

TORC DIGEST

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

TEXAS OBESITY RESEARCH CENTER

June/ July 2015

Notes from the Interim Director

The investigators, students, and community partners of TORC have been very busy these months, as you can see, and we anticipate the summer to be very active as well. TORC continues to grow and expand, and we have some big events and activities planned for the fall, to be announced in the next couple of Digests. My best wishes to everyone for a safe and healthy summer! –Dr. Dan O’Connor

Headline Science & News

TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux named Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Congratulations to TORC faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux for being named a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognizing Dr. Ledoux’s dedication to the dietetics profession and to the health of the nation.



Dr. Tracey Ledoux

TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux receives prestigious teaching award

HHP faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux has won the Ross M. Lence Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at UH. The CLASS Teaching Excellence awards are given annually to faculty members who distinguish themselves by their contributions in research, teaching, service and leadership.

TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux receives E. Kika De La Garza Science Fellowship

TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux was selected for the E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program awarded by the Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program in the US Department of Agriculture. Dr. Ledoux will spend time gaining a better understanding of the opportunities for collaboration with the USDA in an effort to provide Hispanic-Americans with education and workplace opportunities.

Excellence in Undergraduate Studies- Nutrition

TORC student Yanelly Alonso received the Outstanding Nutrition Student of the Year award recognizing her excellence in nutrition studies.



Yanelly Alonso

Community Voice Project with the Houston Food Bank

TORC partnered with the Houston Food Bank this semester for the Community Voice Project. TORC interns were on hand to interview food bank clients in order to capture the life of people

who are food insecure and to give them a voice. Throughout the semester, 95 hours were dedicated to conducting over 60 interviews in 9 food distribution sites. This project allows HBF to examine the multifaceted nature of food insecurity, poverty and hunger, as well as understand the varying experiences of food bank clients.

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Congratulations to TORC student Cheryl Woolf for being selected for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Cheryl will be working with TORC faculty Dr. Daphne Hernandez assessing how social services such as job connections and education offered at food pantries around the Houston area impact those struggling with unemployment.



Cheryl Woolf

Provost Undergraduate Research Scholarship

Congratulations to TORC students Jessica Robinson and Taylor Moree for receiving the Provost's Undergraduate Research Scholarship for Fall 2015. Jessica will be working with TORC faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux examining the relationship between intuitive eating and gestational weight gain. Taylor will be working with Dr. Daphne Hernandez assessing whether seasonal weight gain discrepancies exist based on sociodemographic characteristics in elementary school children.



Jessica Robinson



Taylor Moree

Recent Publications

Effects of aging and tactile stochastic resonance on postural performance and postural control in a sensory conflict task

TORC faculty Dr. Charles Layne and colleagues published “Effects of aging and tactile stochastic resonance on postural performance and postural control in a sensory conflict task” in *Somatosensory & Motor Research*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25884289>

Preoperative opioid use and outcomes after reverse shoulder arthroplasty

TORC faculty Dr. Mitzi Laughlin and colleagues published “Preoperative opioid use and outcomes after reverse shoulder arthroplasty” in the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25037063>

Financial strain and smoking cessation among men and women within a self-guided quit attempt

TORC faculty Dr. Lorraine Reitzel and colleagues published “Financial strain and smoking cessation among men and women within a self-guided quit attempt” in *Addictive Behaviors*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25879712>

Effects of children's self-regulation of eating on parental feeding practices and child weight

TORC faculty Drs. Tracey Ledoux and Daniel O’Connor with PhD students Matthew Cross and Allen Hallett published “Effects of children's self-regulation of eating on parental feeding practices and child weight” in *Appetite*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24930598>

Mental illness and substance use problems in relation to homelessness onset

TORC faculty Dr. Lorraine Reitzel and colleagues published “Mental illness and substance use problems in relation to homelessness onset” in the *American Journal of Health*

Behavior. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26018103>

Fitness deficits in long-term ALL survivors

TORC faculty Dr. Richard Simpson published “Fitness deficits in long-term ALL survivors” in Blood. <http://www.bloodjournal.org/content/125/22/3366>

A single bout of dynamic exercise enhances the expansion of MAGE-A4 and PRAME-specific cytotoxic T-cells from healthy adults

