

MARGARET BRIGGS-GOWAN RECEIVES THE 2013 JANE C BOURNS AWARD

Margaret Briggs Gowan, PhD, Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Connecticut Health Center, is the 2013 recipient of the Jane C Bourns Award. Margaret Briggs Gowan is recognized for her work in infant/early childhood mental health through her faithful work as an officer and member of the CT-AIMH Board of Directors for 10 years and for her professional development and research that has resulted in a nationally recognized evaluation of social-emotional development of infants and toddlers: the ITSEA and BITSEA.

Margaret joined the Board of CT-AIMH in 2003 and was active during the Association's formative years. She became vice-president in 2006 and served ably in that role to the President and Board until 2012. Her insightful recommendations for Board plans and direction helped to promote the awareness of infant/early childhood mental health throughout Connecticut.

Margaret is Director of Research for Child FIRST, the home-based intervention program in CT with a mental health focus for children birth to five years. As a developmental psychologist Dr. Briggs Gowan is an expert on the mental health and social-emotional development of young children, the effects of family stress and conflict on young children's development, and social-emotional assessment. She is co-author of the ITSEA and BITSEA, two mental health measures designed for assessing the social emotional development in young children.

Margaret has expertise in developmental psychopathology beginning in early childhood. In addition to her formal training, she also has been a fellow of Zero to Three, a national organization devoted to advancing research and practice in early childhood.

Much of Margaret's research focuses on developing methodologies for identifying social-emotional and behavioral problems and delays in competence in young children, as well as on the etiology and course of childhood psychopathology. She is co-author, with Alice S. Carter, Ph.D., of two measures designed for assessing social-emotional/behavioral problems and delays in competencies in infants and toddlers: the Infant-Toddler Social & Emotional Assessment, or ITSEA, and Brief-ITSEA, or BITSEA, both of which were recently nationally standardized and published with Harcourt Assessment. Margaret is especially interested in the implementation of screening for social-emotional problems in pediatric primary care settings. Current work, in collaboration with researchers at Yale, is examining the implementation of screening with the BITSEA in hospital primary care clinics.

Margaret also is involved in several National Institute of Mental Health funded studies, including the Connecticut Early Development Project, a longitudinal birth cohort study of over 1300 children born in the Greater New Haven, Connecticut area. This cohort was first studied during infancy and toddlerhood. Children are now being followed in elementary school with assessments that are focused on children's mental health, social functioning, and academic achievement. In addition to this work, Margaret is involved in innovative, multi-method, research on disruptive behavior in preschool children (with Principal Investigator Lauren Wakschlag, Ph.D., at the University of Illinois at Chicago). Most recently, Margaret has become involved in a multi-site translational network

grant focusing on the development of models for advancing understanding of preschool psychopathology and its neural substrates.