

**BOARD ON BEHAVIORAL, COGNITIVE, AND SENSORY SCIENCES  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**NIA Expert Meeting on Pathways and Mechanisms**

**Presenter Biographies**

**David Almeida** is professor of Human Development in the College of Health and Human Development at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Almeida has been at Penn State since 2004; prior to this he was a faculty member at the University of Arizona and a research scientist at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. He received a Ph.D. in life span developmental psychology from the University of Victoria in 1996. Dr. Almeida's research examines effects of biological and self-reported indicators of stress on health. Well known in the scientific community for his work in adult development, Dr. Almeida has also made his mark in researching specific populations and contexts, such as the workplace and family interactions and parenting children with developmental disabilities. His research has shown that minor yet frequent daily stressors are often better predictors of important health outcomes than major life events, which have been the focus of research for decades. To further his research in this area, Almeida developed an instrument, the Daily Inventory of Stressful Experiences that has been used in large scale epidemiologic and intervention studies on health and well-being. Dr. Almeida has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health since 1996, and has received funding from many other agencies, including the German Research Council, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the W.T Grant Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

**John Cacioppo (Chair)** is the Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor and Director of the Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience at the University of Chicago. Dr. Cacioppo earned his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Ohio State University. He has written and/or coauthored 17 books and more than 400 chapters and articles. He is a member of the Society of Experimental Psychology; a past-president of the Association for Psychological Science; the Chair-Elect for the Psychology Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the President of the Society for Social Neuroscience; a member of the Center for Scientific Review Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health; and the recipient of various honors including the National Academy of Sciences Troland Research Award, the American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award, the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Donald Campbell Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions, the Society for Psychophysiological Research Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions, and the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Theoretical Innovation Prize. Dr. Cacioppo's research concerns the behavioral and biological effects of social isolation, with an emphasis on underlying mechanisms.

**Angela Lee Duckworth** is an associate professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. Angela studies non-IQ competencies, including self-control and grit, which predict success both academically and professionally. Her research populations have included West Point cadets, National Spelling Bee finalists, novice teachers, salespeople, and students. Angela received a BA in Neurobiology from Harvard in 1992 and, as a Marshall Scholar, a Masters in Neuroscience from Oxford. She completed her PhD in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to her career in research, Angela founded a non-profit summer school for low-income children which won the Better Government Award for the state of Massachusetts and was profiled as a Harvard Kennedy School case study. Angela has also been a McKinsey management consultant and, for five years, a math teacher in the public schools of San Francisco, Philadelphia, and New York City.

**Elissa Epel** is an associate professor in the UCSF Department of Psychiatry. She is also a faculty member in the Health Psychology Postdoctoral Program, the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine, the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Postdoctoral Scholars Program, and a leader of the new UCSF Center on Obesity Assessment, Study, and Treatment (COAST). She has longstanding interests in social and psychobiological stress mechanisms, and impact of stress physiology on food intake, insulin resistance, obesity, and premature aging at the cellular level. Her focus is on psychoneuroendocrine mediation — how stress-induced hormonal dysregulation may mediate relationships between stressor appraisal and metabolically-related outcomes (food ingestion, insulin resistance, visceral fat distribution, cell aging). Her primary study is on family caregivers, and attempts to understand, from a psychobiological and genetic perspective, why some people are vulnerable and others are resilient to the chronic stress of caregiving. She collaborates with Drs. Elizabeth Blackburn and Jue Lin to understand how stress can affect the telomere/telomerase maintenance system. Together with colleagues Drs. Owen Wolkowitz, Sindy Mellon, Victor Reus, and Craig Nelson, she leads an LPPI joint Psychoneuroendocrinology Laboratory Group. She also leads the Mind and Biology: Mechanisms and Models monthly Seminar, with Drs. Margaret Kemeny and Owen Wolkowitz. With her collaborators, she is also involved in trials examining effects of stress reduction on immune system aging in HIV, and on fat distribution. In 2005 she was awarded the Neal Miller New Investigator award and an APA Health Psychology award for demonstrating novel links between stress and stress arousal with markers of cellular aging.

**Janice Kiecolt-Glaser** (IOM) is the S. Robert Davis chair of medicine and holds the title of Distinguished University Professor at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. She has authored more than 200 articles, chapters, and books in the area of psychoneuroimmunology, most in collaboration with Ronald Glaser, M.D. Their groundbreaking research has shown that stress can slow wound healing, diminish the strength of immune responses to vaccines, enhance susceptibility to infectious illness, boost allergy symptoms, and reactivate latent viruses. She is among the world's most highly cited scientific authors, a group comprising less than one half of one percent of all publishing researchers. A clinical psychologist and a member of the Institute of Medicine, she is an authority on stress and its effects on health. She earned her B.A. in psychology and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Miami. She did a postdoctoral fellowship in adult clinical psychology at the University of Rochester, New York.

