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### Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award Lecture and CAPSAC Awards Ceremony Highlights

On April 12, 2023, CAPSAC honored **Jodi Quas, PhD**, of the University of California at Irvine (UCI) with the 3rd Annual Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award. More than 70 people attended the online award event to hear Dr. Quas’ presentation on *The Value of Rapport and Support on Children’s Disclosures, Reporting, and Relationships*.

CAPSAC also presented four professionals across the state with the Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award for their dedication to supporting children and families.

Congratulations to **Yaquelin Arista** (LA County), **Lara Drino** (LA County), **Heather Kregoski** (El Dorado County), and **Marlene Sturm** (Santa Clara County)!

Additionally, CAPSAC awarded two students the Paul Crissey Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research. Congratulations to **Katelyn Ray** of California State University, Fullerton for her research study, “Examining the Relationship Between Maternal Childhood Maltreatment and Parenting Among First-Time Mothers”. Congratulations to **Yuerui (Julia) Wu** of University of California, Davis for her research study, “Interpersonal Familiarity and Memory”.

Check out both this and the next issue of *The Consultant* for spotlights of all of the award recipients.

# Call for Board Members



The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (CAPSAC) is seeking to appoint new board directors to serve on its non-profit board of directors through the year 2023 and beyond.

Board of Director roles are unpaid voluntary positions. Board directors must meet the CAPSAC Board's diversity needs, be members of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), and may be located anywhere in California. Terms are 4 years.

## ABOUT CAPSAC

CAPSAC is a multidisciplinary professional society that aims to provide support to California professionals working in the field of child abuse through training, consultation, advocacy, and networking.

## BOARD MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

### Board Director Duties

Board directors are expected to attend and actively participate in at least two (2) of four (4) virtual and/or in-person board meetings per year (typically held on a Friday morning for 2-3 hours), serve on committees, and contribute articles to the CAPSAC website, social media and newsletter at least once per year.

All board members must be willing and able to fulfill the duties required of a board member of an organization. See: [www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/board-roles-and-responsibilities](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/board-roles-and-responsibilities)

### Passion and Commitment to the Mission and Strengths of CAPSAC

Board members are expected to have a deep passion and commitment to advance CAPSAC's mission.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your curriculum vitae with your consent to serve application indicating what personal attributes and expertise you would bring to this position, and the direction in which you would like to help CAPSAC grow (250 words or less).

Complete the application by clicking [HERE](#).

*Board terms will begin at the first board of directors meeting after appointment.*

## Are you an ACEs Health Champion?

In your work, do you address the effects of and prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress? Do you want to improve access to trauma-informed care and promote healing from the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course? If you answered yes, please consider attending the free virtual Gatherings of the ACEs Health Champions Network.

The ACEs Health Champions Network (AHCN) is built upon the overwhelming success of the yearlong (2020-2021) CALIFORNIA ACES ACADEMY Grant collaboration with the state of California. The Network is a system of interconnected non-profit organizations, and continues to grow! These organizations share the mission to address and prevent the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.

The purpose of the AHCN is to educate, inspire and connect as we build a community of health-focused individuals, organizations, and others dedicated to:

- Addressing the effects of and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress,
- Improving access to trauma-informed care,
- Assessing and enhancing individual, family, and community strengths and protective factors,
- Identifying and incorporating Positive Childhood Experiences (PCE),
- Sharing and disseminating evolving knowledge, and
- The promotion of healing from the health effects of violence and abuse throughout the life course.

All AHCN Gatherings are recorded and available with slides/handouts at [capsac.org](https://capsac.org) or [avahealth.org](https://avahealth.org). To learn more about the AHCN and read the AHCN 2022 Report to CAPSAC, visit [capsac.org](https://capsac.org).

**Join us for the next virtual Gathering!**  
**Friday, June 2, 2023 • 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (PT) via Zoom**

You are invited to the next Gathering on June 2, 2023, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm (PT) to learn from **Steve Baron, MA** as he presents, "**From Mandatory Reporting to Mandatory Supporting: Are we throwing the baby out with the bath water?**"

**REGISTER NOW**





## Former Crissey Award recipient Jodi Quas is honored with Karen Saywitz Award in 2023

On April 12, CAPSAC honored **Jodi Quas, PhD**, of the University of California at Irvine (UCI) with the 3rd Annual Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award. More than 70 people attended the online award event to hear Dr. Quas' presentation on The Value of Rapport and Support on Children's Disclosures, Reporting, and Relationships. Dr. Quas is unique in having received the second-ever Paul Crissey Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award in 2000 from CAPSAC, and now — 23 years later — the award named after Dr. Saywitz to recognize her work beyond graduate school. She is a frequent speaker at national and statewide events, and a popular lecturer in the School of Social Ecology at UCI. She has received numerous awards from the APA and other organizations for her outstanding research.

