

Barnard Center



for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

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Barnard Center Bulletin

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WORKFORCE



advanced clinical training program at the Barnard Center

ACT Program Updates

What an exciting and busy time it has been the past few months in the Advanced Clinical Training (ACT) Program. In August 2023, we celebrated the completion of our second cohort. The ACT Program professionals gathered in Seattle to reflect on Past, Present, and Future, recognizing the joys and challenges we experience individually and in each of our respective communities, and as a learning community. Abigail Bocanegra, one of our Barnard Center Leadership Fellows, guided our remembrance through the co-creation of an altar where each person could share their joys and losses as they are willing and able. The photo of the altar (faces blurred to protect privacy) brings together many traditions of remembrances that come from ancestral practices – recognizing and respecting non-dominant bodies of knowledge (Tenet #4) in our journey to decolonize our mind, body, and spirit (Gray, Coates, & Yellow Bird, 2008) and revitalize traditional and indigenous wisdom (Marie Celeste Condon).



As per tradition, we celebrated the Program completion with a ceremony and reception with friends, family, and community partners. We will continue to hold the 2022-2023 cohort in community through a monthly gathering and community of practice to nurture ongoing relationships for professional growth and sustainability.

October 2023 begins the journey for the ACT Program 2023-2024 cohort. Twenty-one professionals will be journeying the next 15 months together as a community of learning, reflection, and healing. As it is our goal to expand and diversify the IECMH clinical and consultation workforce, this cohort brings with them a diversity of lived experiences based on their racial and ethnic identities, gender identities, and regional location where they live and work. We are excited for what we will co-create the next 15 months together as a community.



Country Director
CMBM, Gaza, Palestine

The Advanced Clinical Training (ACT) program at the Barnard Center is excited to welcome Dr. Jamil Atti as a member of our third cohort beginning in October, 2023. An endowment from Dr. Kathryn Barnard, the Center's namesake, will support Dr. Atti's participation in ACT, in honor of Dr. Barnard's legacy of bringing infant mental health into communities across the globe. Dr. Atti has PhD in Psychology-Mind-Body Medicine from Saybrook University–California USA, a Master's degree in Community Mental Health, and a BA of Social Work. He is the founder of the Center of Mind-Body Medicine in Palestine, Country Director of the (CMBM) for the last 19 years, where he leads the development of programmatic interventions and provides technical assistance and strategic planning for the psychosocial sectors. Dr. Atti has worked with hundreds of traumatized people during the wars and escalations, integrating the mind-body skills at schools with teachers, parents and students, and innovating to integrate the mind-body approaches to work with non-communicable disease primary health care clinic. Dr. Atti has experience teaching family and school counseling within Birzeit University. As a trainer, Dr. Atti is experienced and specialized in training the counselors on social and health issues (play therapy, Drama), in addition to training on topics such as children living in difficult situation and children at stress. He trained with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Human Preservation Center and the Community Training Centre and Crises Management. Dr. Atti's participation in the ACT program comes on the heels of another partnership between the Future Development Commission (FDC) in Gaza, and Mr. Abed El-Fatah Shehada, and the Barnard Center. The Barnard Center has partnered with FDC to provide training in infant and early childhood mental health for their social workers, social support workers, teachers, nurses, and doctors. We are excited to deepen our relationship with Dr. Atti and Mr. Abed El-Fatah Shehada as we support their efforts to reduce the impact of war and trauma on the families they serve.

DISSEMINATION



The evidence for Promoting First Relationships® is recognized internationally and continues to grow nationally

In late August 2023, the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) added Promoting First Relationships to their Communities for Children Evidence and Evaluation clearinghouse. AIFS conducts high-quality, impartial research into the wellbeing of Australian families to promote evidence-based practice. PFR is also listed by the NHS Education for Scotland in their Early Intervention Framework for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Promoting First Relationships is now listed on these national evidence-based lists:

