

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH GROUP

April 6, 2020

Dear friends:

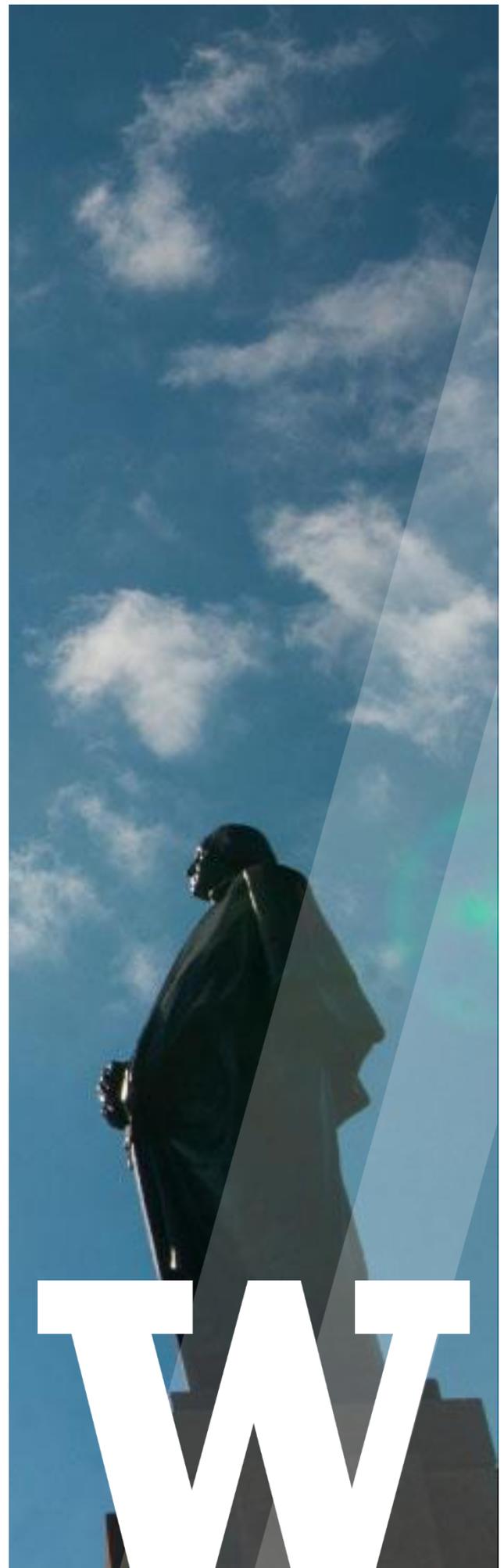
In October the Social Development Research Group celebrated its 40th year of groundbreaking research with a gathering at the university's [Intellectual House](#). J. David Hawkins, PhD, and Richard F. Catalano, PhD, founded SDRG in 1979 because they recognized the potential of a scientific approach to prevention for promoting healthy development in youth the world over.

The celebration marked not only our anniversary but also the retirement of Dr. Catalano (or Rico, as we know him). A visionary leader in the field of prevention science, Rico was one of the first to bring the concept of risk- and protection-focused prevention to the fields of substance abuse and delinquency prevention. He and Dr. Hawkins (David to us) worked closely to identify effective prevention practices, to create and test prevention programs, and to share their findings with academics as well as practicing professionals in social work and related disciplines.

Rico led the development of prevention tools that are widely used to guide policy and practice for preventing substance abuse and juvenile delinquency at the community, state, and federal levels, as well as globally. The Social Development Model created by Rico and David is a theory of delinquency and drug use that forms the basis of much of our prevention work. Rico also led the development of a robust framework of positive youth development. His research and dissemination activities have had broad impact on service delivery as well. Highlights of his stellar career can be found on [his faculty page](#) on the UW School of Social Work's website. I've had the incredible good fortune of working with Rico since 1985. What an amazing mentor, colleague, and friend he has been to so many of us at SDRG.

Rico and David's work over 40 years has laid the foundation for SDRG's efforts in several core areas: scientific research, dissemination and implementation, and survey research, all supported by a strong administrative core. SDRG's science core continues to focus on high-quality research that informs prevention, clinical practice, service delivery, and policy. Current areas of focus include understanding the implications of marijuana policy, finding predictors of opioid use, and examining the interrelationship between nicotine vaping and conventional cigarette use.

Building on four decades of developing and testing preventive interventions, our dissemination and implementation core is focused on extending the reach of evidence-based programs in



real-world implementation. In one of our newer efforts, we are excited to be deploying the [Northwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center](#) (PTTC) in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno, and Washington State University. This effort, which is part of a nationwide network of PTTCs funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will help strengthen the ability of the region's prevention workforce to find, select, implement, and evaluate evidence-based and promising substance abuse prevention programs.

The Survey Research Division (SRD) continues to support SDRG's data collection needs as well as the needs of research partners across Washington State and beyond. In the past year, SRD welcomed repeat collaborations with the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; the Washington State Employment Security Department; and Public Health—Seattle & King County. The data we collect enables our state and local governments to assess critical services and outcomes in a variety of settings.

As we begin our fifth decade, we are experiencing other transitions among SDRG leadership. We are sorry to bid farewell to our cherished colleague, Sabrina Oesterle, PhD, who left SDRG to become the Director of the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center at Arizona State University. We are fortunate to have an accomplished new administrator, Haim Burstein, PhD, who joined SDRG in 2019.

It is my pleasure to announce that two of our scientists have recently agreed to serve as assistant directors in order to support our scientific inquiry and science-to-practice efforts. With a background in developmental psychology, [Jennifer Bailey, PhD](#), will lead SDRG's science core. Dr. Bailey's research interests focus on understanding the causes of healthy and unhealthy development in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood in order to inform positive youth development interventions. She has worked on a number of SDRG's seminal studies researching specific outcomes such as conduct and attention problems, substance use, and mental health. She currently serves as principal investigator on two NIH-funded studies of factors that contribute to substance misuse. [Margaret Kuklinski, PhD](#), will focus on dissemination and implementation of evidence-based programs—work that will be informed by her 10 years of experience at SDRG. During this time, Dr. Kuklinski has specialized in prevention program implementation, evaluation, and health economics as a leader, research scientist, and consultant on several intervention studies. She currently serves as principal investigator on two NIH-funded intervention trials: a study examining the sustained impacts of Communities That Care, and a multisite trial examining the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing Guiding Good Choices in three large, integrated healthcare systems. Drs. Bailey and Kuklinski bring noteworthy levels of scholarship and leadership to their new posts. I am delighted to see this new generation of leadership developing at SDRG and know you will join me in wishing them success.



As I finish writing this letter about the incredible year we experienced in 2019, SDRG, Seattle, and the nation are actively responding to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Even during these trying times, our research continues. Most staff are working remotely from the safety of their homes, advancing our scientific studies and survey research as much as we can in the current situation. I'm grateful for their amazing effort, and for all of the staff at SDRG.

In closing, in these challenging times, I would like to extend from all of us at SDRG our warmest wishes for the health and safety of all of our prevention science colleagues and their loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Haggerty".

Sincerely,
Kevin Haggerty, Ph.D.
Director

36 PUBLICATIONS

SDRG and our collaborators published 36 articles, chapters, and books in 2019.

Join our mailing list to receive research briefs, and see updates on our 19 active projects at [sdrg.org](#).