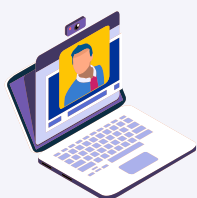
Upon hearing of the award, she said in an email, "I am so very honored and humbled to be the recipient of this award. Karen was an inspiration to so many, including me." Dr. Quas specializes in research related to memory development in early childhood, effects of stress and trauma on children's development, and children's involvement in the legal system.

Dr. Quas attended Arizona State University, where she received her B.S. degrees in Psychology and Communication in 1992. She continued her education in Developmental Psychology at the University of California at Davis where she completed her M.A. and Ph.D. Her dissertation titled "Children's memory of experienced and nonexperienced events across repeated interviews" was conducted under the supervision of Gail Goodman, PhD — the first-ever recipient of the Saywitz Legacy Award. Dr. Quas collaborated on numerous projects and publications with Dr. Saywitz.

CAPSAC past president and board member Dr. Susan Moan Hardie says that Dr. Saywitz "had a brilliant mind and a generous heart. She mentored and encouraged numerous graduate students and left a rich legacy. CAPSAC honors her legacy by shining a spotlight on her esteemed colleagues."

The award was established by CAPSAC in 2021 to honor Dr. Saywitz, who was a pioneer in forensic interviewing of children and child development. The award highlights those who collaborated with Dr. Saywitz, were mentored by her, or were influenced by her rich body of work in child maltreatment intervention, investigation, forensic interviewing, advocacy, treatment, and prevention.

Dr. Quas joins a distinguished group of Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award honorees, including Dr. Tom Lyon of University of Southern California (2022) and Dr. Gail Goodman of University of California at Davis (2021).



**DID YOU MISS THE LIVE EVENT?**

**VISIT [CAPSAC.ORG](https://capsac.org) TO VIEW THE LEGACY LECTURE & CAPSAC AWARDS ON-DEMAND**

## CAPSAC proud to honor four professionals with the Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award



**Yaquelin Arista** was presented with the CAPSAC Neal Snyder Service Award. Here are excerpts from her nomination by Jenny FitzGerald, "Yaquelin is a Child and Family Advocate with StrenghtUnited's Child Advocacy Center. In the past year, Yaquelin has undertaken a new project with us, the implementation of placing a dedicated Advocate with the LAPD-Abused Child Unit Valley Bureau Detectives. Yaquelin's work with LAPD-

ACU has served to bridge a gap between law enforcement and the advocacy services our agency provides. Because of her work with these detectives and the prosecutors, there is a more streamlined experience for the families who have to engage with these systems. Most significantly, Yaquelin has been able to show these detectives and prosecutors first-hand how they and the children they serve benefit from the CAC model, resulting in buy-in from the individuals on the ground. They readily turn to her to provide support to the children involved in their cases, and do so not out of obligation, but because they know it will help the child and their case outcome. She is creative in the execution of her responsibilities, and flexible to the needs of the case in front of her. Yaquelin shows consistent, overwhelming dedication to the children and families that she serves."

**Lara Drino** was also presented with the CAPSAC Neal Snyder Service Award. Here are excerpts from her nomination by Kassandra Perez, "Lara Drino is the Director of the Children Exposed to Violence Initiative as well as the Director of child abuse, policy and prevention at the LA City Attorney's Office. She has been a prosecutor for over 20 years, with well over 100 jury trials to verdict, the last 14 years dedicated to child sex abuse cases. Her countless connections and stellar reputation allowed her to secure a grant for what she created as a "REACH" Team. This is a new program with LAPD where her team of mental health providers and social workers meet with families when children have been exposed to or are the victims of gun violence, on the scene. Her dedication to children is unparalleled. Lara has consistently sought training and collaborations with LAPD and other agencies to ensure the most effective prosecution of child abuse. She then trains and mentors others. Lara is tireless in her advocacy of children. She exceeds services in helping ensure stability in all areas (food, clothing, shelter) to allow the child to benefit from mental health counseling."



