

Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children

Division Details

RESEARCH AND TRAINING DETAILS

Faculty	2
Joint Appointment Faculty	10
Total Annual Grant Award Dollars	\$614,766
Total Publications	5

CLINICAL ACTIVITIES AND TRAINING

Staff Psychologists	1
Clinical Fellows	2
Inpatient Encounters	92
Outpatient Encounters	1,781



Row 1: A Folger, M Macaluso, K Makoroff

Row 2: H Bensman, R Shapiro, J Bemmerer

Research Highlights

Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)

The Mayerson Center has been working with community pediatric practices to implement the Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK) program into well-child visits. SEEK is a program designed to foster a more positive home environment for all children. Adversities in the home such as poverty, food and housing insecurity, substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic or neighborhood violence can create an unsafe and stressful environment for a child. Children who experience greater adversity are at greater risk for poor health behaviors and health outcomes in adulthood including substance abuse, obesity and heart disease. The SEEK program is designed to identify some of these risk factors through a 15-item questionnaire completed at one or more well-child checks. SEEK screens for problems with food insecurity, parenting stress, depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, and harsh discipline. Health providers engage caregivers who answer “yes” to any question in a brief 5-10 minute conversation to assess their situation, concerns, and barriers, to identify their strengths and resources, and to jointly develop a plan for healthy behavior change.

Calm Baby Gently

The Mayerson Center has partnered with several local primary care practices to implement the Calm Baby Gently program. Calm Baby Gently is a program that seeks to reduce the incidence of inflicted traumatic brain injury due to a child being shaken by a caregiver. A local artist, and Cincinnati physician, [Dr. John Hutton, MS, MD](#), has designed a short children’s book about what to do when your baby cries, how to respond and stay calm, and the benefits of early reading. The book, packaged as a gift, is given to families at the one-month well child visit. When families return for the two-month visit, they are given a one-page survey which asks about the child’s crying, coping strategies, and if the book was helpful. Initial feedback from providers and families has been positive and planning to expand the program statewide in the next year has begun.

Joining Forces for Children

The Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children is the backbone organization for a community collective impact initiative called Joining Forces for Children. Leaders from over 40 greater Cincinnati organizations, committed to improving child health and development by lessening the impact of toxic stress or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), are active participants. Last May, a group of 40 partners joined the Mayerson Center to create a five-year strategic plan, draft a vision and mission statement, revise previous work outlining core beliefs, and construct objectives and strategies for each of the three previously identified priority areas: Education and awareness, advocacy and policy development, and activities and program development. Through its robust network of committed partners, Joining Forces for Children will strive to address and prevent the risks of childhood adversity and work to strengthen families with the skills, knowledge, support and resources they need to nurture their children's health and well-being.

Significant Publications

Wood JN, French B, Fromkin J, Fakeye O, Scribano PV, Letson MM, **Makoroff KL**, Feldman KW, Fabio A, Berger R. **Association of Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma Rates with Macroeconomic Indicators**. *Acad Pediatr*. 2016 Apr;16(3):224-32.

This publication investigated rates of abusive head trauma (AHT) before, during, and after the economic recession of 2007-2009 in three different regions of the United States. Between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2012, 712 children, diagnosed with AHT, were under the age of 5. Incidents of AHT peaked during the recession but did not go back to baseline even after the recession ended, suggesting a long-lasting effect between economic stress during the recession and the risk of child maltreatment.

Adams JA, Kellogg ND, Farst KJ, Harper NS, Palusci VJ, Frasier LD, Levitt CJ, **Shapiro RA**, Moles RL, Starling SP. **Updated Guidelines for the Medical Assessment and Care of Children Who May Have Been Sexually Assaulted**. *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol*. 2016 Apr;29(2):81-7.

A group of child abuse specialists met over the course of several years (2011-2014), both in-person and over web-based communication such as e-mail, to discuss possible necessary changes in the evaluation and interpretation of children with injuries that may relate to child sexual abuse. Researchers used peer-reviewed journals from scientific sources when possible; when the literature was lacking, they utilized expert consensus.

Gurwitch RH, **Messer EP**, Masse J, Olafson E, Boat BW, Putnam FW. **Child-Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE): An Evidence-Informed Program for Children with a History of Trauma and Other Behavioral Challenges**. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2016 Mar;53:138-45.

CARE is a set of skills designed to improve interactions of any adult, child or adolescent. CARE, comprised of a set of skills that can support other services provided to families, is not therapy. Since 2006, over 2000 caregivers, mental health, child welfare, educators, and other professionals have received CARE training with a focus on children exposed to trauma and maltreatment. This article presents implementation successes and challenges of a trauma-informed training designed to help adults connect and enhance their relationships with children considered at-risk.

Division Publications

1. Adams JA, Kellogg ND, Farst KJ, Harper NS, Palusci VJ, Frasier LD, Levitt CJ, Shapiro RA, Moles RL, Starling SP. **Updated Guidelines for the Medical Assessment and Care of Children Who May Have Been Sexually Abused**. *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol*. 2016; 29:81-7.
2. Greiner MV, Greiner HM, Care MM, Owens D, Shapiro R, Holland K. **Adding Insult to Injury: Nonconvulsive Seizures in Abusive Head Trauma**. *J Child Neurol*. 2015; 30:1778-84.
3. Harper NS, Lewis T, Eddleman S, Lindberg DM, ExStra Investigators. **Follow-up Skeletal Survey Use by Child Abuse Pediatricians**. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2016; 51:336-42.
4. Raj SP, Antonini TN, Oberjohn KS, Cassedy A, Makoroff KL, Wade SL. **Web-Based Parenting Skills Program for Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury Reduces Psychological Distress among Lower-Income Parents**. *J Head Trauma Rehabil*. 2015; 30:347-

5. Wood JN, French B, Fromkin J, Fakeye O, Scribano PV, Letson MM, Makoroff KL, Feldman KW, Fabio A, Berger R. [Association of Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma Rates with Macroeconomic Indicators](#). *Acad Pediatr*. 2016; 16:224-32.

Grants, Contracts, and Industry Agreements

Annual Grant Award Dollars

Investigator	Title	Sponsor	ID	Dates	Amount
Erica Pearl Messer PSYD	ODH PCIT Training Series - FY16	Health Resources & Services Admin (Ohio Department of Health)	H25NC26234	8/1/2015 - 6/30/2016	\$53,300
Robert Allan Shapiro, MD	National Crime Victim's Right Week Community Awareness Project	Department of Justice (Crime Victims Assistance Office)	16-050	1/18/2016 - 6/30/2016	\$5,000
Robert Allan Shapiro, MD	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Grant Agreement	Department of Health and Human Services (Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services)	G-1401OHCJ	8/15/2015 - 6/30/2017	\$63,600
Robert Allan Shapiro, MD	VOCA 2013	Department of Justice (Crime Victims Assistance Office)	R2013VADSCE483	10/1/2012 - 9/30/2017	\$310,626
Robert Allan Shapiro, MD	Timely Recognition of Abusive Injuries	Ohio Children's Hospital Association Fdn (The Research Institute at Nationwide Hosp)	TRAIN Grant	1/1/2015 - 12/31/2017	\$60,553
Erna Olafson PSYD	The Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Svc Admin (University of Connecticut Health Center)	U79SM061273	9/30/2012 - 9/29/2016	\$121,687
Total Annual Grant Award Dollars					\$614,766