



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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## University Council

April 20, 2018

### UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2017-2018

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Max Harris  
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Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Office of Research for the following center name change will be an agenda item for the April 27, 2018, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting:

From: Center for Gene Social-Environment Transactions  
To: Center on Biological Embedding of Social Events and Relationships

Sincerely,

Alison F. Alexander, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Pamela S. Whitten  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

## NAME CHANGE JUSTIFICATION FORM

School/College: Office of Research

Department: Owens Institute for Behavioral Research

### Center Name Change

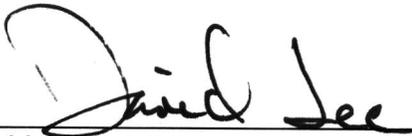
**Current Center Name**: C-GSET (Center for Gene Social-Environment Transactions)

**Proposed Center Name**: C-BESER (Center on Biological Embedding of Social Events and Relationships)

**Center Directors**: Ronald Simons, PhD and Steven Beach, PhD

Justification: Attached.

### Signatures:



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David Lee  
Vice President for Research



3/20/18

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Lillian T. Eby  
Director, Owens Institute for Behavioral Research

## JUSTIFICATION

The Center for Gene-Social Environment Transactions was formed in response to calls to better support interdisciplinary research in the context of Gene-Environment Transactions. There was a substantial demand for faculty educational opportunities and a need to create venues for collaboration across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Activities carried out by C-GSET have been informed by a broader effort to understand and respond to the challenges of interdisciplinary research by incorporating mechanisms designed to promote collaboration on manuscripts, grant proposals, and training opportunities.

Since the creation of the center in 2011, however, there has been a substantial broadening of the work done by members of the Center. As a result, we no longer feel that the name accurately reflects the work we do or the broad collaborative opportunities available through the Center. Accordingly, we would like to change the name of the Center to the “Center on Biological Embedding of Social Events and Relationships.”

The change better captures the type of analyses we are currently doing of which the following are illustrative:

Lei, M. K., Beach, S. R. H., Simons, R. L. (in press). Childhood trauma, pubertal timing and cardiovascular risk in adulthood. *Health Psychology*.

Wickrama, K. A. S., Klopach, E. T., O’Neal, C. W., Beach, S. R. H., Neppl, T., Lorenz, F. O., Bae, D. (in press). Life Course Patterns of Concurrent Trajectories of BMI and Affective Symptoms of Rural Mothers: Socioeconomic Antecedents and Disease Outcomes in Later Life. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

Simons, R. L., Lei, M. K., Beach, S. R. H., Barr, A. B., Simons, L. G., Gibbons, F.X., Philibert, R. A. (in press). Discrimination, Segregation, and Chronic Inflammation: Testing the Weathering Explanation for the Poor Health of Black Americans. *Developmental Psychology*.

Beach, S. R. H., Lei, M. K., Simons, R. L., Barr, A. B., Simons, L. G., Ehrlich, K., Brody, G. H., Philibert, R. A. (2017). When Inflammation and Depression go Together: The Longitudinal Effects of Parent-Child Relationships. *Development and Psychopathology*, 29, 1969–1986. doi:10.1017/S0954579417001523

Likewise the new name for the Center better captures the type of collaborative grant proposals we support, of which the following are illustrative:

2017-2022. (Simons PI) Beach (Co-Investigator). (04/01/2017 – 03/31/2022). *Psychosocial Context and the Biological Clock: Changes in Weathering during Middle-Age*. NIA. (1R01AG055393-01). Total \$3,805,521. Acct: 1021RR376427 – psychosocial Simon

2015-2020. (Beach-PI) (Simons Co-PI). (4/7/2015 – 3/31/2020). *Biomarkers of Health Risk Among African American Couples*. NICHD. (1R01HD080749-01A1) \$ \$3,641,978 total. Acct: 1021RR376416.

We therefore request permission to officially change the name of the Center. Many thanks for your consideration.