

Invited Speakers and Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 18 February 2010

Morning Session

Welcome and Opening Comments

Hon Tariana Turia
Minister of Parliament

Convenor's Welcome and Introductions

Trecia Wouldes, PhD and Barry M. Lester, PhD

Keynote

Edward Z. Tronick, PhD

University Distinguished Professor at the University of Massachusetts and Chief, Child Development Unit, Children's Hospital in Boston, USA

Dr. Tronick is a world class researcher and teacher recognized internationally for his work on the neurobehavioral and social emotional development of infants and young children, parenting in the U.S. and other cultures, and infant-parent mental health. He developed the Face-to-face Still-face paradigm and video-taped micro-analytic studies of infant en face interactions, pioneered studies of the effects of maternal depression on infants, and carried out numerous cross-cultural studies of infant and child development. His Mutual Regulation Model and Dyadic Expansion of Consciousness hypothesis are widely accepted accounts of social interactions and therapeutic processes.

Afternoon Session

Relationship Disorders

Ruth Feldman, PhD

Professor of Psychology at Bar-Ilan University and
the Gonda Brain Center, Israel

Dr. Feldman is head of the Early Developmental Laboratory, a co-director of the Bar-Ilan - Geha internship program in clinical psychology of early childhood, and an adjunct professor at Yale University, Child Study Center. Her research focuses on the biological basis of early relationships, the social and emotional development of infants, cultural processes in family development, and on developmental psychopathology stemming from biological conditions, maternal mental health, and war-related trauma. In several large-scale studies she examined the effects of early interventions, including touch therapies, on the development of infants at high risk.

Louise Newman
Professor of Developmental Psychiatry & Psychology at
Monash University, Australia

Dr. Newman is the Director of the Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry & Psychology. Prior to this appointment she was the Chair of Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry at the University of Newcastle. Dr. Newman is a practicing infant psychiatrist with expertise in the area of disorders of early parenting and attachment difficulties. Her current research focus is the evaluation of infant-parent interventions in high-risk populations, the concept of parental reflective functioning in mothers with borderline disorders and the neurobiology of parenting disturbance.

Denise Guy, MBChB, FRANZCP

Dr. Guy is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist with clinical expertise in infancy and early childhood. Her current roles include clinical supervision around infant and child mental health, Vice Presidency of the NZ Affiliate of the World Infant Mental Health Association, and she is a Trustee of the Incredible Families Charitable Trust. Denise maintains interests in parenting and attachment, developmental disorders, assessment and intervention processes, the development of knowledge and skills for clinicians, and advocacy for families and clinicians in the infant mental health field.

Friday, 19 February 2010

Plenary

Barry M. Lester, PhD
Professor of Psychiatry & Human Behavior and Pediatrics at
Brown Medical School, USA

Dr. Lester is founder and Director of the Center for the Study of Children at Risk at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Women & Infants Hospital. The Center conducts research and provides treatment services for an array of populations of infants at risk and their families. The Center also provides training in research, clinical assessment and treatment. Dr. Lester's research is on the study of processes and mechanisms at the intersection of biological and environmental factors that determine developmental outcome in at risk and typically developing children. Dr. Lester has been a member of NIH study sections and of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse at NIDA. He is past president of the International Association for Infant Mental Health and the author of more than 200 scientific publications and 16 edited books.

Morning Session

Early Conduct Problems

Daniel Shaw, PhD

Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh, USA

Dr. Shaw's research and clinical focus involves tracing the early developmental precursors of externalizing and internalizing problems among at-risk children. Dr. Shaw has published extensively on risk factors associated with the development and prevention of conduct problems in early childhood. He currently leads or co-directs five NIH-funded, longitudinal studies investigating the early antecedents and prevention of childhood conduct problems and depression. His most recent work applies an ecologically- and developmentally-based intervention for low-income toddlers at risk for early conduct problems.

Frances Gardner, PhD

Professor of Child and Family Psychology in the Department of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Oxford, UK

Dr. Gardner is an Honorary Clinical Psychologist, Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare Trust. Her research interests are in the development of anti-social behaviour or conduct problems in children, particularly how early parenting style, and other social factors, influence young children's adjustment. Dr. Gardner specialises in direct observational methods for assessing parent-child interaction. She is carrying out a number of longitudinal and intervention studies of the development of antisocial behaviour, including a randomised controlled trial of community parenting programmes.

Cheryl McNeil, PhD

Professor of Psychology in the Clinical Child program at West Virginia University, USA

Dr. McNeil's clinical and research interests are focused on program development and evaluation, specifically with regard to abusive parenting practices and managing the disruptive behaviours of young children in both the home and school settings. Dr. McNeil has co-authored two books, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and Short-Term Play Therapy for Disruptive Children.

Afternoon Session

Preterm Infants

Lianne Woodward, PhD

Associate Professor in Psychology at Canterbury University, New Zealand

Dr. Woodward is a developmental psychologist who has published a number of articles that explore the early environments of high-risk populations. Her current longitudinal research exploring the developmental outcomes of infants born very preterm has won her international recognition. In 2006, she was awarded the prestigious William Liley award for her work in predicting neurodevelopmental risk in children born very premature.

Rosemarie Bigsby, ScD, OTR/L, BCP, FAOTA
Clinical Associate Professor in Pediatrics at the Alpert Medical School of Brown
University, USA

Dr. Bigsby is an occupational therapist and Coordinator of NICU Services at the Center for the Study of Children at Risk at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Her experience as a pediatric occupational therapist over three decades includes working in a variety of settings as clinician, supervisor and consultant. For the past 14 years, she has practiced in the NICU, in the combined roles of therapist, educator and researcher. Her research focuses on motor development, behavioral cues, physiologic regulation, and feeding in early infancy. She also teaches multidisciplinary workshops on assessment and intervention in the NICU.

