

CHAR Faculty Newsletter | Summer 2016

Director's Corner

Carolyn Aldwin
Jo Anne Leonard Endowed Director



It's been an exciting and busy year for the Center! Several changes have been in the works. First, **Dr. Mike Pavol** has done a great job as Director for the Musculoskeletal Core for over ten years, especially in mentoring the IGERT students' collaborative research projects, but has decided to step down. We thank him for all of his hard work and look forward to continuing to work with him in the future! **Dr. Urszula Iwaniec** has graciously agreed to be the new director for this core (see article below). She is looking forward to working with the new faculty in their program, Drs. Sean Newsom and Matt Robinson, to increase collaborative research both within and between cores.

Second, **Dr. Holly Lenz** is stepping down as assistant to the IGERT and CHAR directors. As you know, our very successful training program is finished (see story below), so Holly is pursuing full-time work elsewhere. She's had lots of interviews, and I'm sure someone will snatch her up shortly. Thanks also to Holly for all her hard work. She will be missed!

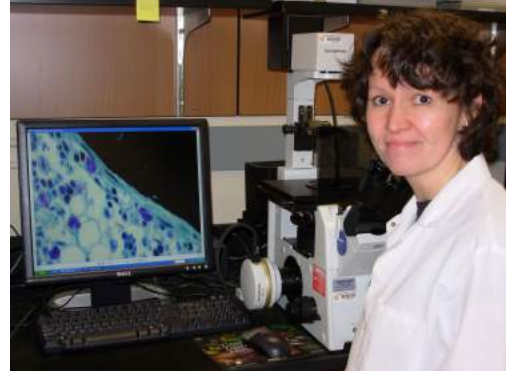
Third, **Dr. Soyoung Choun** will now be in charge of the LIFE Registry. She can be reached at Soyoung.Choun@oregonstate.edu. Speaking of which, we've done a lot of work on the registry this past quarter, and have added the demographic data to our master file for those individuals who've enrolled in the past two years. Those who joined prior to that time were not asked these questions, so we are asking everyone who utilizes our contact information to collect this data on their respondents, and to let Soyoung know so she can update the files. We will send the list of questions to be asked when we provide you with the contact information.

We awarded research funds to two new LIFE Scholars. **Nadjalisse Reynolds-Lallement** will be examining age-related differences in spatial memory formation and neural activations in a new virtual Morris water maze task. Her mentor is **Dr. Kathy Magnusson**. **Rachel Kim's** project is entitled, "The Effect of Light on Expression of Stress Responsive Genes During Aging." Her mentor is **Dr. Jaga Giebultowicz**. Congratulations to you both!

Finally, we plan to hold our annual CHAR retreat early next year in mid-October. We will send around a "hold the date" card shortly.

Dr. Urszula Iwaniec to be Director of the Musculoskeletal Core

Dr. Urszula Iwaniec is an Associate Professor in Nutrition. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Anthropology, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Osteoporosis Research Center at Creighton University. Dr. Iwaniec has expertise in the analysis of bone mass, architecture, and turnover using μ CT and histomorphometry. Her current research focuses on the neuroendocrine regulation of body weight and bone, with special emphasis on the hormone leptin, and the dose, gender and age effects of alcohol consumption on bone. A most exciting finding is that alcohol may impair bone density in young women, but appears to be protective for older women's bones. Her recent work using genetic models, gene therapy, and bone marrow transplantation supports the role of leptin, acting peripherally, as an essential factor for normal bone growth and turnover. These studies have also identified thermoregulation as playing an important role in regulating bone balance. We look forward to working very closely with her in her new role!



IGERT- Final Year

The Integrative Graduate Education Research and Training (IGERT) in Aging Sciences Program has completed its sixth and final year on the NSF training grant. The Program Director, **Dr. Karen Hooker**, held a final celebration to acknowledge all the wonderful people that have been involved in the program, and what the program has meant to so many students. Thanks so much to Karen and **Drs. Tory Hagen, Mike Pavol, and Ron Metoyer** for all their hard work on the program! That training program is no longer available, but we have been actively investigating other possibilities.



Final Cohort Group for 2016

Asia Thogmartin; Ann Julian; Melissa McDougall; Karen Hooker; Dani Long; Liz McDermott

CHAR FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

The CHAR faculty are a truly outstanding group of scholars. We don't have enough space to detail all of their achievements, but just wanted to provide some highlights below.

Dr. Karen Hooker published a book last year, and had an important invited article in *Research in Human Development*. She was also chair and invited speaker for a symposium at the American Psychological Society.

Diehl, M., **Hooker, K.**, & Sliwinski, M. J. (Eds.), (2015). *Handbook of intraindividual variability across the life span*. New York: NY: Routledge/Taylor Press.

Hooker, K. (May, 2016). Chair and Invited Speaker for Invited Symposium, *Defined by Change: The Intraindividual Variability Approach to Studying Individual Differences (Personality/Emotion section)*. Presented at the 28th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.

Hooker, K. (2015). Towards a new synthesis for development in adulthood. *Research in Human Development*, 12, 229 - 236.

Dr. Juyun Lim and his graduate student, **Tyler Flaherty**, had an article that was cited by the media over 95 times!

Flaherty, TJ and **Lim J.** (2016). Individual differences in retronasal odor responsiveness: effects of aging and concurrent taste. *Chemosensory Perception*

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12078-016-9206-2>

Drs. **Rob Stawski** and **Michelle Odden** and their graduate student, **Chenkai Wu**, also had a study which generated a great deal of media attention:

Wu, C., Stawski, R. S., Odden, M., & Fisher, G. G. (2015). Association between retirement timing and mortality among older adults in the United States: A longitudinal study. *Gerontologist*, 55, 336-336.

Dr. **Rick Settersten** published what promises to be a very influential book, and also had the lead-off article in a special issue of *The Gerontologist* on aging veterans.

Bengtson, V. L., & Settersten, R. A., Jr. (2016). *Handbook of theories of aging* (3rd edition). New York: Springer Publishing. <http://www.springerpub.com/handbook-of-theories-of-aging-3-e.html>

Spiro, A. III, Settersten, R. A., & Aldwin, C. M. (2016). Long-term outcomes of military service: A positive re-envisioning of its place in aging and the life course. *The Gerontologist*. 56, 5-13. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnv093

If you would like your work to be listed in the next newsletter, please do send information to me about grants, books, significant publications, honors, awards, etc., to Carolyn.Aldwin@oregonstate.edu.

Have a Happy and Productive Summer!!