



**Theodore H. Blau Early Career Award for
Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology**

– George M. Slavich, UCLA –

The Society of Clinical Psychology, in conjunction with the American Psychological Foundation, is pleased to award the Theodore H. Blau Early Career Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology to Dr. George Slavich. The Theodore H. Blau Award honors outstanding contributions to clinical psychology by an early career psychologist. Although still only an assistant professor at UCLA, Dr. Slavich's resume already reads like a list of lifetime contributions to the field.

In 2001, for example, Dr. Slavich founded the Stanford Undergraduate Psychology Conference. The conference is now in its twelfth year and is regarded as the premier international conference for undergraduate psychology students. Since 2001, the conference has hosted 4,000 undergraduate student presenters from 107 schools, 42 states, and 9 countries, and has raised more than \$85,000, the majority of which has gone to support underserved high school psychology programs nationwide via a granting mechanism that Dr. Slavich developed called the Stanford Educational Advancement Award. The Stanford Conference has energized thousands of undergraduate and high school psychology students, and is an invaluable contribution to the field.

The following year, Dr. Slavich founded the Western Psychological Association Student council, which was the first student governing board across all seven regional psychological associations. Under Dr. Slavich's direction, the student council developed a professional mentorship program that connects students with senior mentors, introduced student-relevant programming to the annual WPA convention, established campus representatives at institutions across the western United States, and reinvigorated WPA's commitment to its undergraduate and graduate student members. Thanks to Dr. Slavich's outstanding efforts, more than 65% of WPA's members are now undergraduate or graduate students in psychology.

As if that wasn't enough, in 2006 Dr. Slavich founded the Society of Clinical Psychology's Section on Graduate Students and Early Career Psychologists. Dr. Slavich went on to serve as the group's president-elect, president, and past-president. In this capacity, he oversaw the initial development of the section and managed the section's programming hours for four APA conventions. Dr. Slavich also served as Editor of the Student Forum for the Society of Clinical Psychology's flagship newsletter, *The Clinical Psychologist*, for four years. During this time, Dr. Slavich wrote eleven articles on a wide range of topics that are important to early career psychologists. It is difficult to overestimate the extent to which Dr. Slavich's efforts will benefit undergraduate and graduate students. The section is now the primary home for student members of APA who are interested in becoming clinicians or clinical scientists, and Dr. Slavich's efforts will undoubtedly enhance the vitality of the section's 400+ members – and, indeed, the Society itself – for many years to come.

In addition to these many contributions, Dr. Slavich is an outstanding scientist. He has been continuously supported by the National Institutes of Health for the past ten years; has published many articles in top journals such as *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *Psychological Medicine*, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*; and was recently awarded a \$550,000 personal endowment to study how stress gets represented by the brain and translated into biological processes that affect health.

In sum, Dr. Slavich is an incredibly accomplished early career clinical psychologist who, despite his junior status, has already made several very important contributions to psychology. He has devoted countless hours to founding groups and forums that promote student development while advancing psychological science, and has done more along these lines than what many psychologists will do in a lifetime. For these reasons, the Society of Clinical Psychology and the American Psychological Foundation are proud to award Dr. George Slavich with the 2012 Theodore H. Blau Early Career Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology.