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HUNTER PROFESSOR AWARDED NIH GRANT TO STUDY ADOLESCENT ANXIETY

Dr. Tracy Dennis-Tiwary, Psychology Professor at Hunter College and The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), and Director of the Emotion Regulation Laboratory at Hunter College, has been awarded a High Priority, Short-Term Project Award from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the amount of \$1.59 million over 2 years. This grant will fund a research study investigating anxiety in adolescents which will be jointly conducted at Hunter College and New York University Langone Health's Child Study Center, and Fordham University. Collaborators on the study include Dr. Amy Roy (Fordham and NYU) and Dr. Carrie Masia-Warner (NYU).

Understanding a range of cognitive mechanisms in adolescent anxiety, a developmental period of peak anxiety onset and a factor that increases risk for later mental illness, will improve both prevention and intervention efforts. This project targets a poorly understood cognitive mechanism, the anxiety-related attention bias (AB), during early adolescence. Using an innovative combination of brain-based and behavioral methods, the primary aim is to elucidate core subtypes of AB in anxious adolescents and test links with distinct anxiety symptoms. Confirmation of hypotheses would represent a crucial step towards clarifying the conceptualization and measurement of AB and, ultimately, speed progress towards biologically-based systems for characterizing anxiety in youth, and aid in the development of more targeted and effective interventions.

Dr. Dennis-Tiwary's research team include Ph.D. students Sarah Myruski, Samantha Denefrio, Hyein Cho, and Boyang Fan from the Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience and Health Psychology and Clinical Science programs at The CUNY Graduate Center, post-baccalaureates with degrees in Psychology, as well as Master's and undergraduate students from the Psychology Department at Hunter College. (For more information about the Emotion Regulation Laboratory, please visit dennis-tiwary.com).