Accepted Manuscript

Title: Sexual Intimacy in Couples is Associated with Longer Telomere Length

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PII: \$0306-4530(16)31003-4

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.psyneuen.2017.03.022

Reference: PNEC 3587

To appear in:

Received date: 9-12-2016 Revised date: 16-3-2017 Accepted date: 22-3-2017

Please cite this article as: Baca, Tomás Cabeza de, Epel, Elissa S., Robles, Theodore F., Coccia, Michael, Gilbert, Amanda, Puterman, Eli, Prather, Aric A., Sexual Intimacy in Couples is Associated with Longer Telomere Length.Psychoneuroendocrinology http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2017.03.022

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Sexual Intimacy in Couples is Associated with Longer Telomere Length

Running head: Intimacy and telomeres

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Word count: 5,363 (Abstract, manuscript and references)

(AAP). **Note:** The first author has moved to the Division of Cardiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Highlights

- High-quality relationships are beneficial for physical and mental health
- Frequency of sex has also been linked to greater mental and physical health
- Sexual intimacy was associated with longer telomere length in whole blood and PBMCs
- Sexual intimacy was not associated with granulocyte telomere length and telomerase

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