

## Welcome from the Program Co-Chairs

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We welcome you to the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence!

In recent years, SRA annual meetings have often had a theme that winds through the program. This year, we opted to forgo an official theme. Instead, the 2016 program highlights outstanding research that cuts across a number of important focal areas of study in adolescence. On the program this year are outstanding speakers who will discuss the latest research pertaining to such issues as culture and mental health, cultivating prosocial behavior, new frontiers in peer relationships, enhancing developmental outcomes through school and family based interventions, and novel methods for improving the quality of our science. Invited panels will bring you up to speed on emerging research regarding puberty and the interface between sociocultural and biological processes in shaping adolescent development. An invited roundtable will examine how science can contribute to improving the lives of black youth. And as part of a new format for sessions at this year's conference, a workshop will examine what the use of real time technology has to offer as an emerging method for studying adolescence. Please join us for these invited sessions as they take place in the morning and throughout each day of the conference.

We also encourage you to make time to interact with presenters in the ongoing poster sessions. Again this year, we add an element of fun to the poster sessions by offering a daily give away prize for those who attend these sessions. By leaving a ticket from your registration packet in the envelope attached to the board for one poster you visit each day, you will be entered into a daily drawing for a \$250 Amazon gift certificate. Come for the fun and linger for the engaging conversation that these presenters have to offer.

The best part of any conference is the opportunity to engage with incredible scientists that range from outstanding senior scholars to the emerging researchers who will lead our science in ways that we cannot yet imagine. We believe that SRA 2016 in Baltimore will provide many such opportunities for everyone.

But this experience is only possible through the efforts of many committed individuals. We extend our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who make this conference possible, in particular those Early Career Scholars who play a key role in facilitating the invited sessions. We also offer our deepest gratitude to the leadership of SRA, especially President John Schulenberg and all of the SRA staff who make this conference run so smoothly; to the panel chairs and the many reviewers who provided a rigorous review of a large number of submissions; to the previous program co-chairs, Connie Flanagan and Dan Hart; and, most important, to the SRA membership and attendees of the conference who make this conference the pre-eminent meeting for research on adolescence.

We hope that you enjoy the conference and return home enriched by the experience and eager to share with others the exciting new research taking place in the study of adolescence.

Sincerely,



Noel A. Card and Andrea M. Hussong,

2016 SRA Biennial Meeting Program Co-Chairs