Please watch for the next issue of *The Consultant* to meet additional Snyder Award recipients Heather Kregoski and Marlene Sturm.

## *Paul Crissey Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research*

# Examining the Relationship Between Maternal Childhood Maltreatment and Parenting Among First-Time Mothers

BY KATELYN RAY, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FULLERTON

**Purpose:** Current research in the field of child welfare emphasizes the impact childhood maltreatment can have on future parenting beliefs and behaviors. The intergenerational transmission of maltreatment has become an area of focus for prevention and intervention efforts given the long-lasting influence parental context has on child development. This study furthered the current understanding of the mechanisms through which intergenerational transmission of maltreatment occurs by examining the mediational role played by parenting self-efficacy among first-time mothers. Specifically, this study addressed three gaps in the existing body of literature:



1) It is largely unknown how different types of childhood maltreatment affect parenting self-efficacy, 2) There is a lack of researcher-rated observation data investigating parenting behaviors and their relationship with parenting self-efficacy, and 3) Previous research has not tested the associations among first-time mothers' childhood maltreatment experiences, parenting self-efficacy, and parenting stress and behaviors.

Rooted in Albert Bandura's Self-Efficacy Theory, this study positioned parenting self-efficacy as a mediator (M) between maternal childhood maltreatment experiences (X) and parenting stress and behaviors (Y). It was hypothesized that 1) maternal experiences with childhood maltreatment will predict lower levels of parenting self-efficacy and 2) greater parenting self-efficacy will predict lower levels of parenting stress and higher levels of positive parenting behaviors. Beyond testing indirect effects through parenting self-efficacy, this study also examined the direct effects of different types of childhood maltreatment on parenting stress and behaviors.

**Methods:** Performing secondary data analysis on the Predicting and Preventing Neglect in Teen Mothers Study from 2001 through 2007, the present longitudinal study utilized data collected from 522 first-time mothers across four geographic regions of the United States during the prenatal period as well as at the following infant age intervals: 6, 24, and 30-months old. Participants were divided into three groups: 57.3% adolescent mothers aged 15-18 years old without a high school diploma, 23.2% low-education mothers aged 22-35 years old with less than two years of college, and 19.5% high-education mothers aged 22-35 years old with at least two or more years of college. This sample was composed of majority Black (63.6%) participants while 18.8% identified as Non-Hispanic White and 15.5% identified as Hispanic White.

Measures utilized include the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire – Short Form (CTQ-SF; Bernstein & Fink, 1998), Borkowski Parenting Self-Efficacy Questionnaire, Parenting Stress Index – Short Form (PSI-SF; Abidin, 1995), and Landry Naturalistic Observation of Parenting (Landry et al., 1997). This study utilized composite scores from each of the five subscales of the CTQ-SF, including emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional neglect, and physical neglect, to investigate the aforementioned hypotheses in the context of each type of maternal childhood maltreatment. All three of the former measures were self-administered by participants while the Landry Naturalistic Observation of Parenting included in-home, researcher-rated observations of mother-infant interactions. This study utilized four domains of this measure to operationalize maternal parenting behavior during observations: display of positive affect, warmth and flexible responsiveness, demonstrating/physical teaching, and general verbalness. In this way, this study addressed one of the aforementioned gaps in current literature by triangulating self-reported data regarding maternal childhood maltreatment, parenting self-efficacy, and parenting stress with researcher-rated data on parenting behaviors from home-based observations.

Both indirect and direct effects of maternal childhood maltreatment on parenting outcomes were tested in this study through a series of multiple linear regression analyses. Indirect effects were tested by regressing parenting self-efficacy on each maternal childhood maltreatment type, which investigated the relationship between this study's independent variable and mediator. This was followed by regressing parenting stress and each parenting behavior on parenting self-efficacy, which investigated the relationship between this study's mediator and dependent variables. Sobel testing was utilized to test the significance of mediation. To test direct effects, the dependent variables of parenting stress and parenting behaviors were regressed on maternal childhood maltreatment types. All multiple linear regression analyses included the following three binary covariates: if mothers were teen mothers, were highly educated, or were married/partnered.

