

## Special Presentation:

## Paul Crissey Scholarship Award for Outstanding Research: This Year's Winner

*Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD, MSSW, is an Associate Research Specialist and Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare. Her current research is focused on linking child-level records across administrative data sources to improve the surveillance of child maltreatment within a public health framework. For her dissertation, filed in December 2010, Emily constructed a longitudinal dataset consisting of birth, child welfare, and death records from California. Emily's analysis of this dataset provides insights as to where scarce child welfare resources may be most effectively targeted and informs an understanding of maltreated children within a broader, population-level context. Her dissertation was funded by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Fahs-Beck Foundation, and the Center for Child and Youth Policy. Before pursuing her PhD, Emily worked as a child welfare caseworker in New York City. Emily graduated from Yale University with a BA in Psychology, received her MSW from Columbia University, and earned her PhD in Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley.*

### Research Summary—

This year's Paul Crissey award for outstanding research in the field of child maltreatment was awarded to Emily Putnam-Hornstein for research arising from her dissertation: *Do "Accidents" Happen? An Examination of Injury Mortality Among Children Reported for Maltreatment*. This dissertation research was based on a unique dataset constructed by probabilistically linking records across three independent sources of California data: 1) vital birth records, 2) administrative child protective service records, and 3) vital death records. The final dataset captures 4.3 million children born in California between 1999 and 2006 and includes maltreatment allegation information for over 500,000 children who were reported to child protective services (CPS), as well as death reports on 2,000 children who were fatally injured before age five.

This study represents the most rigorous longitudinal analysis of mortality outcomes following a report to CPS to date, with several key findings emerging. First, these data indicate that a prior non-fatal report of maltreatment is the single strongest predictor of injury death during the

first five years of life. Children reported for maltreatment died from accidental injuries at twice the rate of their unreported, demographically similar peers, and from intentional injuries at five times the rate. This finding underscores that a child's report to CPS is not random, nor is it simply a function of poverty. Rather, a report to CPS signals a level of risk, including a risk of death, that is greater than sociodemographic factors would alone predict.

A second and related finding to emerge is that children whose report of maltreatment was screened out over the phone without an in-person CPS investigation died of injuries at twice the rate of children who had never been reported, after adjusting for other risk factors. The decision to screen these children out without an investigation, under the logic that these children are at no greater risk of harm than other demographically similar children, is not supported by the empirical evidence generated from this study. Finally, these data highlight that although there has been a recent emphasis on the unmet service needs of children reported for neglect, it is young children reported for physical abuse who face the great-

est risk of death. Children with a prior allegation of physical abuse died from injuries at rates that were significantly higher than children reported for reasons of sexual abuse, neglect, or other forms of maltreatment. Given that physical abuse allegations represent a minority of reports received by CPS, these data suggest that a different protocol for investigating and monitoring cases in which physical abuse is alleged may be justified.

**Author's Note:** *Published findings from this dissertation research will be forthcoming over the next several months. Ongoing support for this and other research arising from The California Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project is generously provided by the California Department of Social Services and the Stuart Foundation.*



## APSAC TO HOST ITS 19TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM THIS JULY IN PHILADELPHIA

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) will host its Annual Colloquium, July 13-16, 2011, at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. APSAC's Annual Colloquium is a major source of education and research for professionals in the field of child maltreatment, including: mental health, medicine and nursing, law, law enforcement, education, prevention, research, child protective services, advocacy and related fields.

APSAC's Colloquium offers nearly 100 institutes and workshops which address all aspects of child maltreatment, including prevention, assessment, intervention and treatment with victims, perpetrators and families affected by physical, sexual and psychological abuse and neglect. Cultural considerations will also be addressed. The educational goal of APSAC's Colloquium is to foster professional excellence in the field of child maltreatment by providing interdisciplinary professional education.

The Colloquium is divided into tracks that focus on specific topics. Several pre-conference institutes are also available. Participants may earn Continuing Education Credits, sponsored by The Institute for Continuing Education, through their participation.

Conference details and registration are available on the APSAC web site, [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org), or by calling APSAC's office at 877.402.7722.

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children is the leading national organization supporting professionals who serve children and families affected by child maltreatment and violence. As a multidisciplinary group of professions, APSAC achieves its mission in a number of ways, most notably through expert training and educational activities, policy leadership and collaboration, and consultation that emphasizes theoretically sound, evidence-based principles. APSAC envisions a world where all maltreated or at-risk children and their families have access to the highest level of professional commitment and service.

