

FRIDAY, 16 January 2004

- 244 Decade of Behavior Distinguished Lecture: When Infants Grow Up in Multi-Person Relationship Systems

James McHale (United States)

Abstract Not Available

- 246 Prediction and Reconstruction of a Child's Developmental History

Lynne E. Barnett (Australia)

The experience of a premature baby in neonatal intensive care can be a harrowing and traumatizing one. For many parents it is also a lonely one. A group of four families, where babies were born at less than 28 weeks, sought to meet together. They found the usual mothers group very difficult and distressing: such mothers, they believed, could know little of their own experience. They had however, much to say. Through a local maternal and child health service, these parents and babies came together in a group psychotherapeutic setting. The group was established as a time limited closed psychotherapy group. Guidelines were established to enable mothers to speak of anything that they wished in a private and confidential manner with other mothers. A separate evening group was established for the fathers and their babies. This presentation will describe the painful and ambivalent feelings the parents experience towards the units which cared for their very sick babies. The interactions between the babies themselves will also be described. This model provides some guidance towards the establishment of psychotherapeutic groups which could work within the neonatal intensive care unit setting before the babies are discharged.

- 249 Impairments of Communication in Children with Autism, Traumatic Stress, and Reactive Attachment Disorder

Pamela Segel (United States)

The question I am proposing for discussion is how communication impairments manifest in similar presentations with some young children who have had brain insults and how do early childhood professionals meet the challenge of intervention. One objective of this presentation is to compare and contrast observable impairments in communication between children who have been diagnosed with Autistic Disorder using DSM-IV criteria, children diagnosed with Traumatic Stress Disorder using the DC:0-3 classification, and, and children diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder using the Research Diagnostic Criteria-Preschool Age (RDC-PA). The second objective will be to discuss intervention strategies to address the impairments. Strategies to be discussed will include models of behavior modification and relationship-based models.

- 250 The Effects of Responsive Teaching on Young Children with Autism/PDD and Children with Other Developmental Disabilities

Gerald J. Mahoney, Frida P. Perales (United States)

This study investigated the hypothesis that Relationship Focused early intervention procedures promote the development of young children with autism/PDD by increasing children's use of pivotal developmental behavior. The sample included 20 children with autism/PDD and a matched sample of 30 children with other disabilities and their parents. The children were 28 months old at the onset of intervention. Their mean cognitive age was 14 months and language age was 12 months. All were offered weekly one hour intervention sessions over a 12 month time period. Children's cognitive, language and socio-emotional functioning were evaluated using standardized assessment procedures at the beginning and end of intervention. Pre and post- observations of parent-child interaction were also assessed. Results indicated that mothers made significant changes in their affect and responsiveness; while children made significant improvements in their pivotal behavior. Changes in children's pivotal behavior were

moderately correlated to changes in mothers' style of interaction (rs .37 to .68). On the average the entire sample of children attained greater than a 90 improvement in their rate of cognitive and language development. Only children with autism made significant improvements in their social emotional behavior. Changes in children's developmental functioning were moderately associated with improvements in their use of pivotal behavior.

251 Prevention and Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers at Risk for Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

Maureen A. Conroy, Elizabeth Kirby Fullerton, Catherine Beaunae, Brian Boyd, Linda Payne (United States)

This poster discusses research findings on the implementation of a model intervention program designed to teach early care providers to decrease problem behaviors demonstrated by infants/toddlers who are at risk for the development of emotional/behavioral disorders (EBD). The objective of this study was to examine the effects of an intervention program used across 45 infants/toddlers who were identified as "at risk" for EBD and were enrolled in an Early Head Start daycare program. The intervention program focused on teaching family members and early childhood care providers to decrease children's problem behaviors. Components of the intervention model included (1) manipulation of environmental factors; (2) strengthening children's developmental social-communication skills; and (3) development of positive adult-child interaction skills. Direct observational data was collected and will be presented on the caregiver's abilities to acquire and maintain intervention skills as well as the developmental progression of proactive, appropriate social and problem behaviors. Single case research methodology (Kazdin, 1982) and descriptive statistics were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the early intervention program. Preliminary results indicate that caregivers were able to implement program components resulting in a significant decrease in the children's problem behaviors. Research findings will be discussed to provide direction to practitioners and researchers who are working with young children at risk for EBD.

