

Update on CHADD Young Scientist Award Recipients



Joshua M. Langberg, PhD



Heather A. Jones, PhD



Michael J. Kofler, PhD



Steve S. Lee, PhD



James J. Li, MA



Kathryn L. Humphreys, MA, EdM



Andrea Chronis-Tuscano, PhD



Karen Seymour, PhD

by Zuali Malsawma

CHADD'S YOUNG SCIENTIST RESEARCH FUND AWARDS PROGRAM recognizes researchers new to the field who are making important contributions to our understanding of ADHD. Since 2006, there have been fifteen recipients, including two new winners this year. It is always gratifying to come across the names of previous winners in the media and to read about their continuing ADHD research. CHADD is happy to have had the opportunity to recognize these outstanding emerging scientists. Here are some past winners who have been in the news recently.

Joshua M. Langberg, PhD, and **Heather A. Jones, PhD**, received the Young Scientist Awards in 2008. Both are currently assistant professors in the department of psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, where they cofounded the Center for ADHD Research, Education, and Service. The Center provides evidence-based clinical services and community educational activities to the Richmond area. A couple of months ago, the Institute of Education Sciences—the research arm of the US Department of Education—awarded a \$2.4 million grant to VCU to evaluate interventions to improve the academic performance of middle-school students with ADHD. Dr. Langberg is the principal investigator for this grant. Dr. Jones, who was a keynote speaker at a recent ADHD workshop for the Virginia Department of Education, continues her research on health disparities in the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. *California Healthy Report* interviewed her for their story on the difficulties faced by African-American students with disabilities.

Michael J. Kofler, PhD, was an assistant professor in the department of human services at the University of Virginia when he received the Young Scientist Award in 2012. Earlier this year, UVA announced the opening of a new clinical and research program that takes a strengths-based perspective on ADHD. Dr. Kofler is the director of this new center, the Children's Learning Clinic, which will focus on "unlocking the capacity and potential of children with ADHD." Entrepreneur Mark Gallant and his wife Cindy provided seed funding of \$350,000 for the clinic.

Steve S. Lee, PhD, associate professor of psychology at the University of California,

Los Angeles, received the CHADD Young Scientist Award in 2007. He was the senior author of a recent meta-analysis study that showed that using stimulant medication in childhood did not increase later substance abuse risk. The study findings were widely reported in the media, and Dr. Lee was quoted by many media sources, including CBS News and the *New York Times*. He was also the academic advisor and research mentor to recipients of the 2012 and 2013 CHADD Young Scientist Awards—**James J. Li** and **Kathryn L. Humphreys**, respectively.

Andrea Chronis-Tuscano, PhD, received the Young Scientist Award in 2006. She is an associate professor of clinical psychology at the University of Maryland and director of the Maryland ADHD Program. The results of her work on combining parenting techniques with treatment for mothers' stress and depression were published online in March 2013 in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*. Online news sites, including medicalxpress.com and UMD's diamondbackonline.com, have reported on her study. She was also the research, clinical, and coursework advisor to **Heather Jones** and **Karen Seymour**, recipients of the 2008 and 2013 CHADD Young Scientist Awards, respectively.

CHADD congratulates these emerging scientists on their continued success in the field. The important research they do and the helpful interventions they discover will certainly make a difference in the lives of all who struggle with the disorder. 🧠

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