TORC faculty Drs. Richard Simpson and Daniel O’Connor and colleagues published “A single bout of dynamic exercise enhances the expansion of MAGE-A4 and PRAME-specific cytotoxic T-cells from healthy adults” in *Exercise Immunology Review*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25826370>

Understanding graft-versus-host disease. Preliminary findings regarding the effects of exercise in affected patients

TORC faculty Dr. Richard Simpson and colleagues published “Understanding graft-versus-host disease. Preliminary findings regarding the effects of exercise in affected patients” in *Exercise Immunology Review*. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25826127>

Opportunities

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

TORC faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux is seeking parents of 12-36 month-olds to participate in a study which involves the videotaping of meals with toddlers. http://www.uh.edu/torc/projects_programs/

TORC Faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux seeking pregnant women to participant in study

TORC faculty Dr. Tracey Ledoux is seeking women pregnant for the first time and currently in their 2nd or 3rd trimester to participate in a study. Participation involves a 1 hour interview conducted on the University of Houston main campus for which participants will receive a \$40 Target gift card. For more information, contact Tracey Ledoux, PhD, RD at TALedoux@uh.edu or (713) 743-1870 and please visit: 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 or (713) 743-1870 and please visit: 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) 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) via email or by phone at 713-743-4802.

Seeking Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Queer smokers for research on health

TORC Faculty Dr. Lorraine Reitzel is seeking lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer smokers 18 years or older who are not currently pregnant or breastfeeding to participate in a health study. Participants will need to visit the University of Houston main campus twice, complete computer administered questionnaires, provide 6 saliva samples and have GPS monitoring for approximately 7 days. For more information, please contact the Fresh Air study at lreitze@uh.edu or 713-743-6444. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6l22nG7Ad46ejNnUDdmQWhTOTA/view?usp=sharing>

UH Student and Alumni Eligible for Research Abroad

Interested in conducting research abroad? Eligible UH students and alumni can apply for a Fulbright grant through the University of Houston to participate in research in approximately 140 countries. To find out more click here: <http://www.uh.edu/fulbright/students-alumni/types-of-grants/>

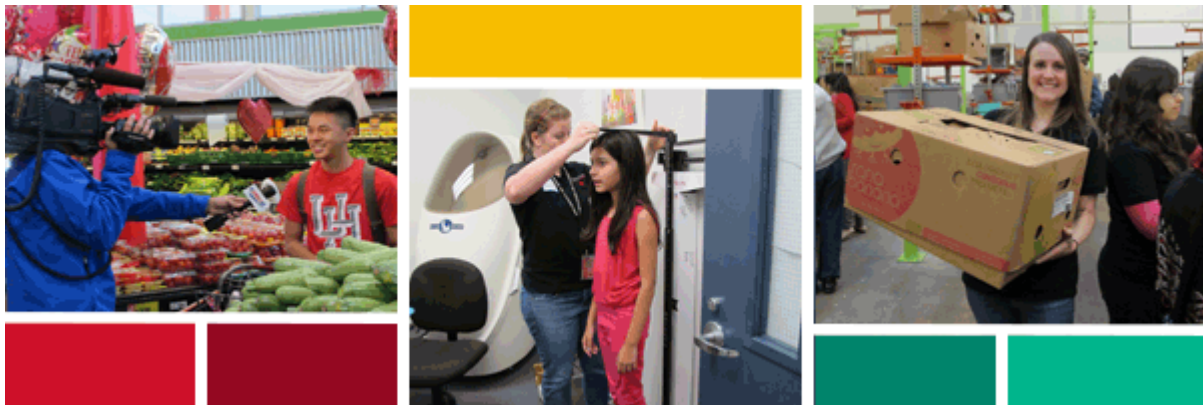
Upcoming Health Fairs- Keep an eye on Facebook for more details

July 11th 8am-11am Neighborhood Centers Inc Harbach Ripley Back-to-School Health Fair

August 15th Mayor's Back to School Event at the University of Houston main campus

October 3rd Archangel Festival

October 24th National Food Day at Community Family Centers



If you would like to include your event or other information in this Digest, please send an e-mail to torc@uh.edu by the 21st day of the preceding month.

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