Louise Webster MBChB, FRANZCP, FRACP(Paeds)
Senior Lecturer in Psychological Medicine at the
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Louise Webster has trained as both a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and a Pediatrician. She is the Clinical Director of the Starship Pediatric Consultation Liaison Team, a child mental health team that works with children and adolescents who have significant medical and surgical conditions. Louise is also a Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Psychological Medicine at the University of Auckland and teaches on a number of undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Saturday, 20 February 2010

Plenary

Linda LaGasse, PhD
Associate Professor (Research) in Pediatrics at and Director of Research at the Center
for the Study of Children at Risk at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Dr. LaGasse's research focus is the effects of prenatal exposure to drugs of abuse on development including early infant cry, cognitive-motor processes, later behavior problems and psychopathology. Dr. LaGasse's primary focus at present is two multi-site, longitudinal studies of children with prenatal exposure to methamphetamine and adolescents with prenatal exposure to cocaine. She is also Principal Investigator of an NIH grant to study prenatal exposure to methamphetamine and child developmental outcome in New Zealand. Dr. LaGasse has over 35 peer reviewed publications and chapters, serves as advisor to other multi-site studies, and is an ad hoc grant reviewer for several NIH institutes.

Morning Session

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Cheryl Dissanayake, PhD

Associate Professor and Reader School of Psychological Science at
LaTrobe University, Australia

Dr. Dissanayake is Founder and Director of the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre in the in the School of Psychological Science at La Trobe University. This is the first research facility in Australia dedicated to Autism Spectrum Disorders. Prof. Dissanayake is a developmental psychologist, and has been an autism researcher since 1984. She serves on the Professional Panel of Autism Victoria, and is co-founder and convener of one of its reference groups, the Autism Spectrum Disorder Research Group.

Todd Levine, MD

Faculty, Center for the Study of Children at Risk at the Alpert Medical School of Brown
University, USA

Dr. Levine is a Pediatrician and Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist. He has had a lifelong interest in understanding autism and pursues it in both research and clinical settings. Dr. Levine's most current research focuses on biological and behavioral manifestations of anxiety in children with autism. In his clinical work, Dr. Levine has developed a specialized autism clinic focusing on assessments and treatment planning for children with autism and special behavioral needs.

Steve Sheinkopf, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research) in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at
the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, USA

Dr. Sheinkopf is a clinical psychologist at the Center for the Study of Children at Risk at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University and sees patients in the autism clinic. He is also a member of the Developmental Disabilities Program at Bradley Hospital and a faculty member of the Brown Brain Sciences Program. Dr. Sheinkopf has extensive clinical and research experience in the area of early childhood, with particular expertise in the area of early diagnosis and development of young children with autism and developmental disabilities. His current research includes vocal signals in infants related to the later development of autism.

Afternoon Sessions

Session A

Infant Mental Health in Maori & Pacific Populations

Tania Cargo, MA, PGDipClinPsych

Lecturer, Department of Psychological Medicine,
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Tania Cargo has worked clinically with Maori tamariki and their whanau in specialist child and adolescent mental health services and in Maori community services. Her current interest is in the area of infant mental health and supporting Maori Mothers and babies. She works clinically at the Te Aho Tapu Trust, a Maori Psychological Service in Auckland. She is currently working on a PhD that will investigate traditional Maori infant-carer relationships.

Lyn Doherty, PhD

Project Coordinator, Ohomairangi Trust, New Zealand

Dr. Doherty has worked in Special Education Early Intervention teams within mainstream services. She has been a leader in designing, leading and managing Maori for Maori service model development. In addition, Dr. Doherty has been an early intervention teacher and registered psychologist working across a number of settings, cultures, agencies and providers. She has helped develop resources to improve services and provision for children and young people, particularly those in Maori immersion settings.

Session B

Policy and Practice: Developing an Infant Mental Health Service

Colin Hamlin

Senior Advisor, Policy & Service Development, Mental Health Group,
Population Health Directorate, New Zealand Ministry of Health

Colin Hamlin is a senior advisor in infant, child and adolescent mental health in the Mental Health Policy & Service Development team, in the Ministry of Health. He is a social worker and family therapist with clinical and management experience in the infant, child, adolescent and family mental health sector. Prior to commencing his current role, Colin was instrumental in the establishment of a Multi-systemic Therapy team for young people with mental health and conduct problems who were involved with child protection services. Currently, Colin has a clinical interest in the development of maternal and infant mental health services and he is involved in interagency policy work to respond to the needs of young people with conduct problems.

Sally Merry, MBChB, FRANZCP, MD
Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychological Medicine at the
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Dr. Merry is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and, having established the Werry Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health at the University of Auckland is now the Director of Research at the Centre. Her main area of research interest has been adolescent depression and she has conducted a number of major studies in the area including Cochrane Collaboration reviews of evidence for interventions and a trial of the effectiveness of a depression prevention programme. Dr. Merry is currently establishing an Infant Mental Health Service within the Counties Manukau District Health Board.

Jo Chiplin, BHSc, MMgt (Health Services)
Project Manger Counties Manukau District Health Board, New Zealand

Jo Chiplin is a registered Comprehensive Nurse, with a background in general and mental health nursing. She spent seven years working in mental health services in South Auckland. More recently she has had a variety of roles in funding and developing mental health services within the Counties Manukau District Health Board mental health development team. She is currently involved in the development of Infant Mental Health services within Counties Manukau.

Wrap Up