

UCI Initiative to End Family Violence

OUR VISION: a world in which all people are safe in their families and relationships.

THE PROBLEM:

People of all ages, from infants to the elderly, are vulnerable to abuse from family members, intimate partners, and caregivers. Although public awareness has increased, family violence remains a prevalent and devastating problem worldwide. Additionally, traditional research segregates child abuse, teen dating violence, adult domestic violence, and elder abuse, obscuring the interconnections between abuse types and the widespread transmission of violent behavior from one generation to the next.

The UCI Initiative to End Family Violence overcomes traditional limitations through its interdisciplinary approach, which unites an unprecedented range of researchers and clinicians to build on each other's expertise, tackle the complex and interconnected nature of family violence, and intervene to prevent multigenerational patterns of abusive behavior.

It is rare to find medical, legal, and psychological experts in child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse in one room, discussing how they can solve problems together. It is rarer still to find artists, biologists, biomedical engineers, chemists, and information technology specialists lending their skills and expertise to the problem of ending family violence. Yet the Initiative to End Family Violence has achieved this already.



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Program Accomplishments:

- A \$200,000 grant from the Blue Shield Foundation to develop a cross-disciplinary curriculum on domestic violence for healthcare professionals
- Innovative programming, including our signature Survivor Series, distinguished lectures, research colloquia, workshops for practitioners, and symposia, such as a recent program on Intimate Partner Violence, Reproductive Coercion & Family Planning
- A Graduate Student Fellowship Program to support students whose research can reduce or prevent family violence
- Interdisciplinary faculty research grants and collaborative-building grants to further research and community-partnered interventions in family violence
- A medical-legal partnership with the Orange County courts in which we share research findings and expertise in medicine, psychology, and social science, so that judicial officers can more effectively intervene in cases involving family violence

Initiative Goals:

Our ultimate goal is to establish a permanent, interdisciplinary Center to End Family Violence, which will produce pioneering research and develop best practices for violence prevention education and clinical care. At this physical site, abuse survivors could receive coordinated care from medical professionals, therapists, attorneys, advocates, and others.

Additional goals include creating the first-ever minor in Family Violence Prevention and Intervention, and the widespread dissemination of our domestic violence curriculum and medical-legal partnership.

