



2018 Victoria S. Levin Award For Early Career Success in Young Children's Mental Health Research

The Victoria S. Levin Award for Early Career Success in Young Children's Mental Health Research was established to honor and carry forward the focus of Victoria S. Levin's life's work in scientific research addressing young children's mental health. Honoring Vicki's 30 years of distinguished service at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the award's aim is to heighten the chances of early success in achieving NIH funding for developmentally-informed research that addresses the early foundations of children's mental health and well-being. The Victoria S. Levin Award is made possible by the donations of hundreds of Vicki's friends, colleagues, and family members.



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Samantha Brown (Colorado State University) is the recipient of the 2018 Victoria S. Levin Award.



Dr. Samantha Brown is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Colorado State University. Her research focuses on understanding the pathways through which early adversity shapes the health and development of children experiencing psychosocial risk and translating this knowledge into the development and testing of family-oriented intervention. Dr. Brown's recent work has focused on key biological and behavioral correlates, such as stress physiology and sleep, that may be implicated in childhood maltreatment and mental health as well as the role of parent-child interactions in buffering children from the negative consequences of early adverse experiences. Her work under this award will identify how parent-child co-regulation of sleep and physiologic systems change over time to affect child mental health and family functioning in families with and without neglect. Dr. Brown's mentors include Drs. Erika Lunkenheimer, Monique LeBourgeois, William Fifer, and Heather Taussig. Dr. Brown received her PhD from the University of Denver and completed a T32 postdoctoral fellowship with the Developmental Psychobiology Research Group in the School of Medicine - Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health

(T32MH015442; Mentor Dr. Sarah Watamura). She has published extensively on topics centered on adverse childhood experiences, child welfare, and mental health, and has received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), American Psychological Foundation Section on Child Maltreatment, Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation, and Society for Social Work and Research.