



Dr. Debra J. Pepler of Toronto to receive CPA's Donald O. Hebb Award

Ottawa (June 1, 2015) – The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is pleased to announce that Dr. Debra J. Pepler has won this year's Donald O. Hebb Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology as a Science for her research on bullying and childhood aggression.

The award is presented to a CPA member or fellow who has made a significant contribution to Canadian psychology as a scientific discipline. Recipients are psychologists who have enhanced the knowledge base of psychology through their research; exerted influence through leadership as teachers, theorists, spokespeople for the discipline, and/or developers of public policy; and/or substantially influenced the development of psychology through their work.

Dr. Pepler is a Distinguished Research Professor at York University, a Senior Executive Member of the LaMarsh Centre for Child and Youth Research, and a Senior Adjunct Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario. She received her Ph. D. in 1979 from the University of Waterloo and is a registered psychologist in Ontario.

Dr. Pepler has conducted two major research programs on children at risk in the context of peer relationships at school and in the context of the family. She also developed an innovative method of observing children's interactions beyond the purview of adults and is recognized internationally as an expert on childhood aggression and bullying. With Dr. Wendy Craig, she co-founded and directs PREVNet – the Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network.

“Dr. Pepler's research has changed the way we think about bullying, aggression and other forms of violence,” says Dr. Joel O. Goldberg, Chair & Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, York University. “Her lifetime scientific achievements stand out among the very best of our Canadian psychologists in terms of productivity, advancement of knowledge and most significantly societal impact.”

Dr. Pepler will receive her award at CPA's 76th Annual Convention, taking place at The Westin Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario from June 4 through 6, 2015. The convention will be attended by researchers, practitioners, students, and policy makers from across the country and will feature more than 2,000 presentations on a wide array of psychological topics.

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About the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With over 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology. For more information, visit www.cpa.ca.

Media at the Convention

Media are highly encouraged to attend. Registered press will have complimentary access to the convention. Badges are required of all convention participants for entry into sessions and must be worn at all times. For more information or to register, please contact the CPA.

Press inquiries should be made to:

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