

# January 2015 TORC Digest

You are receiving this email because of your affiliation with the Texas Obesity Research Center (TORC) at the University of Houston.

## 1. Notes from the Interim Director

### 2. Headline Science & News

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## 1. Notes from the Interim Director

Search for permanent TORC Director & full Professor of Health and Human Performance For more information see <http://www.uh.edu/provost/fac/faculty-openings/hhp28/index.php> or contact Dr. Dan O'Connor at [dpoconno@central.uh.edu](mailto:dpoconno@central.uh.edu), 713-743-2377.

## 2. Headline Science & News

*TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux produces video for parents of preschoolers*

TORC affiliate Dr. Tracey Ledoux produced a video titled *Happier Meals: A Dietitian's Tips for Parents of Young Children*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUwf3GEVcrc>

*TORC Faculty Dr. Qian Lu is mentioned in UH News for receiving a \$1.5 million grant for cancer study*

Dr. Qian Lu is mentioned in the UH News article "UH Cancer Study Receives \$1.5 Million Grant from NIH," for the grant she received and how she plans to use it. <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2014/November/112014LucancerstudyNIHgrant.php>

*TORC Interns Angelina Beitzel, Yanely Alonso, and Misch Chishty received the PURS scholarship*

TORC interns Angelina Beitzel, Yanely Alonso, and Misha Chishty for being awarded the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship!

*TORC Faculty Dr. Stacey Gorniak was interviewed by NPR*

Dr. Stacey Gorniak was interviewed by NPR on the effects of diabetes on motor skills. To listen to the interview visit: <http://www.houstonmatters.org/segments/segment-c/2014/12/08/study-examines-the-effects-of-diabetes-on-motor-skills>

*TORC Faculty Dr. Jodi Berger Cardoso is mentioned in UH News for her expertise on immigration*

Dr. Jodi Berger Cardoso is mentioned in the UH News article "UH Experts Available to Discuss President's Executive Order on Immigration" for her research on interventions for cultural stressors in Latino immigrant populations. <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/1120Immigration.php>

*TORC Faculty Dr. Lowder is mentioned in UH News for his research with a rare lung disease*

TORC faculty Dr. Lowder was featured in UH News for his research on a rare lung disease called lymphangioleiomyomatosis. <http://www.uh.edu/class/hhp/news-and-events/news-archives/2014/14-lowder-uh-news.php>

*Dr. Charles Layne recognized with Houston Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Bluebonnet Award*

Dr. Charles Layne was awarded the Bluebonnet award by the Houston Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, recognizing his contribution to nutrition and dietetics as a non-dietitian.

<http://www.uh.edu/class/hhp/news-and-events/news-archives/2014/14-HAND-awards.php>

## 3. Recent Publications

*Social support mediated the association of health literacy and depression among racially/ethnically diverse smoker with low socioeconomic status*

Dr. Reitzel and colleagues published "Social support mediated the association of health literacy and depression among racially/ethnically diverse smokers with low socioeconomic status" in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25391450>

*Cognitive performance and BMI in childhood: Shared genetic influences between reaction time but not response inhibition*

TORC Affiliate Dr. Teresia O'Connor and colleagues published "Cognitive performance and BMI in childhood: Shared genetic influences between reaction time but not response inhibition" in *Obesity*. They evaluated whether shared genetic influences can explain the association between obesity and cognitive performance. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25376398>

*Social support and cardiovascular risk factors among black adults*

TORC Faculty Drs. Daphne Hernandez, Lorraine Reitzel, and colleagues published "Social support and cardiovascular risk factors among black adults" in *Ethnicity & Disease*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25417427>

*Outcomes of staged bilateral reverse shoulder arthroplasties for rotator cuff tear arthropathy*

Dr. Daniel O'Connor and colleagues published "Outcomes of staged bilateral reverse shoulder arthroplasties for rotator cuff tear arthropathy" in *Journal of Shoulder and elbow surgery*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25441561>

*Subjective Social Status and Readiness to Quit among Homeless Smokers*

TORC Affiliate Dr. Lorraine Reitzel and colleagues published the article "Subjective Social Status and Readiness to Quit among Homeless Smokers" in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*. They examined how Subjective Social Status was a predictor of readiness to quit and its role as a factor in smoking, disease and health disparities. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25564827>

*The impact of cumulative family risks on various levels of food insecurity*

TORC affiliate Dr. Daphne Hernandez published the article "The impact of cumulative family risks on various levels of food insecurity" in *Social Science Research*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25592937>

*Does social support mediate the relationship among neighborhood disadvantage, incivilities, crime and physical activity?*

Graduate Student Erica Soltero and TORC affiliates Drs. Daphne Hernandez, Daniel O'Connor and Rebecca Lee published the article "Does social support mediate the relationship among neighborhood disadvantage, incivilities, crime and physical activity?" in *Preventive Medicine*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25562756>

#### **4. Opportunities**

*UH Department of Health and Human Performance seeks Assistant Professor of Nutrition/Obesity Studies*

