

KLAUS
GRAWE
FOUNDATION

Klaus Grawe Award 2015 for John R. Weisz

John Weisz is Professor of Psychology in the Harvard University Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and also in Harvard Medical School. Previously he has served on the faculties of the University of California at Los Angeles, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Medical College of Virginia, and Cornell University.

John Weisz has devoted his scientific career to improving the lives of children and adolescents with behavioral and serious emotional problems through his commitment to empirically supported interventions. Whereas highly controlled efficacy interventions, usually conducted in university settings, provide crucial information about the value of clinical interventions, it is essential to evaluate whether these interventions are successful in assisting youth in the settings in which the interventions are typically offered. John Weisz has been one of the leaders in the field internationally to tackle this challenging task of evaluating interventions in real-world settings with clinicians in everyday practice.

Within this context, Weisz and his research team have carried out effectiveness trials of cognitive behavioral therapy for youth confronting depression and anxiety, with treatment provided by community clinicians trained by his team, providing services in the clinics where the clinicians were employed. In order to conduct his work, he has expanded beyond psychologists, resulting in a network of colleagues from multiple disciplines – including social work, pediatrics, sociology, anthropology, and biostatistics – along

with parents of children and with policymakers. His research has received support from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Norlien Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In addition to his own intervention trials, he has conducted meta-analyses and systematic reviews characterizing and critiquing the science of youth mental health care. The findings from these reviews have had major impact on the field in understanding the current status of the effectiveness of psychological interventions. More specifically, his meta-analyses provide a broad picture of the state of youth psychotherapy research and address specific questions about moderators of psychotherapy benefit. His recent research involves development and testing of transdiagnostic approaches to youth psychotherapy. His books include *Psychotherapy for Children and Adolescents: Evidence-based Treatments and Case Examples* (Cambridge University Press), *Evidence-based Psychotherapies for Children and Adolescents* (coedited by Alan Kazdin; Guilford Press), and *Cognitive-Behavior Therapy for Children and Adolescents* (coedited by Eva Szigethy and Robert Findling; American Psychiatric Publishing).

Weisz's work has earned him the James McKeen Cattell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Psychological Science – APS's highest honor – for work that 'has had a profound impact on the field of psychological science over the past quarter century... Weisz serves as a model for clinical researchers. His work brings science and practice together to improve youth mental health care, enriching both the rigor and the relevance of intervention science'.

It is with great honor and appreciation for his decades of devoted work to improving the quality of life for youth and adolescents that the Klaus Grawe Foundation names John R. Weisz as the 2015 recipient of the Klaus Grawe Award.

Don Baucom, Ph.D.

Richard Simpson Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Psychology Department
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC, USA