



The Insider

Parsons Research Center (PRC)

and the

Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD)

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Pat White, Editor

Grants and Project Activities

Lindeman, D., Project Director, Early Childhood Supplement to the Kansas State Improvement Grant, February 1, 2003 – January 31, 2004. Funding agency: Kansas State Department of Education. This project will provide coordination for activities associated with the SIG supplement and early childhood preservice training programs.

Presentations

Lindeman, D. P., Nelson, C., & Goosen, M. (2002, December). *Ten years of training and technical assistance: What do we know?* Poster presented at the 18th Annual International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, San Diego, CA.

Woods, J. J., Lindeman, D. P., Carta, J., & Salisbury, C. (2002, December). *Why is this so hard? National perspectives on implementation of natural environments.* Paper presented at the 18th Annual International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, San Diego, CA.

Publications

Mills, S. C., & Tincher, R. C. (in press). Be the technology: A developmental model for evaluating technology integration in classrooms. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*. (Bob Tincher is the District Technology Coordinator at Independence USD 446 and this journal is the scholarly journal of the International Society for Technology in Education.) This article will appear in the Spring 2003 issue.

Rea, J., & Williams, D. (2002). Shaping exhale durations for breath CO detection for men with mild mental retardation. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 35, 415-418.

Saunders, M. D., Timler, G. R., Cullinan, T. B., Pilkey, S., Questad, K. A., and Saunders, R. R. have just received word that their article "Evidence of Contingency Awareness in People with Profound Multiple Impairments: Response Duration Versus Response Rate Indicators" has been accepted for publication in *Research in Developmental Disabilities*.

Staff News

Dick and Muriel Saunders have purchased a home in Olathe and will be moving in this week.

Project Highlight

The Postdoctoral Training Grant: Interdisciplinary Research Training in Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Kathryn J. Saunders

The postdoctoral training grant is a National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Training Grant (T32) awarded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. These grants are awarded to develop or enhance research-training opportunities for individuals selected by the institution. The counterpart to the Institutional NRSA is the Individual NRSA, for which the individual writes a grant proposal. As noted in the NIH Guide, postdocs “carry out supervised research with the primary objective of developing or extending their research skills and knowledge in preparation for a research career.” As such, trainees each have a primary mentor with whom s/he works, dividing time between collaborating on the mentor’s projects and developing a program of research on which they are first author.

Kate Saunders is the Principal Investigator for the LSI’s training grant. The goal of the program is to attract promising new investigators to the field of mental retardation, and to nurture the development of researchers who will meet national research priorities in the field of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Although Kate is based in Parsons, the training grant includes LSI faculty from several academic departments on the Lawrence campus, the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, and Parsons. Participating faculty from LSI include Kate Saunders, Dean Williams, Dick Saunders, and Steve Warren. From Psychology come John Colombo and Todd Little (who also has an LSI appointment as head of the Research Design and Analysis Core of the MRRC). Travis Thompson, Jennifer Hill-Karrer, and Rathe Karrer represent the KU Medical Center, and Steve Fowler is appointed in the LSI and in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Thus far, two trainees have completed the program, and both have obtained tenure-track faculty positions. Manish Vaidya is now at the University of North Texas, and Jennifer O’Donnell is at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

The program has recently achieved an important landmark. Up until two months ago, there were no more than two trainees appointed at a time. Now, there are four, which is the maximum available funding. Two trainees are at Parsons: Rafael Bejarano, from the University of Florida, and Adam Doughty, from West Virginia University. Their primary mentor is Dean Williams. The other two trainees are in Lawrence: Kathleen Kannass, from the University of Iowa, and Jim Bouviard, from KU. Their primary mentors are John Colombo and Todd Little, respectively. Thus, the training program is poised to enter an exciting new phase, in which postdocs who come from varied backgrounds in Psychology share their research and their perspectives.