

2015 Hiram E. Fitzgerald Award



The Hiram E. Fitzgerald award is given to an emerging scholar/researcher who is committed to strengthening relationships between infants, toddlers and their families and whose research is innovative and dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for infants, toddlers and families. The 2015 Fitzgerald award is presented to **Carolyn Joy Dayton, PhD, LMSW, LP, IMH-E® (IV-C/R/F)**. Dr. Dayton is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Wayne State University and Associate Director of the Infant Mental Health Program at the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child and Family Development. She has many years of experience providing clinical interventions to the families of infants and young children in a wide range of settings including home-based, center-based and hospital programs. Dr. Dayton's research is focused on early parenting processes with an emphasis on fathering in urban settings. Her innovative focus on fathers in urban settings, from a developmentally informed and relationship-based perspective, works to advance our understanding about a largely undocumented but essential component of Infant Mental Health. Dr. Dayton's program of research is fundamentally translational and trans-disciplinary; it is informed by her clinical work with families and aims to identify biological and psychosocial risk and resilience factors that influence early parenting process and early child development.