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Dr. Linda Collins visits NIDA Trainees

Researchers in the field of substance abuse prevention are well aware of the significant and formidable methodological challenges posed by prevention studies. Often these studies require sophisticated modeling techniques. Prevention data are usually longitudinal and involve many variables that evolve over time in complicated ways. Many researchers look for resources that will assist them with these complicated issues.

In February, Dr. Linda Collins from Pennsylvania State University and the Director of the NIDA funded, Center for Prevention Methodology, met with UMSARC's trainees. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the work of the Center for Prevention Methodology.

The Center for Prevention Methodology is devoted to conducting research on the important methodological issues in prevention research. It is the first center with a methodological focus to be funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and one of very few centers to be funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr. Collins believes that prevention methodological issues are most effectively addressed when prevention scientists and methodologists come together to address the issues in a scientifically rigorous – yet practical way. In addition, when scientists and methodologists join together, they can better address substantive prevention question and make the solutions readily available to drug abuse prevention researchers.

For more information about the Center for Prevention Methodology: http://methcenter.psu.edu/overview.shtml

Combating Teen Smoking

UMSARC and School of Public Health faculty member, Peter Jacobson, Ph.D., JD has written a new book with several other UMSARC members. The book, *Combating Teen Smoking: Research and Policy Strategies*, provides a rationale and supporting evidence for encouraging policy makers to invest in tobacco control programs aimed at youth.

Dr. Jacobson and his colleagues focus on the following areas: the literature on adolescent smoking; studies that evaluate the effectiveness of programs or laws aimed at reducing smoking; smoking prevention and cessation programs aimed at adolescents; innovative programs that are underway (but which have not been evaluated).

The authors provide considerable information about successful interventions for policymakers to use in implementing both short- and long-term policy prescriptions. The authors note that no single policy or clinical intervention will dramatically reduce teen smoking, but a comprehensive strategy can address many influences contributing to youth smoking behaviors. Increasing evidence shows that states implementing a comprehensive program are more successful in reducing both adolescent and adult smoking rates than states that fail to act comprehensively.

The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center announces

A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Pre-doctoral and Post-doctoral Interdisciplinary Training Program

The University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center is accepting applications for pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows for the 2001-02 academic year beginning July 1, 2001. The purpose of the training grant is to prepare researchers and scholars to expand their work beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The Substance Abuse Research Center is comprised of over 90 individuals from 29 departments at the University of Michigan who have significant interest in the study of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. The Center exists to stimulate the study of psychoactive substance abuse of all kinds and to extend the knowledge regarding substance abuse prevention.

Program components include: Research with two faculty mentors, and interdisciplinary pro seminar, coursework, training in ethical conduct of research and research communication, a dissertation for pre-doctoral fellows and independent research for post-doctoral fellows. The pool of potential faculty mentors is comprised of established investigators working on projects involving behavioral, biological, psychosocial, or public health aspects of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs. Research interests range from cellular investigations to policy development and evaluation. (Fellowships are for two years contingent on satisfactory completion of the first year).

Pre-doctoral applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline, have the promise of academic excellence, significant interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine and other drugs, and (by June 2001) have successfully completed their preliminary exams in a doctoral program at the University of Michigan. Applicants must work with two faculty mentors from different disciplines. The 12-month NIH stipend for 2001-02 will be $16,500. Funding is also available for tuition, travel, and other training related expenses.

Post-doctoral applicants must have earned a doctorate within the past eight years in an appropriate field such as: M.D., Dr.P.H., J.D., D.O., Psy.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., D.N.S., or D.S.W. and have demonstrated research productivity and academic excellence as well as an interest in research related to alcohol, nicotine, or other drugs. The 12-month stipend for 2001-02 will be $28,260-$44,412 depending on years of post-doctoral experience. Health insurance and a dental assistance plan are provided. Funding is also available for travel and other training related expenses.

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 2, 2001. An Application packet is available from the Substance Abuse Research Center. Applications must include a goal statement, an outline of the proposed research program and the names of potential mentors. A list of the Substance Abuse Research Center members is included in the application packet. Also required with the application form: transcripts, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, and a doctoral advisor form for evidence that the doctorate has been completed.

For further information and an application packet, contact the University of Michigan Substance Abuse Research Center, 475 Market Place, Suite D, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-1649; Telephone (734) 998-6500; Fax (734) 998-6508; E-mail: rachelha@umich.edu or visit our Web Site at http://www.umich.edu/~umsarc.

The University of Michigan is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Women and individuals from underrepresented minority groups are encouraged to apply.
Methodological Problems?
Come to the Social Statistics and Methodology Discussion Series

University of Michigan researchers, associated with the Social Statistics and Methodology Discussion Series, welcome presentations by faculty/graduate students with statistical questions and concerns! Their goal is to provide a supportive and exciting setting within which researchers can brainstorm about methodological problems.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESENTER:**

You should begin with a 15-minute informal presentation that consists of the following:

1. A description of the scientific problem and data set.
2. The scientific, substantive question that motivates the methodological question.
3. The methodological/statistical question.
4. Descriptive statistics.

Following the brief, 15-minute, presentation, the participants and presenter will brainstorm for approximately 45 minutes with the hope of arriving at both quick, ad-hoc approaches and long term approaches to the problem.

For Winter 2001 Discussion Series faculty include:

- **Richard Gonzales**, Psychology <gonzo@umich.edu>
- **Susan Murphy**, Statistics <samurphy@umich.edu>
- **Vijay Nair**, Statistics <vnn@umich.edu>
- **Steve Raudenbush**, Education <rauden@umich.edu>
- **Yu Xie**, Sociology <yuxie@umich.edu>

For more information contact Rhonda Moats at rmoats@isr.umich.edu

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The University of Michigan Tobacco Research Network

The University of Michigan Tobacco Research Network (UMTRN) is a network of University of Michigan scholars, spanning many disciplines in numerous UM schools and colleges, who share an interest in tobacco and nicotine related research. UMTRN also includes associate members who are involved in tobacco control programmatic activities and interested in application of findings from research. The mission of UMTRN is to increase the quality and utility of UM research on tobacco and nicotine by:

- Disseminating information about UM tobacco researchers and their work to the public.
- Creating a forum for the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas on nicotine addiction, tobacco use, and tobacco control.
- Enhancing tobacco education and training opportunities around campus.
- Enriching tobacco research on campus by supporting tobacco researchers new to the field and/or the University.

Anyone interested in learning more about UMTRN and its members is encouraged to consult the network’s Web site, www.umich.edu/~umtrn. Application forms for both regular and associate members are available on the site on the membership page. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Warner, UMTRN Director, at kwarner@umich.edu or 936-0934.