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UNH Hosts International Conference on Family Violence July 22-25

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UNH Hosts International Conference on Family Violence
July 22-25

By Erika Mantz
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July 18, 2001

DURHAM, N.H. -- More than 250 researchers from 20 countries will participate in the University of New Hampshire's Seventh International Family Violence Research Conference July 22-25 at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel and Conference Center in Portsmouth.

Sponsored by UNH's Family Research Laboratory (FRL) and Crimes Against Children Research Center (CCRC), the conference will feature ground-breaking research on corporal punishment, domestic violence, the consequences of family violence and many other topics. Conference co-chairs David Finkelhor, CCRC director, and Kathleen Kendall-Tackett, a research associate at UNH, received a record number of abstracts and more than 230 research papers will be presented by researchers from around the world, including Namibia, India, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Hong Kong, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Phillipines, Portugal, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland.

"This conference looks at the full range of family violence," says Kendall -Tackett. "There is research on domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse and neglect, batterer treatment and the abuse of animals as it pertains to domestic violence and child abuse. For many victims, the abuse of a beloved pet is the most traumatizing part."

The following speakers will be featured:

• Domestic violence costs employers millions each
year. Mary Ann Dutton, Georgetown University, describes how domestic violence impacts the workplace and offers common-sense steps employers can take to keep their employees safe. Sunday, July 22, 5 p.m., Ballroom.

- Once a child abuser, always a child abuser? When a person is convicted of child abuse, the question in everyone's mind is whether he or she will do it again. Dr. Joel Milner, Northern Illinois University, discusses his latest research on the assessment of risk and how this information is used to predict whether someone will abuse again. Monday, July 23, 9:15 a.m., Prescott Room.

- When should the state intervene to remove or protect children of battered women? Over the last decade, researchers have demonstrated that children who see their mothers being beaten have as many symptoms as children who are abused -- even if they are never physically touched. Glenda Kaufman Kantor, UNH, explores the issue and its legal ramifications. Monday, July 23, 11 a.m., Prescott Room.

- Men who hit their wives fall into four distinct groups. Amy Holtzworth-Monroe, Indiana University, will present new data from her study of battering males and discuss how the research can be used to predict who will benefit most from treatment and who will continue to be violent. Monday, July 23, 2 p.m., Prescott Room.

- Does the Violence Against Women Act make a difference in protecting women? Is there evidence the situation has improved? Are we spending money in the best way? David Ford, Indiana University, looks at the issues. Monday, July 23, 2 p.m., Amphitheater.

- Elder abuse remains one of the least understood and researched forms of domestic violence. Rene Bergeren, UNH, will discuss the current research on elder abuse in domestic settings. Wednesday, July 25, 9:15 a.m., Amphitheater.

- For more information on the conference in general or other presenters and topics, log on to http://www.unh.edu/frl/conf2001home.htm
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