



IACAPAP 2020
SINGAPORE

VIRTUAL CONGRESS

PLENARY ABSTRACT

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Early Life Determinants of Health

This presentation will discuss the importance of investment in early life determinants of health in order to break the cycle of long-term and intergenerational disadvantage. With a special focus on neurodevelopmental and behavioural disorders of childhood, both the biological and social determinants and its interaction in a cumulative fashion will be discussed as the targets for a biopsychosocial transformation of the health system. To achieve this, it is critical to understand the role of early life stress on the developing brain and the consequent clinical symptoms.

The presentation will trace how genetic and biological vulnerability interact with perinatal and other environmental factors to influence the neuronal circuitry development which in turn influence the final common pathway of expression to clinically significant phenotypic presentations.

The session will also discuss how these phenotypes are at times inadequately captured by our diagnostic systems, and will outline some approaches aimed at addressing this. In discussing how best to intervene, a systems-based approach will be presented that includes capacity-building in the workforce, application of research evidence using knowledge translation and implementation science principles, and the establishment of equity-focused pathways of care.