations served in home visitation.

Collaboration with Neonatology and Pulmonary Biology

Collaborating Faculty: Nommsen-Rivers, L.

Dr. Nommsen-Rivers is working with ECS in understanding and overcoming barriers to breastfeeding in mothers enrolled in Every Child Succeeds.

Faculty Members

Judith B. Van Ginkel, PhD, Field Service Professor

Joint Appointment Faculty Members

Robert Ammerman, PhD, Professor

Psychology

Causes and prevention of child abuse and neglect, prevention of behavioral and emotional problems in children, family adaptation to childhood disability and chronic illness, and adolescent drug and alcohol abuse.

Thomas DeWitt, MD, Professor

General & Community Pediatrics

Faculty development and community-based education and research.

Frank Putnam, MD, Professor

The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children

Child abuse prevention, evaluation and treatment.

Significant Accomplishments

Treating Maternal Depression Through Home Visitation

Our research has identified that 44 percent of mothers who participate in our home visitation program have clinically elevated levels of depression symptoms. Depression makes it difficult for mothers to parent effectively, negatively impacts child development, and provides challenges for home visitors in implementing curricula.

In response, we developed the Maternal Depression Treatment Program (MDTP), which includes In-Home Cognitive Behavior Therapy, an innovative treatment for depression that is uniquely adapted for young, low income mothers in home visitation. This treatment program was developed through grants from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Not only is Every Child Succeeds using the MDTP, but it is also being disseminated nationally to other home visitation programs. The state of Connecticut has adopted the program through support from their Children's Trust Fund. An initiative through the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley has incorporated the MDTP into four home visiting programs serving the Allston-Brighton neighborhood of Boston. We anticipate additional disseminations in the future, and have created a training and support infrastructure to facilitate efforts.

Following a Business Model, Focusing on Quality Improvement

Since inception, Every Child Succeeds has operated an evidence-based home visitation program focused on producing positive quantifiable outcomes for high-risk families with children up to age 3 and ensuring a return on investment for public and private funders.

Our program has served 16,000 families and made more than 330,000 home visits since 1999. Hallmarks of the program include a clear and focused strategy, a business approach to the delivery of a social service, and a well-developed quality improvement strategy that enhanced program implementation in 16 sites in seven counties and two states.

The ECS Medical Home Committee, led by Chuck Schubert, MD, is an example of a successful quality improvement effort. The committee's work is enhancing child health outcomes by improving access to care and optimizing partnerships among families, home visitors and pediatricians. Increasingly, Every Child Succeeds is regarded as an implementation model for programs across the country.

Effective development of public/private partnerships also has led to significant community financial support for Every Child Succeeds. Drawing upon expert community volunteers, the program has weaved business principles with community needs to produce a firm foundation to serve the community. As community programs operate more effectively, children get better care and live in environments that foster optimal development and growth.

Serving as a model program

National recognition for Every Child Succeeds' innovative approach and documented results has escalated in the past year.

Every Child Succeeds was selected by the Pew Center on the States to co-host a national meeting in Washington, D.C. in February 2011. The title "Home Visitation-Research to Policy to Practice" reflects the ECS commitment to evidence-based decision making and quality improvement strategies.

We also have received many inquiries about the program and requests to adopt portions of the program, particularly our web-based management and information system, eECS, our suite of training modules, and our literacy curriculum for children ages 0-3. The state of Connecticut, the Boston United Way, the state of Arkansas and Arkansas Children's Hospital, and the state of Ohio/Help Me Grow have expressed an interest. We are involved with Connecticut on the Mother and Infant Depression Improvement Study (MIDIS); with Boston on a Maternal Depression Treatment Study; and in supplying online training modules to the state of Ohio.

Part of our mission is to help advance the field of home visitation, a relatively new form of prevention and early intervention for pregnant women as well as for infants and toddlers. We share our learnings and work to improve our program by adopting verified best practices from others. Multiple presentations, published articles, and public relations opportunities enhance these activities.

Division Publications

1. :