**Director’s Letter**

Looking back on the past year in the PAD lab, we have seen much growth in our participants as well as in our lab. With a recent funding award from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, our two main studies, CPAC and CPBS, have both expanded to look at the biological basis of personality and behaviour. We would like to thank the hundreds of returning parents, children and teens who continue to volunteer their time with us year after year. We also want to welcome the many new families who have joined our studies this year. We have welcomed three new graduate students to our lab, a visiting Ph.D. student from Nankai University, China, and many undergraduate students without whom our research would not be possible. Many of these students have presented their work at various research conferences across North America, including the Canadian Psychological Association’s annual convention which took place in Toronto this June. Finally, we happily announce our newest lab member: Dr. Tackett’s baby boy Jarrett who was born this June. We hope you enjoy participating in our studies and reading about how your valuable participation has contributed to our ongoing research. Thank you for your continued interest in our studies!

**Interesting Websites!**

- **Child Study Centre:**
  [http://psych.utoronto.ca/users/csc/index.html](http://psych.utoronto.ca/users/csc/index.html)

- **EcoKidsCanada:**
  [www.ecokids.ca/pub/kids_home.cfm](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/kids_home.cfm)

- **Complete Children’s Resource Directory:**
  [http://www.helpwevegotkids.com/toronto-childrens-resources.html](http://www.helpwevegotkids.com/toronto-childrens-resources.html)

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**Childhood Personality Across Cultures Study**

The Childhood Personality Across Cultures (CPAC) study looks at how personality traits relate to behavior in children. As part of our CPAC study, we have received questionnaires from over 700 families and collected data from over 900 children and their families. The initial purpose of this study was to validate a new measure of personality. We are now using this data to examine, in depth, the relationship between personality and behaviors. From the success of this first study, we have now launched a follow-up project that invites adolescents to participate in our lab by completing a number of different tasks and questionnaires that measure personality, behaviour and even hormone levels! The objective is to look at how the relationship between personality and behaviour develops across time and to investigate how hormones may interact with this relationship. So far, over 70 teens have participated in this follow-up study and we are looking forward to meeting more and more people as this study progresses! Finally, we would like to thank wholeheartedly all of the amazing families who have given their time to participate in our studies over the years, and who have greatly assisted us in our pursuit of better understanding personality, behaviour and development.
We are currently winding down the second follow-up of CPBS, as part of which we invite families to the PAD lab to ask them some questions about their child’s personality and behaviors. Children are also invited to play some fun interactive games designed to reflect their personalities. Thank you to all the families who have visited the PAD lab as part of this study! 259 families who have been participating in CPBS since its beginning have already participated in the second follow-up and 87 families have just begun participating in CPBS at this stage! Our research team is working hard through the summer to wrap up data collection. So, if you have not yet participated in CPBS at this stage, we would love to hear from you. Additionally, we are accepting new participants into the study at this stage. So if you know of any families with children aged 11 to 12 who would like to participate, please contact us!

As a sub-project of CPBS, this current study at the PAD lab is designed to look at how different situations bring out different aspects of a child’s personality, and how the characteristics of a situation itself elicits individualized responses from children. To get a more accurate assessment and comprehensive understanding of children's personality, we cannot overlook the role of situational information when studying personality. Our primary analysis has found that: (1) Generally, various lab-based situations differentially evoke children’s expressions of certain aspects of personality; for example, children are more likely to express alertness in situations that require completing analytical tasks and to express their thoughts and ideas in situations that require using imagination. (2) Individually, each child displayed their own unique personality across various situations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and children who participated in the CPBS study, as they are the ones who have made this study possible.

The third follow-up phase of CPBS is entering its second year, and we are thrilled with its progress! In this phase of the study, we are collecting questionnaires from child participants and their parents by mail. These questionnaires focus on how children’s personalities are related to social success and the development of common personality problems over time. At present, we have had a great response to this wave of the study and have already received completed packages from 165 parents and 162 youths. We are also very excited to have recently added a supplementary saliva collection to our study, which will allow us to examine the genetic underpinnings of personality.

Each family participating in CPBS is extremely valuable to us as they allow us to examine differences across youths in the developmental relationship between personality and other behaviours. If you have not yet participated in this stage of CPBS, we would love to hear from you!

For more information on any of our studies, check out our website:
http://web.psych.utoronto.ca/tackettlab

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