Rena Repetti, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
University of California at Los Angeles

"The Interlacing of Experiences, Behavior, and Biology in Daily Family Life"

Presentation Abstract

Day-to-day fluctuations in stressors and social and emotional experiences in the family are reflected in short-term changes in family members’ behavior and affect and in the activity of biological stress-response systems, particularly the HPA axis. I use naturalistic research designs to study these short-term biopsychosocial processes as they unfold within the family. By looking closely at real-time responses to events and behavior, you can begin to observe how family members influence each other on many different levels. In particular, I will suggest how different aspects of family members’ everyday lives—their physiology, emotions, behavior, and experiences outside of the home—become interlaced.

• Dr. Repetti’s talk is being co-sponsored with the Center for Healthy Aging•