It is time to reflect on another busy year in the P.A.D. lab and look forward to new things coming up. The two major projects we've been working on, the CPBS and CPAC studies, continue to make huge advances. We have spent a lot of time this year getting ready for the 2nd lab visit for our CPBS participants, two years after the first visit with us. It has been really amazing to start bringing people back in and we can't wait to see how much personality growth has occurred in only a couple of years. Our many CPAC participants allow us to see growth from a different angle, as we learn about personalities in kids as young as 3 all the way to teenagers who are 18! Our students have been busy presenting research results across North America on their projects in the lab and have been doing a great job. We will have a new graduate student joining our lab in the fall as well. I have been busy working on a collaboration that will compare personality in our Canadian children with personality in children from the USA, Greece, China and Russia. Stay tuned for the results of this international project! As always, thanks to everyone for your continued support and participation in our research. It is absolutely amazing to watch personalities develop, and we couldn't do it without you!

Prof. Jennifer L. Tackett

In the Child Personality and Behavioral Outcomes Study (CPBS), we are studying how individual differences in personality traits are related to behaviour from middle childhood through adolescence. Thanks to all of the families who have visited the PAD lab; we finished with over 350 families in our intake group!

Here are some interesting results from our CPBS participants. In this study, we asked for information from both mothers and fathers about their children’s personality. In this graph, the y-axis shows the amount of agreement between the parents for different traits, where 1 indicates perfect agreement and 0 means no agreement. Overall, the parents in our study show high agreement in the way they perceive their child’s personality!
CPBS FOLLOW UP 1

At the one year anniversary of your first visit to the PAD lab we are contacting CPBS families for a 1-year follow-up. For the follow up, we are asking parents to fill out some questionnaires about their child’s personality and events that have occurred since your first visit to the PAD lab.

CPBS FOLLOW UP 2

We have just started the third round of testing for the CPBS study. For our 2-year follow-up, we are contacting all of the families who participated in the first round of the CPBS project and asking them to come to the PAD lab again to participate in activities similar to their first visit. Follow up 2 involves a combination of questionnaires, interviews, and interactive activities taking place at the PAD Lab. We are also looking for new families to participate in the study. If you know of any families with children ages 11-12 years who may be interested in participating, please let us know!

This project was conducted by Vivien Wong, an honour’s thesis student in the PAD lab. Vivien examined personality traits in middle childhood that predict children’s motivation to succeed. We looked at social and academic competence through parent reports and children’s behaviours during spelling and math activities. It was found that children with high conscientiousness and high emotional stability are more motivated to succeed. However, emotional stability plays different roles in academic and social competence. Children with high conscientiousness may be less motivated to succeed in social but not academic domains if they are also low in emotional stability. Vivien’s project was awarded the Best Poster Presentation in Personality at the Ontario Undergraduate Thesis Conference. Congratulations, Vivien!

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION STUDY

CHILDHOOD PERSONALITY ACROSS CULTURES (CPAC) STUDY

In the CPAC study, we are validating English translations of two personality questionnaires that were originally developed in Dutch by researchers in Belgium. The study takes approximately one hour and can be completed from home. Participants complete a number of questionnaires measuring personality, temperament and behaviour that they receive by mail and are compensated with a $10 gift card. Parents of children between the ages of 3 and 18, as well as youths from ages 11 to 18 are eligible to participate and receive their own gift card. So far, we have questionnaires from 177 parents and 288 youth and are continuing to recruit new participants for the study. Thanks to everyone who has participated so far!

PERSONALITY AND VALUES ACROSS CULTURES STUDY

The goal of this study is to investigate whether or not cross-cultural differences in value systems are associated with differences in personality traits. Participants in this study are undergraduate psychology students at the University of Toronto. So far, we have collected data from 260 participants. Our preliminary results indicate that people from the same ethnic background may not subscribe to similar value systems, which suggests that it may not be meaningful to conduct culture-level comparisons of personality profiles. Instead, values such as self-direction and conformity may be more important in understanding differences across groups.