

Christine Heim

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Curriculum vitae

- Since 2014 Professor, Biobehavioral Health, College of Health and Human Development, Pennsylvania State University, US
- Since 2011 Full professor (W3) and head, Institute of Medical Psychology, Center for Health and Human Sciences, Charité, Berlin
- 2008 – 2011 Associate professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, US
- 2001 – 2007 Assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, US
- 1999 – 2001 Scientific associate (C1), Department of Clinical and Physiological Psychology, Universität Trier
- 1996 – 1999 Postdoctoral fellow, Emory University, Atlanta, US
- 1996 PhD (Dr. rer. nat.) in Psychology, Universität Trier
- 1987 – 1993 Studies in Psychology, Universität Trier

Research fields

Our research focus is in the field of clinical psychobiology with the following major areas:

- Developmental programming of health and disease, i.e. consequences of early-life stress
- Neural, neuroendocrine, immune, and molecular correlates of early-life stress
- Interactions of stress and genetic/dispositional factors across development
- Identification of risk versus resilience markers and targets for intervention
- Longitudinal multilevel studies of stress-regulatory systems in maltreated children

Activities in the scientific community, honors, awards

- 2019 Fellow, Max Planck School of Cognition
- 2019 Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Institute for Early Life Adversity Research, University of Texas Austin, US
- 2017 Member, Scientific Advisory Board, German Resilience Center, University Mainz
- 2017 Vice Secretary of Biomedical Class, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)
- 2017 Fellow, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- 2015 Member, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW)
- 2015 Patricia R. Barchas Award in Sociophysiology, American Psychosomatic Association
- Since 2014 Member, Child Maltreatment Solutions Network, Social Science Research Institute, The Pennsylvania State University, US
- Since 2013 Member, Editorial Boards: Psychoneuroendocrinology (2013), Medical Psychology (2015), Personalized Medicine in Psychiatry (2016), Brain, Behavior, and Immunity (2019); Associate Editor: Journal of Medical Psychology (2016)
- 2012 – 2014 Member, Training and Education Committee, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- 2008 Member, American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- 2007 Curt P. Richter Award, International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology
- 2006 Research Scientist Career Development Award, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 2006 Junior Faculty Research Grant Award, Anxiety Disorders Association of America
- 2004 Chaim Danieli Award, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies
- 2003 Scholarship, Society for Biological Psychiatry
- 2002, 2005 NARSAD Young Investigator Award, The Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, US
- 1998 Young Investigator Award, International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology
- 1997 – 1998 Research Fellowship, German Research Foundation (DFG)
- 1997 Annual Award for Most Distinguished Dissertation, Universität Trier

Selected publications

- Moog NK, Entringer S, Rasmussen JM, Styner M, Gilmore JH, Kathmann N, Heim CM, Wadhwa PD, Buss C. Intergenerational Effect of Maternal Exposure to Childhood Maltreatment on Newborn Brain Anatomy. *Biol Psychiatry* 2018; 83:120-127
- Houtepen LC, Vinkers CH, Carrillo-Roa T, Hiemstra M, van Lier PA, Meeus W, Branje S, Heim CM, Nemeroff CB, Mill J, Schalkwyk LC, Creighton MP, Kahn RS, Joels M, Binder EB, Boks MP. Genome-wide DNA methylation levels and altered cortisol stress reactivity following childhood trauma in humans. *Nat Commun* 2016; 7:10967
- Klengel T, Mehta D, Anacker C, Rex-Haffner M, Pruessner JC, Pariante CM, Pace TW, Mercer KB, Mayberg HS, Bradley B, Nemeroff CB, Holsboer F, Heim CM, Ressler KJ, Rein T, Binder EB. Allele-specific FKBP5 DNA demethylation mediates gene-childhood trauma interactions. *Nat Neurosci* 2013; 16:33-41
- Heim CM, Mayberg HS, Mletzko T, Nemeroff CB, Pruessner JC. Decreased cortical representation of genital somatosensory field after childhood sexual abuse. *Am J Psychiatry* 2013; 170:616-623
- Heim C, Binder EB. Current research trends in early life stress and depression: review of human studies on sensitive periods, gene-environment interactions, and epigenetics. *Exp Neurol* 2012; 233:102-111
- Lupien SJ, McEwen BS, Gunnar MR, Heim C. Effects of stress throughout the lifespan on the brain, behaviour and cognition. *Nat Rev Neurosci* 2009; 10:434-445
- Heim C, Young LJ, Newport DJ, Mletzko T, Miller AH, Nemeroff CB. Lower CSF oxytocin concentrations in women with a history of childhood abuse. *Mol Psychiatry* 2009; 14:954-958
- Heim C, Wagner D, Maloney E, Papanicolaou DA, Solomon L, Jones JF, Unger ER, Reeves WC. Early adverse experience and risk for chronic fatigue syndrome: results from a population-based study. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2006; 63:1258-1266
- Heim C, Newport DJ, Bonsall R, Miller AH, Nemeroff CB. Altered pituitary-adrenal axis responses to provocative challenge tests in adult survivors of childhood abuse. *Am J Psychiatry* 2001; 158:575-581
- Heim C, Newport DJ, Heit S, Graham YP, Wilcox M, Bonsall R, Miller AH, Nemeroff CB. Pituitary-adrenal and autonomic responses to stress in women after sexual and physical abuse in childhood. *JAMA* 2000; 284:592-597