**Jonathan W. King** received his Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Carnegie Mellon University. His post-doctoral work in cognitive neuroscience at the Department of Cognitive Science at UCSD focused on language processing and working memory in both younger and older adults. Dr. King later joined the faculty in the Department of Psychological Sciences and the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He joined the Biobehavioral and Behavioral Processes (BBBP) Integrated Review Group at the Center for Scientific Review at NIH in 2006. In 2007, he accepted his current position as a Program Director in the Division of Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) at the NIA where his portfolio includes grants in cognitive aging, behavioral medicine, human factors and technology use in aging populations, and genetics. While at BSR, he has coordinated new initiatives in cognitive interventions to remediate age-related cognitive decline and the use of behavioral economic approaches both to promote health behavior change in older adults and to increase the uptake of comparative effectiveness research. Dr. King is also the program scientist for the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) clinical trial and the Coordinator for the NIH Science of Behavior Change Common Fund effort.

**Greg Miller** is Professor Emeritus in the UIUC Department of Psychology and Affiliate of the Beckman Cognitive Neuroscience Group. After last serving UIUC as the Director of the Beckman Biomedical Imaging Center, head of the Beckman Cognitive Neuroscience Group, and Program Director of the NIMH-funded "Training in Cognitive Psychophysiology" training grant, he is now Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at UCLA. Formerly he served as Director of Clinical Training and Associate Head in the UIUC Department of Psychology, where he was a member of the Brain & Cognition (now Cognitive Neuroscience) and Clinical/Community Divisions. He continues collaborations with colleagues at UIUC and U. Konstanz (Germany). Miller's research pursues mechanisms relating cognitive, emotional, and physiological

aspects of normal and abnormal human behavior, using the methods of cognitive, affective, and clinical psychophysiology / neuroscience. Interests include executive function, emotional dysregulation, and sensory processes as well as development of multimodal neuroimaging methods. The research integrates sMRI, fMRI, and dense-array scalp event-related brain potential (EEG/ERP) and magnetoencephalography (MEG) measures as well as structured diagnostic interviews. In collaboration with Profs. Wendy Heller, Brad Sutton and Marie Banich, the MRI / ERP studies address questions of regional brain specialization in emotion and its effects on executive function, with a particular interest in differentiation of depression and anxiety. A collaboration with Brigitte Rockstroh and Tzvetan Popov at the U. of Konstanz (Germany) pursues MEG and EEG studies of compromised sensory, emotional, and cognitive processing in schizophrenia and nonspecific effects of stress and the development of a cognitive treatment method. Publications include philosophy-of-science issues that arise in psychological and biological research on cognition, emotion, and psychopathology as well as tutorials on method issues in psychophysiology / cognitive neuroscience.

**Jenae Neiderhiser** is Liberal Arts Research Professor of Psychology at The Pennsylvania State University. She is also a member of the Child, Youth and Family Consortium and the Child Study Center at Penn State and Professor of Health and Human Development. Her work has focused on understanding the interplay of genes and environment with a focus on family environment and parenting in particular. More recently she has been working to incorporate the role of the prenatal environment in child development. Dr. Neiderhiser's research has used novel genetically-informed research designs to examine the interplay between genes and environment. Specifically, she is an investigator on a large prospective parent-offspring adoption study (Early Growth and Development Study) that has been following adopted children, their adoptive parents and their birth parents from shortly after the child's birth through to early adolescence. The longitudinal parent-offspring adoption design allows prenatal and postnatal environmental effects to be disentangled from genetic effects as well as their interactions and correlations. She also led a research effort that developed the Extended Children of Twins (ECOT) approach. Through ECOT it is possible to understand how parenting influences child functioning via parent-genetic, child-genetic and direct environmental mechanisms. She is also an investigator on a large data harmonization research effort working across nine twin samples to better understand how social contexts impact aging related outcomes. Dr. Neiderhiser's research has been supported by multiple institutes within the NIH. She has been on the Editorial Board of several journals and on the executive committees of the Behavior Genetics Association and the Society for Prevention Research.

**Lisbeth Nielsen** is Chief of the Individual Behavioral Processes (IBP) Branch in the Division of Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health (NIH). This branch develops research programs in the areas of health and behavior, cognitive and emotional functioning, technology and human factors, and integrative approaches to the study of social, psychological, genetic and physiological influences on health and well-being over the life course. Within the IBP Branch, Nielsen manages a portfolio of research in Psychological Development and Integrative Science that applies an integrative approach to the study of psychological aging and life course development, encompassing multidisciplinary research on the biological, social, and psychological determinants of social and emotional function, well-being and health. Since coming to NIA in 2005, Nielsen has developed new research initiatives in Neuroeconomics of Aging, Social Neuroscience of Aging, and Subjective Well-being at NIA, as well as trans-NIH initiatives for the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) and the Science of Behavior Change (SOBC). Nielsen has a BA in Philosophy from Rhodes College, MA in Psychology (cand. Psych.) from the University of Copenhagen, and a PhD in Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Science from the University of Arizona. She held an NIA-funded NRSA Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Psychology of Aging at Stanford University. Her scientific interests and research extend to the study of emotional function in aging, including age differences and age-related changes in the conscious experience of emotion, its physiological and neural correlates, and its functional role in guiding behavior.

