

UIC FAMILY AND EMOTION STUDY

2017 NEWSLETTER

CHICAGO LABORATORY OF EMOTION AND PHYSIOLOGY

Hello! This newsletter is designed to keep you up-to-date on progress in our UIC Family and Emotion Study. We also hope to provide information/resources that may be interesting or valuable. If there is something that you would like to see in future newsletters, please let us know!

We are pleased to share that we have over 700 people from about 270 families enrolled in the UIC Family and Emotion Study. Additionally, many individuals have participated in annual follow-up interviews that allow us to examine whether psychophysiological variables (e.g., brain activity) predict emotional experiences over time. We know that these follow-ups can be difficult to fit into your schedules, and we truly appreciate your continued efforts!

We have already published several scientific papers from this study, providing new insights on topics including neural activity, personality, emotion, attention, learning, and psychological symptoms. In this issue of the newsletter, we provide brief summaries of some of these papers to give you a taste of some of the issues you have helped us to examine.

Although scientific papers and presentations are the primary avenues through which we disseminate our research, our lab's research was also featured in *The Story of God*, a National Geographic documentary series narrated by Morgan Freeman. More information and a link to the clip featuring our lab can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

We also started a sub-study in May 2017 focusing on whether certain patterns of brain activity predict social processing and experiences. For this sub-study, we are aiming to bring back 120 individuals who initially participated in the primary portion of the UIC Family and Emotion Study (i.e., people who did both the interview and the EEG visit).

Again, thank you for partnering with us in this project. We hope that we can continue to count on you in the next few years.

Sincerely,



Stewart Shankman, Ph.D.
Professor and Principal Investigator of the UIC Family and Emotion Study
Department of Psychology
University of Illinois at Chicago

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR RESEARCH!

RECENTLY PUBLISHED PAPERS



Blunted Neural Response to rewards as a vulnerability factor for Depression: Results from a family study

Weinberg, Liu, Hajcak, & Shankman.

We examined neural responses to rewards in our UIC Family and Emotion Study. We found that people's neural response to rewards ran in families and that this measure may be useful in identifying individuals who are vulnerable to depressive illnesses. It is our hope that studies like these will aid in early identification efforts for depression.

Reactivity to uncertain threat as a familial vulnerability factor for alcohol use disorder.

Gorka, Hee, Lieberman, Mittal, Phan, & Shankman.

When sober, problematic drinkers display exaggerated reactivity to threats that are uncertain. We found that stronger reactivity to an uncertain threat may be a risk factor for problematic drinking. This could lead to a new prevention method to target individuals at risk for alcohol related problems.

Is risk-taking propensity a familial vulnerability factor for alcohol use? An examination in two independent samples

Weinberg, Liu, Klein, Daughters, & Shankman.

We also examined risk-taking behavior during a laboratory gambling task as a vulnerability factor for alcohol use. We used a family study design to examine risk and found that the greater tendency to take risks may be a vulnerability factor for alcohol use in families.



TRANSITIONS

Emily Meissel, B.A.
Research Coordinator



Some of you may have met Emily over the past 2 years. Emily is leaving the lab this summer to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at San Diego State/University of San Diego. We are going to miss her, but we're excited for the new opportunities ahead of her!



Carter Funkhouser, B.A.
Research Coordinator

Carter is not leaving the lab but rather transitioning his role from a research coordinator to a graduate student in the lab pursuing a Ph.D in clinical psychology. We're thrilled to see him around but with a different role!

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

If you have moved or changed your contact information, or have a question for our researchers, please feel free to call us at (312) 413-2681.

www.shankman-lab.psych.uic.edu/home

FEATURED IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY & MINISERIES

STARRING: MORGAN FREEMAN

"THE STORY OF GOD: APOCALYPSE"



Our lab is featured in one of the episodes of the Miniseries "The Story of God." Our segment shows one of our laboratory experiments that you likely participated in. The link below connects you to the episode. The lab is featured at 27:00.

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x59j0x6_the-story-of-god-with-morgan-freeman-s01e02-apocalypse_tv

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

If you or a loved one is suffering from a mental illness, there are many resources that you can contact to receive medical attention.

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- UIC Hospital: (312) 355-0101
- Rush Hospital: (312) 942-5000

