



International Society
for Traumatic Stress Studies

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The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Announces Frank W. Putnam Trauma Research Scholars Program

DEERFIELD, Ill. — August 7, 2013 — The International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) announced the establishment of the Frank W. Putnam Trauma Research Scholars Program to recognize the outstanding contributions Frank J. Putnam, MD, a professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina, has made to the field of traumatic stress research, his service to children and families around the world, and his decades of mentorship and service to the society.

“I am especially pleased that the award is for pre-doctoral students,” Putnam said upon announcement of the program being named in his honor. “The ISTSS is the perfect organization to host the award. I wish all of the future recipients all the best in their careers.”

Putnam, who earned his MD at Indiana University Medical School and conducted his residency in adult psychiatry at Yale University, joined the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program to study biological rhythms and neuroendocrine systems in bipolar patients. There he encountered a large number of psychiatric patients who reported histories of child maltreatment. Putnam began working with patients who suffered from trauma-related disorders, pioneering studies of brain electrical activity mapping and other techniques. Working with adult victims of child abuse, Putnam became convinced that research with abused children was critical to understanding and reversing the negative psychological and biological effects of maltreatment.

Putnam went on to head the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Now, at the University of North Carolina, he continues his work to identify and address the adverse impact of abuse on mental and physical health over the life course.

The Frank W. Putnam Trauma Research Scholars will be selected annually from student members of the society who submit proposals judged to have the potential to make the greatest contribution to the field of traumatic stress. Each student will be awarded \$1,000. Previously the ISTSS’ student research scholars program was endowed by anonymous donors who identified themselves as the friends and colleagues of Dr. Putnam.

Putnam has served on the board of directors of the ISTSS and on the advisory board for the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement.

About the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

The ISTSS is an international, interdisciplinary professional organization that promotes advancement and exchange of knowledge about traumatic stress including understanding the scope and consequences of traumatic exposure; preventing traumatic events and ameliorating their consequences; and advocating for the field of traumatic stress. More information is at www.istss.org.



Add photo to press release distribution. Credit: Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

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