**Results:** Beginning with indirect effects, partial mediation was established between emotional neglect and parenting stress while full mediation was established for pathways regarding physical neglect and parenting stress, and physical abuse and parenting stress. Experiences of emotional neglect and physical neglect each individually predicted lower levels of parenting self-efficacy, as hypothesized. However, opposite of the hypothesized direction, physical abuse predicted higher levels of parenting self-efficacy. Higher parenting self-efficacy predicted lower levels of parenting stress. Results of Sobel testing supported the significant mediating effect of parenting self-efficacy for emotional neglect ( $ab = 3.414$ ), physical neglect ( $ab = 5.527$ ), and physical abuse ( $ab = -4.064$ ). Together, these results supported the aforementioned mediation relationships, though no such relationships were upheld for the other forms of maltreatment or parenting behaviors.

Regarding direct effects, the hypothesized higher levels of parenting stress and lower levels of positive parenting behaviors among mothers with maltreatment experiences were partially supported. Results indicated emotional neglect during childhood significantly predicted higher levels of parenting stress, though this relationship was not found for other types of maltreatment. Additionally, physical abuse during childhood significantly predicted lower levels of demonstrating/physical teaching during mother-infant interactions. High education level predicted higher levels of the following parenting behaviors: warmth and flexible responsiveness, demonstrating/physical teaching, and general verbalness.

**Implications:** These results prove relevant to the advancement of the field of child maltreatment research and relevant clinical practice. In revealing the mediational role played by parenting self-efficacy between certain forms of maternal childhood maltreatment and parenting stress, this study implicates avenues forward for identifying at-risk mothers and children as well as for future intervention with this population. Additionally, the unexpected finding in terms of the association between physical abuse and higher levels of parenting self-efficacy warrants further investigation. Possible pathways forward to study this relationship include looking specifically at the influence culture has on mothers' perceptions of their childhood maltreatment experiences and their sense of efficacy as a parent given the African American majority of this sample.



Crissey Award recipient Yuerui Wu's research, "Interpersonal Familiarity and Memory", will be featured in the next issue of *The Consultant*.



## *With Much Appreciation:* Honoring Outgoing CAPSAC Board Members



**Mary Pat Panighetti, MA** has had a distinguished career with expertise in child abuse, domestic violence, and restorative justice. The CAPSAC Board of Directors is deeply grateful for Mary Pat's many (11) years of service and dedication to bringing the most relevant and meaningful programs to our members. Mary Pat is a fantastic listener, and when she drove in her car on her CAPSAC road trip to personally meet members and agencies in isolated rural regions of northern and eastern California, everyone she met immediately recognized and appreciated her empathy, integrity, and openness to new ideas. Mary Pat is never afraid to question the status quo and improve on services to victims and offenders alike. She brought her great sense of humor and jovial, nurturing, spirit to our board meetings, and was always inclusive and non-judgmental. Mary Pat is also an Emeritus member of the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council and serves on the Interagency Collaboration and Public Awareness Committees. It's clear that Mary Pat is invested in making life and community a better place for others. Mary Pat's dedication to the protection of children and victims sets a standard that so many of us should strive to achieve.

**Bea Yorker, JD, RN, MS, FAAN** has been a leader in the field of child maltreatment for several decades. In 2006, while Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Los Angeles, and Professor in the School of Criminal Justice, Bea brought her tremendous experience and dynamic personality to CAPSAC's presidency. At a time in her career when many people would have said, "Sorry, I'm too busy", Bea saw opportunities and oversaw the development of several CAPSAC networking and multidisciplinary training programs. She led CAPSAC with enthusiasm. After her presidency, Bea continued to serve on the board of directors, most recently serving as Treasurer. Bea is a gifted educator and medical provider who continuously demonstrates caring and compassion for children. She was instrumental in the development of the APSAC Practice Guidelines on Munchausen by Proxy and provided trainings on behalf of CAPSAC on that topic in northern and southern California, and led an Institute at the San Diego Child Maltreatment Conference. She continues to provide expert consultation around the country and recently implemented the first support groups for survivors of MBP. Bea is a visionary and leader who has served CAPSAC with humility and grace. Our deepest thanks, Bea, for your many years of service to CAPSAC and your dedication to the wellbeing of children.



**Thank you Bea & Mary Pat!**



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on the Abuse of Children  
*Strengthening Practice Through Knowledge*



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