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### **Advances in understanding, assessing, and treating youth with severe conduct problems and callous-unemotional traits.**

**Abstract:** Children presenting with symptoms of conduct disorders are a heterogeneous population and it is widely accepted that these disorders develop through multiple pathways. In particular, the presence of callous-unemotional (CU) traits has proven clinically useful for identifying those children and adolescents with earlier starting, more aggressive, and persistent conduct problem symptoms, which are underpinned by distinct mechanisms from youth without CU traits, and less responsive to traditional treatments. Longitudinal studies find that CU traits predict the later development of antisocial personality disorder and these traits are thought to be a developmental antecedent to adult psychopathy. Decades of research are devoted to understanding how CU traits develop, but knowledge is limited on how to optimally treat this high-risk population. Prof Kimonis will discuss recent advances in assessing and treating children with conduct disorders within clinic and school settings from her translational program of clinical research.