Pathways Linking Early Adversity & Support to Children’s Health

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The William J. Shaw Center for Children and Families brings people together to conduct innovative research to understand and support healthy development across the lifespan.
Our Research

• Adversity: Helping Families Thrive

• Relationships: Supporting Healthy Interactions

• Well-being: Promoting Healthy Development

• Intervention: Translating Science to Practice
Adversity

The Pair of ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Maternal Depression
Emotional & Sexual Abuse
Substance Abuse
Domestic Violence
Physical & Emotional Neglect
Divorce
Mental Illness
Incarceration
Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

Poverty
Discrimination
Community Disruption
Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital
Poor Housing Quality & Affordability
Violence

Ellis & Deitz, 2017

Health and Development
Our Research

Basic research: Longitudinal designs to evaluate mediating or moderating mechanisms

Translational research: Develop treatments/programs targeting identified mechanisms, evaluate these programs
Example: Basic Research

- Maltreatment/adversity
- Maternal Support: Reminiscing Sensitivity
  - Child Cognitive Development
  - Child Emotional Development
  - Child Physiological Development
Example: Translational Research

Maltreatment/adversity → Maternal Support: Reminiscing Sensitivity → Child Cognitive Development
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Maternal Support: Reminiscing Sensitivity

Pilot of RET funded by CTSI PDT (2010-2011); RCT funded by NICHD (2013-2018)
RET Intervention Outcomes

**RET Direct Effects**
- Post Test
  - Child Memory
  - Child Emotion
  - Knowledge
  - Maternal Support: Reminiscing, Sensitivity

**RET Indirect Effects**
- Maternal Support; Reminiscing, Sensitivity

**6 and 12 months later**
- Child Memory
- Child Emotion Regulation
- Child Physiological Regulation
- Child Emotional Adjustment
Phases of Research

- Basic/Mechanistic
- Translational/Pilot Development
- Efficacy Trials
- Effectiveness Trials Dissemination & Implementation
• Latinx Youth Coping with Discrimination  (PI: Alegria, site PI: Valentino)

• Pathways Linking Adversity and Support to Children’s Behavioral and Physical Health (PI: Valentino)

• Incarcerated Mothers & Prison Nurseries (PI: Lefever)

PLANNED
• Youth Suicide and Discrimination Among Maltreating Families (PI: Valentino)
• Pregnant Moms Empowerment Program – IPV (PI: Miller-Graff)

• SPARC- Families & children with neurodevelopmental disability – family communication training (PIs Cummings & Diehl)

• FABS- Maternal & paternal sensitivity training with infants + marital conflict program (PIs Cummings & Braungart-Rieker)

PLANNED:
• PMEP + RET - Dual-generation prevention programming (PIs Miller-Graff & Valentino)
Effectiveness
Trials
Dissemination & Implementation

• Family Communication Project (PI: Cummings)

PLANNED:

• RET Community Dissemination (PI: Valentino)
Summary

- Shaw Center research addresses adversity and relationships to enhance child development and well-being

- Over 1300 families served
  - Families living in poverty
  - Pregnant women exposed to IPV
  - Maltreated children & their mothers
  - Families with a child with a neurodevelopmental disability
  - Latinx families

- Collaborative team with strong community partnerships
Acknowledgements

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Shaw Center Staff & Students

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• Department of Child Services
• LOGAN Community Resources
• WIC

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