2016 Project L/EARN mentor biographies

**Dr. Deborah Carr** (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is Professor of Sociology and a faculty member at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research. Her research focuses on aging and the life course. She investigates the ways that family roles and relationships in later life, including widowhood, divorce and marital strain, affect mental health. She also investigates the ways that older adults prepare for end-of-life medical decision making. She also studies the ways that body weight affects psychological (e.g., depressive symptoms, psychological well-being), interpersonal (e.g., family relationships, sexual relations), and social (e.g., institutional and interpersonal discrimination) experiences.

**Dr. Shawna Hudson** (PhD, Rutgers University), is a medical sociologist, Associate Professor and the Research Division Chief for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She studies organizational factors in primary care settings that facilitate increased use of evidence based care practices and interventions to enhance preventive health care seeking behaviors of patients. Currently, she is focused on cancer screening and cancer survivorship. Her research funded by the National Cancer Institute explores new and long-term adult cancer survivors’ extended follow-up care seeking patterns. She is interested in survivors' motivation and decision making in regards to seeking cancer follow-up care and she explores their preferences for care delivery from cancer and cancer-related specialists versus primary care physicians.

**Dr. Manuel Jimenez** (MD, MS, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School) is Assistant Professor and Chancellor's Scholar Departments of Pediatrics & Family Medicine and Community Health, and Director of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Education at the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. His work focuses on promoting optimal child development for vulnerable young children and making the health system more responsive to their needs. He has ongoing studies using data from a large urban birth cohort to understand associations between adverse childhood experiences and developmental and behavioral outcomes.

**Dr. Teresa Leyro** (PhD, University of Vermont) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, and the director of the Affective and Biological Underpinnings of Substance use and Anxiety (ABUSA) lab. Her research seeks to identify underlying cognitive-affective and biological risk for co-occurring anxiety and substance use, with a focus on cigarette smoking/nicotine dependence. One current project explores the prevalence, motivations, and correlates of e-cigarette use and co-use with other substances (e.g., cannabis and alcohol). A second project examines the associations among psychopathological functioning, distress tolerance and psychosocial functioning.

**Dr. Dawne M. Mouzon** (MPH, UMDNJ; MA, PhD, Rutgers University) is an Assistant Professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and a core faculty member at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research. Having earned degrees in Psychology and Africana Studies (undergraduate), public health/epidemiology (master’s degree), and sociology (master’s degree and Ph.D.), her work remains largely interdisciplinary. Dr. Mouzon’s early work focused on the Black-White paradox in mental health, or the unexpected finding that Blacks generally exhibit better mental health outcomes than Whites despite their lower socioeconomic standing and greater exposure to discrimination. Her current research interests involve social-structural barriers to Black family formation and the physical, emotional, social, and financial well-being of African Americans who are aging alone. She is also engaged in a series of papers examining the role of racial discrimination on physical and mental health outcomes among African Americans and Black Caribbeans.
Dr. Julie Phillips (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania) is a sociologist and demographer. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research. Her research interests include the causes and consequences of various forms of social inequality in the United States, focusing on outcomes such as violent crime, suicide, marital disruption, migration, and health-related outcomes. Dr. Phillips' current research projects examine different aspects of suicide - a major mental health problem within the U.S. population. Among the research questions being explored are how and why patterns of suicide rates vary across place and time, and explanations for differing rates of suicide across age, sex and race groups. For example, with funding from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, she is studying the surge since the late 1990s in suicide rates among Baby Boomers. She has also conducted a study exploring racial and ethnic differences in suicidal behavior among young adults.

Dr. Kathleen Pottick (Ph.D., Michigan) is a social psychologist and social worker. She is a Professor at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. Her current work focuses on adolescents with mental health problems. Her co-authored book, The Parents' Perspective: Delinquency, Aggression, and Mental Health (1995), is an analysis of disadvantaged inner-city adolescents receiving outpatient mental health services in Newark, New Jersey. She is directing several research studies that aim to understand the patterns of mental health services to children and adolescents, and youths with conduct disorders in the United States. She is particularly interested in understanding disparities in how mental health services are delivered to our nation's youth. Dr. Pottick has a special focus on the most vulnerable youths--poor, minority, and most seriously ill.

Dr. Edward A. Selby (Ph.D., The Florida State University) is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University. He is a clinical psychologist who specializes in the research and treatment of suicidal and self-injurious behavior, personality disorders, and eating disorders. A major focus of his research on these disorders involves emotion dysregulation and the use of self-sabotaging behaviors, such as binging and purging, self-injury, and aggressive behavior to distract from upsetting emotions. Dr. Selby’s lab uses various methodologies including experimental and psychophysiological procedures, experience sampling with smartphone applications, and longitudinal assessment. Potential projects working with Dr. Selby include examining various emotion dysregulation processes, such as emotional reactivity and low emotional clarity, and relations between suicidal behavior, self-injury, eating disorders and borderline personality disorder.

Dr. Jennifer Tsui (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) is Assistant Professor in the Division of Population Science at the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. She has a background in epidemiology and health services research. Her research focuses on access to cancer care services, quality of care, and cancer outcomes among underserved populations. She is particularly interested in examining cancer-related disparities from a multilevel and health systems perspective. She is currently leading studies to examine disparities in cancer incidence and patterns of care among low-income, racial/ethnic minority and Medicaid insured populations in New Jersey.