Promoting First Relationships is approved as an evidence-based home visiting program on these nationally recognized lists:	
The HomVEE logo shows a stylized house with three figures inside, and the text "HomVEE" below it.	<p>The Federal Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness (HomVEE), and eligible for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding</p>
The logo for the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse features a stylized house and the text "Title IV-E Prevention Services CLEARINGHOUSE".	<p>The Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse for the Family First Prevention Services Act</p>
The CEBC logo consists of a blue circular icon with a white cross-like shape inside, followed by the text "CEBC" and "THE CALIFORNIA EVIDENCE-BASED CLEARINGHOUSE FOR CHILD WELFARE".	<p>California Evidence Based Clearinghouse (CEBC), Level 2 Scientific Rating, including a HIGH relevance rating for Child Welfare</p>
The Blueprints logo features the word "Blueprints" in a blue script font, with "FOR HEALTHY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT" in a smaller sans-serif font below it.	<p>Blueprints provides a comprehensive registry of scientifically proven and scalable interventions to promote child and family wellbeing.</p>

Parent/Caregiver Handouts are being translated into over 25 languages

Due to the effectiveness of the Promoting First Relationships program with families receiving Early Support for Infants and Toddler services across Washington State, the Department of Children, Youth and Families has allocated funds for the PFR Parent/Caregiver handouts to be translated into

*PFR handouts are already available in English, Spanish and Somali.

Promoting First Relationships® in Pediatrics is launching an interactive online classroom to better reach residents, pediatricians and healthcare professionals across the country

The Promoting First Relationships in Pediatrics program trains providers to take a relationship-focused approach to support the parent-child relationship during everyday clinic interactions with families. PFR in Pediatrics' new LearnDash online platform is a video-rich training program that healthcare professionals can access on their own time to better understand how to support responsive caregiving and how the social and emotional needs of infants and toddlers impact all areas development. Facilitated workshops and consultation are also available to support practitioners in using the approach. The PFR in Pediatrics team will be promoting the program at the national AAP Conference in October 2023.

IECMH Courses

Colleen O'Dillon and Miriam Hirschstein will be teaching grad and undergrad IECMH courses this fall: IECMH 555 (grad intro, DC-0 -5), NSG 432 (undergrad intro to IECMH), and IECMH 433 (trauma in early childhood).

RESEARCH



Families Connected

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Child, Family, and Population Health Nursing

Dr.s Oxford (PI) and Hash (Co-I) received funding from the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development for a R01 randomized clinical trial. The study, Families Connected, is designed to assess if the home visiting program, Promoting First Relationships, is as effective when delivered by Telehealth. We will recruit 357 participants with infants aged 6 - 12 months of age and whose family has had a recent investigation by Child Protective Services. Families will be randomized to receive either PFR by home visiting, PFR by Telehealth, or a resource service. The study began recruitment in October 2023.

New Publications

Zhai, S., Sonney, J., Hash, J. B., Yuwen, W., & Ward, T.M. (2023). Analysis, evaluation, and reformulation of Social Cognitive Theory: Towards parent-child shared management in sleep health. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, S0882-5963(23)00189-6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2023.07.011>

Oxford, M. L., Hash, J. B., Lohr, M. J., Fleming, C., & Spieker, S. J. (2023). What works for whom? Mother's psychological distress as a moderator of the effectiveness of a home visiting intervention. *Infant Mental Health Journal*, 44(3), 301-318. <https://doi.org/10.1002/imhj.22050>

IN THE NEWS



In July, Program Director, Dr. Nucha Isarowong and Barnard Center Leadership Fellow, Haruko Watanabe attended the World Association of Infant Mental health in Dublin, Ireland to co-present on the ACT Program approach and outcomes as part of the work to expand reach and engage in workforce expansion and diversification discourse. Dr. Isarowong also began his 2-year term on the Board of Directors with Profectum Foundation, a premier development and dissemination organization of the DIR Floortime perspective and approach. DIR Floortime lends an important perspective and has been a part of the ACT Program curriculum since our inception. He recently co-presented on diversity-informed professional engagement with families who are grieving the loss of their children at the ZERO TO THREE 2023 Conference in Minneapolis, MN. He will be on faculty at the ZERO TO THREE Institute in Palm Springs, CA this December.

Please [click here](#) for the Barnard Center Annual Report!

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