EGEA 8th Conference

Nutrition and Health: From science to practice

Lyon, November 7-9th, 2018

Epigenetics and pregnancy



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Trends in the number of adults with diabetes by region 1980-2014



Non Communicable Diseases Risk Factor Collaboration, Lancet 2016

Global map of mean birth weight (WHO)



Epigenetic Landscape and Biological Development: How the environment affects genes regulation and development



C Waddington

Developmental programming:

A process by which a stimulus applied during a criticial period of sensitivity during development exerts not only short term, but lifelong effects



The effect of finite periods of undernutrition at different ages on the composition and the subsequent development of the rat *Widdowson & Mc Cance, Proc. Roy Soc London 1966*



The effect of birth weight on the mortality ratio of coronary heart disease in human Barker et al, Lancet 1989

Birth Weight vs Chronic Renal Failure



Lackland BT et al. Arch Intern Med 2000, adapted

Effect size of developmental programming: prevalence of hypertension



Barker DJ, Osmond C, Forsen TJ, Kajantie E, Eriksson JG. N Engl.J Med. 2005;353:1802-9

Epigenetics: a long lasting, heritable molecular translation of early genomeenvironment interactions, in the absence of gene sequence alteration



Royal gelly fed bees



become bigger, live longer and are fertile. The Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD)



Worldwide Type 2 Diabetes Epidemic: the amplifying effect of the cycle of reproduction



The long term memory of early environmental cues



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Intra-uterine Growth Restriction, Preterm birth, or Antenatal exposure to Hyperglycaemia in pregnancy

Common long term complications in offspring and common programming mechanisms

Hypertension & cardio-vascular disease

Reduced nephron endowment Altered endothelial function

- Impaired angiogenesis
- Altered endothelium-dependent vasodilating capacity (IUGR, DIP)
- Arterial stiffness, Intima-media thickness
- Impaired Glucose Tolerance, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus,

Reduced insulin sensitivity Insufficient insulin production Obesity (IUGR, DIP)







Arterial Blood Pressure in Young Adults Born Preterm *vs* Postnatal Growth

Growth



Systolic blood pressure

Systolic blood pressure correlations	r	р
Change in Z-score for weight (4- 12 months)	0.426	0.048
Weight gain : 6-21 years (absolute)	0.419	0.03
Weight gain : 6-21 years (relative)	0.582	0.001
Change in Z-score for weight (6- 21 years)	0.381	0.05
Change in BMI (6-21 years)	0.489	0.011

Tauzin et al, JDOHaD 2014

Altered angiogenesis in preterm infants:

SIRT1 decrease correlates with accelerated senescence in Endothelial Colony Forming Cells (ECFCs)



Ligi et al, Blood 2011 Frizeira-Vassallo et al, Blood 2014

Human Cord Blood Endothelial Progenitor Cells Angiogenic Capacity: Maturation of AMOT gene methylation rate



Maternal Low Protein Diet during Gestation (IUGR) <u>+</u> Postnatal Overfeeding during Lactation (OF): Offspring Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP)





M = Age in Months

Boubred et al, AJP 2007; 2009

Seasonal variation of methylation of metastable epialleles in infants according to maternal nutrition at conception in Gambia



Implication of sperm RNAs in transgenerational inheritance of the effects of early trauma in mice



Behavioral and metabolic responses in "unpredictable maternal separation combined with unpredictable maternal stress" (MSUS) males across generations and in mice derived from RNA-injected oocytes.

Gapp et al, Nature Neurosci 2014

Dad is having a much larger role in the whole process, rather than just delivering his genome and being done with it.

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Developmental Programming & Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD)







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Cardio-vascular, Metabolic Kidney, Immune System, Nutrition, Oxydative stress Senescence

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