**Mark Potenza** is a Professor of Psychiatry, Child Study and Neurobiology at the Yale University School of Medicine where he is Director of the Problem Gambling Clinic, the Center of Excellence in Gambling Research, and the Women and Addictive Disorders Core of Women's Health Research at Yale. He is a board-certified psychiatrist with sub-specialty training and certification in addiction psychiatry. He has trained at Yale University receiving a combined BS/MS with Honors in Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics and a PhD in Cell Biology, the latter concurrent with the MD through the Medical Scientist Training Program. He completed internship, psychiatric residency and addiction psychiatry fellowship training at Yale. He is on the editorial boards of ten journals and editor-in-chief of the Current Addiction Reports journal and has received multiple national and international awards for excellence in research and clinical care. He has consulted to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Registry of Effective Programs, National Institutes of Health, American Psychiatric Association and World Health Organization on matters of addiction. He has participated in two DSM-5 research work groups, addressing topics relating to gambling, impulse control, and addiction.

Dr. Potenza's research has focused on the neurobiology and treatment of substance and non-substance addictions and other disorders characterized by impaired impulse control. This research has a developmental focus, with implications for adolescents, young adults and older adults considered in studies. The majority of this work has focused on understanding clinical and neurobiological underpinnings of these disorders, and their co-occurrences with other mental health disorders, in order to advance prevention and treatment strategies. Dr. Potenza's research has applied brain imaging, genetic, epidemiological and clinical trials methodologies to gain knowledge and improve prevention and treatment strategies for addictive disorders. This work has also involved identifying potential intermediary phenotypes, like facets of impulsivity that may in part explain the high rates of co-occurrence between impulse control disorders and other mental health conditions, and might represent novel targets for prevention and treatment strategies.

**Teresa Seeman**, is a Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology in the UCLA Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Previously, she was on the faculty in the Department of Epidemiology in the Yale School of Public Health from 1985 to 1995 and then spent two years on the faculty at the Andrus School of Gerontology at USC. She joined the faculty at UCLA in January 1998 with joint appointments in the Schools of Medicine and Public Health. Her research interests focus on the role of socio-cultural factors in health and aging with specific interest in understanding the biological pathways through which these factors influence health and aging. A major focus of her research relates to understanding how aspects of the social environment, particularly social ties, influence health and aging. Dr. Seeman was a member of the MacArthur Research Network on Successful Aging (1985-1995) and is currently a member of the MacArthur Research Network on Socio-economic Status and Health. She is also currently a consultant to the Behavioral and Social Research Program at the National Institute on Aging on issues relating to the integration of physiological parameters into more socio-behavioral models of health and aging. In collaboration with Drs. Bruce McEwen and Burton Singer, she has taken a lead in empirical research on the new concept of allostatic load. Relevant publications include: Seeman TE, Singer B, Rowe J, McEwen B. Exploring a new concept of cumulative biological risk -- Allostatic load & its health consequences: MacArthur Studies of Successful Aging. Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 98(8): 4770-4775, 2001; Seeman & McEwen, The Impact of the Social Environment on Neuroendocrine Function (Psychosomatic Medicine), and Taylor, Repetti, & Seeman, "What is an Unhealthy Environment and How Does It Get Under the Skin" (Ann Rev Psychol).

**Stephen Suomi** is Chief of the Laboratory of Comparative Ethology in NICHD. He holds research professorships at the University of Virginia, the University of Maryland, College Park, the Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, the Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Dr. Suomi earned his B.A. in psychology at Stanford University in 1968, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1969 and 1971, respectively. He then joined the Psychology faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he eventually attained the rank of Professor before moving to the NICHD in 1983. Dr. Suomi's initial postdoctoral research successfully reversed the adverse effects of early social isolation, previously thought to be permanent, in rhesus monkeys. His subsequent research at Wisconsin led to his

election as Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science “for major contributions to the understanding of social factors that influence the psychological development of nonhuman primates.” His present research at NICHD focuses on three general issues: the interaction between genetic and environmental factors in shaping individual developmental trajectories, the issue of continuity vs. change and the relative stability of individual differences throughout development, and the degree to which findings from monkeys studied in captivity generalize not only to monkeys living in the wild but also to humans living in different cultures. Throughout his professional career Dr. Suomi has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, the most recent of which include the Donald O. Hebb Award from the American Psychological Association, the Distinguished Primatologist Award from the American Society of Primatologists, and the Arnold Pfeffer Prize from the International Society of Neuropsychanalysis. To date, he has authored or co-authored over 400 articles published in scientific journals and chapters in edited volumes.