The Department of Health and Human Performance at the University of Houston is seeking a nutrition/obesity studies specialist (broadly defined) with demonstrable academic skills for an Assistant Professor position. Applicants are sought who can both complement and expand existing research capabilities within the department's expertise, as well as applicants who can collaborate with individuals across the University's departments, colleges, and centers, such as the Texas Obesity Research Center. In addition, the successful candidate will demonstrate potential to engage in cooperative research projects with other social-behavioral scientists, and with medical, community and governmental agencies located in Houston and nationally. The successful candidate is expected to develop and maintain a

vigorous scholarly research program that will foster acquisition of external funding, generate high-quality research publications and enhance graduate student recruitment and training. Additional responsibilities include teaching graduate and/or undergraduate courses in nutrition or obesity studies (broadly defined), and perform service to the department, college, university and the profession. Please visit the University of Houston faculty openings for more details: <http://www.uh.edu/provost/faculty-resources/faculty-openings/>

*TORC helping to develop a weight management program for women with disabilities*

TORC executive committee member Dr. Tracey Ledoux and TORC faculty Dr. Margaret Nosek from Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Research on Women with Disabilities are developing a **weight management program for women with mobility impairments** that will be conducted in the virtual world of Second Life. Eligible women will participate in a 16-session weekly weight loss group online in Second Life. Those who complete the study will be offered a small payment for their participation. Recruitment is starting now! To find out more about the **GoWoman Weight Loss Research Study**, contact Stephanie Silveira at [slsilvei@Central.UH.edu](mailto:slsilvei@Central.UH.edu) or 713-734-9310 and please visit: [http://www.uh.edu/torc/projects\\_programs/](http://www.uh.edu/torc/projects_programs/)

*TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux seeking parents with toddlers for a healthy eating habit study*

**Little Foodies** is a feasibility study for a parent focused approach to developing healthy eating behaviors among toddlers. This parent focused group consists of 6 weekly 90 minute classes at UH covering topics such as dealing with picky eating, managing table manner issues, and coping with food refusal. Those who complete the study will be offered a small payment for their participation. For more information, contact Tracey Ledoux, PhD, RD at [TALedoux@uh.edu](mailto:TALedoux@uh.edu) or (713) 743-1870 and please visit: [http://www.uh.edu/torc/projects\\_programs/](http://www.uh.edu/torc/projects_programs/)

*Seeking diabetic and non-diabetic study participants for a project on cognitive-motor function and diabetes*

Faculty member Dr. Stacey Gorniak is seeking adults between the ages of 30 and 90 to participate in a study on the effects of diabetes on cognitive and motor functions. She is looking for participants that either have (1) a current diagnosis of Type II Diabetes or (2) no health history of diabetes or related complications. Both groups (diabetic and non-diabetic) are needed to complete the study. Participants will receive a \$60 gift card to Walmart for completing the study. For more information, please contact Dr. Gorniak ([sgorniak@uh.edu](mailto:sgorniak@uh.edu)) via email or by phone at 713-743-4802.

*Seeking diabetic and non-diabetic study participants for a project on sensori-motor function and diabetes*

Faculty member Dr. Stacey Gorniak is seeking adults between the ages of 21 and 90 to participate in a study on the effects of diabetes on sensory and motor functions. She is looking for participants that either have (1) a current diagnosis of Type II Diabetes or (2) no health history of diabetes or related complications. Both groups (diabetic and non-diabetic) are needed to complete the study. This study will test hand function during different tests during conditions of daily life and after administration of a local anesthetic. Participants will receive a \$60 gift card to Walmart for completing the study. For more information, please contact Dr. Gorniak ([sgorniak@uh.edu](mailto:sgorniak@uh.edu)) via email or by phone at 713-743-4802.

*Seeking African American study participants for a mind-body relaxation and stretching program*

The Harmony & Health study at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is seeking African American men and women to participate in a mind-body relaxation and stretching program. Participants will be compensated for their time and free parking is available. Space is limited, so call today! For more information, please contact the Harmony & Health study at [healthyhabitsstudy@mdanderson.org](mailto:healthyhabitsstudy@mdanderson.org) or call 713-745-9962.

## Are You Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Queer?

The University of Houston Needs Volunteers for a Research Study on Health

### *Who can participate?*

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer (LGBQ) adults, trans adults who identify as LGBQ, or individuals of other sexual minority identities
- Adults aged 18 or older
- Those not currently pregnant or breastfeeding

### *Incentives for volunteering include:*

- Up to \$80 in Target gift cards



### *What does the study entail?*

- 2 visits to The University of Houston
- Computer administrated questionnaires
- Collection of 6 saliva samples
- GPS monitoring for approximately 7 days

If you would like to participate, please call: **713-743-6444**

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

- Dr. Nathan G. Smith, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Houston, (713) 743-7648 or [ngsmith@uh.edu](mailto:ngsmith@uh.edu)
- Dr. Lorraine R. Reitzel, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Houston, (713) 743-6444 or [lreitzel@uh.edu](mailto:lreitzel@uh.edu)

This project has been reviewed by the University of Houston Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (713) 743-9204.

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"Like" the Texas Obesity Research Center on Facebook. The TORC Facebook page is a great way to stay updated and informed, so become a fan today! <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Texas-Obesity-Research-Center/104405639183?v=wall&ref=ts>

If you would like to include your event or other information in this Digest, please send an e-mail to [torc@uh.edu](mailto:torc@uh.edu) by the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the preceding month.

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