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Nathan Fox
University of Maryland

April 14, 2018

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President

University of Delaware

**104 HULLIHEN HALL
NEWARK, DE 19716**

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Georgetown University

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Dear President Assanis:

Secretary

Susanne Brummelte
Wayne State University

I am writing to you in my position as President of the International Society for Developmental Psychobiology. Members of this society study the mechanisms by which early experience affects brain, physiology and behavioral development. Their work has significant translational significance. Specifically, results of this work inform approaches to intervention and prevention of adverse outcomes in young children. Members of this society work with animal models in order to experimentally manipulate conditions of early experience. These animal models provide the scientific data that can then be translated for use with human infants and children.

Treasurer

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Dr. Tania Roth, who is a Professor in the Psychology Department at the University conducts this type of critical translational research with animal models. She developed a rodent model that allows her to examine the effects of early life experience on epigenetic changes with resulting psychiatric outcomes. This work is highly cited by the scientific community, with Dr. Roth receiving multiple awards and external grant funding. Her work has significant translational impact in understanding the effects of early adversity on the emergence of multiple psychiatric outcomes.

Managing Director

Joan Oefner

International Society for
Developmental Psychobiology
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Recently, Dr. Roth has come under attack by the organization PETA. Their claim is that Dr. Roth's work cannot inform our understanding of human development and that studies of early adversity should focus on humans, not rodents. The simple response to that claim is that it would be not be ethical or justified to do experimental work on human infants or children that involved manipulation of early experience. One cannot ethically assign an infant or young child to experience adversity. Moreover, it is difficult to imagine examining the brain and genetics underlying early experience in human infants. Rather, Dr. Roth's elegant experimental work with animal models is the correct ethical and scientific approach to understanding these mechanisms and translating them for intervention with human infants and children.

www.isdp.org

*Join us for the 5th Annual ISDP Meeting
October 31 – November 2, 2018 – Catamaran Resort Hotel & Spa, San Diego, CA USA*

Dr. Roth has an excellent record of extramural NIH funding, and her publications have been cited in many psychology journals and textbooks. As measures of her respect in the field, she has received an Early Career Impact Award from the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, Senior Research Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Ziskind-Somerfeld Research Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry, and is a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow.

The International Society for Developmental Psychobiology is proud to have Dr. Roth as a member of the society. We value her scientific contributions and believe that she is unfairly targeted for important critical work that advances our understanding of the effects of early adversity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Nathan A. Fox, Distinguished University Professor

University of Maryland

President, ISDP