For more information on APSAC, visit [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org). Or, contact APSAC, 350 Poplar Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Phone toll-free 877.402.7722. E-mail [apsac@apsac.org](mailto:apsac@apsac.org).

CAPSAC is online: Check us out at [www.capsac4kids.org](http://www.capsac4kids.org)



*The Consultant* is edited by Carl Lewis, CAPSAC Vice President. Article submissions are appreciated and can be sent to [Carl@CarlLewisConsulting.org](mailto:Carl@CarlLewisConsulting.org)

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## CAPSAC

CAPSAC is a multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to assuring a sensitive and effective response to child abuse in California.

CAPSAC is the California Chapter of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (AP-SAC). The society serves vital roles as a training and consultation resource for issues pertaining to all forms of child maltreatment.

CAPSAC membership is open to all professionals working in disciplines that are directly concerned with the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

A membership in APSAC automatically includes a CAPSAC membership. An associate member of CAPSAC belongs only to the California Chapter.

### CAPSAC Committees

Amicus Curiae Committee  
Clergy Committee  
Education & Training Committee  
Los Angeles Area Committee  
Membership Committee  
Newsletter Committee  
Nominations Committee  
Northern California Committee  
Paul Crissy Research Awards and Scholarship Committee

### PURPOSE

The aims and purposes of CAPSAC are as follows:

- To encourage and promote multidisciplinary professional education on topics of relevance to the problem of child abuse and neglect;
- To promote improved standards for the prevention, identification, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect;
- To promote accurate, effective, appropriate identification, intervention and treatment of abused and neglected children, their families, adults abused as children, and offending individuals;
- To promote forums and other mechanisms for the exchange of information among professionals working within the fields of child abuse and neglect prevention, identification, intervention,

treatment and research;

- To promote research on the problem of child abuse and neglect, particularly in the areas of prevention, identification, intervention and treatment;
- To serve as a representational forum within which the needs and concerns of professionals from various disciplines address the problem of child abuse and neglect so they can be articulated at the state and national level; and
- To promote the effectiveness and well-being of professionals working with abused and neglected children, their families, adults abused as children, and perpetrators.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- The Consultant Newsletter
- Discounts on seminars and conferences
- Listing in the membership directory
- Networking with peers
- Professional recognition
- Opportunities to participate on the CAPSAC committees and policy development task forces
- A chance to participate with leaders in our field in shaping the future of child welfare policies, priorities, and services

### 2010-2011 Board of Directors

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### CAPSAC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

APSAC Associate Membership classification is for professionals who are not also members of APSAC. Although we encourage membership in APSAC, CAPSAC provides this unique benefit for those professionals in California who do not choose to join APSAC.

### Associate CAPSAC membership benefits include:

- A statewide network of interdisciplinary colleagues;
- An opportunity to participate in CAPSAC committees including, Amicus/Legislation, Clergy, Membership, Scholarships and Training;
- A quarterly newsletter and bulletins specific to child abuse issues in California;
- Discounts on CAPSAC trainings and professional development seminars.

## CAPSAC

California Professional Society  
on the Abuse of Children

An independent affiliate of the  
American Professional Society  
on the Abuse of Children

*Working together, professionals entrusted with the care and protection of children can make a difference*

*Join us in shaping the future!*

# California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

An Independent Affiliate of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

## CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION FORM for CAPSAC Board of Directors

NAME AND DEGREE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISCIPLINE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (W) \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION/TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPERIENCE: YEARS IN FIELD \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS IN CAPSAC \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAPSAC:

\_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE (for the past five years only). Start with the present or most recent experience. List any activities, offices held, or committee work done in the field of child abuse at the local, state, or national levels.

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

National: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, CREDENTIALS, AND LICENSES: \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE'S AREA(S) OF SPECIALTY: (circle no more than 5)

Criminal investigation    Child victims    Neglect    Psychosocial evaluation & treatment

Non-offending parents    Perpetrators    Case management    Medical evaluation & treatment

Program administration    Sexual abuse    Criminal law    Physical abuse

Psychological maltreatment    Adult survivors    Research policy    Child care licensing

Families    CPS investigation    Child abuse    Children's residential licensing

Prevention    Child abuse fatalities    Civil law    Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT OF INTEREST: Write a brief (250 words or less) statement indicating what personal attributes and expertise you would bring to this position. Please be sure to state the directions in which you would like to help CAPSAC grow. Please enclose your resume or curriculum vitae with your completed form and your statement of interest.

eMail completed application to: CAPSAC-Application Committee: [info@CAPSAC4kids.org](mailto:info@CAPSAC4kids.org)