252 The Influence of Attachment in Development of Children with Autism

Fabienne Naber, Sophie Willemsen Swlnkels, Emma van Daalen, Herman van Engeland, Jan Buitelaar, Marian Bakermans-Kraanenburg, Marinus van Ijzendoorn (Netherlands)

Due to the biological factor of autism, symptoms are assumed to be present from birth. Nevertheless, the diagnosis is hardly ever given under the age of three years. In the SOSO-project, children with high risk for autism are observed at the age of 16 months and followed in their development up till the age of 42 months when they receive a final diagnosis. One part of this project is observing the children for their social behavior, using behavioral observation methods. Children who receive a later diagnose of autism seem to show delays in, or absence of, social behaviors during their development. However, the severity of the delays differs between children with the same disorder. It seems that the severity of the disorder is also highly related to the attachment relationship between the mother and the child. During our study we observed the children for their play behavior skills and joint attention. The influence of the attachment relationship on their social development is analyzed and will be discussed in this presentation.

253 Merits and Demerits of Early Screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Claudiine Dietz, Sophie Willemsen-Swlnkels, Emma van Van Daalen, Herman van Van Engeland, Jan Buitelaar (Netherlands)

A two-stage protocolled screening for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) was performed in a random population of 31.724 children at age 14 months. With this screening method, 17 children with ASD were identified. Although we demonstrated with this study that a very early detection of ASD is in fact possible, several limitations of early screening became as well apparent. The sensitivity of the instrument was not as high as we had hoped for. At least two reasons seem to be inherent to this problem. First, a high number of parents would not co-

operate with our screening procedure. The hesitation of parents shows as well in the time span of 7 months on average between the home visit and the moment of diagnostic examinations, whereas no waiting list existed. Second, because developmental disorders like ASD will appear at some time in development, the age of screening is highly related to the sensitivity of the screening instrument. It is plausible to believe that especially the milder cases will be missed with a screening at this early age. The positive predictive value was lowered by the high amount of false positives. It should however be noted that no typically developing children were found within the screen-positive group but the instrument did depict children with related disorders like Language Disorder (n 20) and Mental Retardation (n 9). This questions the demarcation between the childhood psychiatric disorders, at least at this early age. Merits and demerits of especially early screening will be further discussed.

- 255 The Munich Assessment Scale for Mother-Child Interaction by M. Papousek - Revisited
Caroline Haff, Anja Kahnt, Harold Wurmser, Mechthild Papousek (Germany)

Intuitive parenting is a key issue in the assessment of the quality of early mother-child interaction. Based on previous microanalytic approaches, Hanu and Mechthild Papou ek (1996) developed assessment scales which are appropriate for clinical use, because they permit a global estimation as a base for therapeutic interventions. The coding system has now been adapted and evaluated for scientific purposes. The authors have revised all scales in order to gain a more sophisticated, quantitative and objective measure for the quality of mother-child interaction. The Munich assessment scales for mother-child interaction aim at examining the quality of intuitive parenting as measured by the quantity of co- regulatory behavior of the mother and her adjustment to infant cues. The system contains four scales in order to account for (1) the infant s visual attention and (2) infant s states of interactional readiness, and for (3) expressiveness of the repertoire of intuitive parenting and (4) its adjustment to infant cues. The revision of the original coding system by Papousek and Papousek especially pertains to category 3 (repertoire of intuitive parenting), that has been elaborated through determining several crucial behaviors well defined in the repertoire of intuitive parenting (Papousek, 1996). The more frequent these behaviors occur the higher the score on this scale. Preliminary findings on the reliability of the coding system point to its usefulness for diagnostic assessment (kappa between .626 and .807).

- 256 The Effect of a Therapeutic Play Group Intervention on the Quality of Mother-Toddler Interactions
Susana Paola Gonzalez, Cecelia Winkelman (Australia)

The objective of this study is to investigate whether participation in the mother-toddler therapeutic playgroup will facilitate changes in the quality of mother-toddler interactions. The mother-toddler therapeutic playgroup encourages mother-toddler dyads, presenting with relationship distress, to gravitate towards more positive ways of relating to each other by providing a therapeutic environment in which to enhance the quality of their interactions. The intervention involves two therapists working with mother-toddler dyads. The study involves an experimental group and a delayed treatment control group. Mothers are screened for psychopathology and the children's development is assessed. In addition, data is collected on the mother's attachment style, her level of depression, and her anxiety. Pre and post-intervention data is collected on the quality of mother-toddler interactions, the mother's level of empathy, and the mother's level of stress. Discussion will include observations of the changes in the quality of the behaviours of the mother towards her child and of the child towards his or her mother, the specific changes in the quality of their joint interactions, and the changes in the mother's perception of her child, her empathic responsiveness, and changes in her level of st

- 257 Cross-Task Stability in Parents' Emotion Conversations with Toddlers
Regina Kuersten-Hogan, Stefanie Giampa (United States)

While associations between parental emotion conversations and children's social and emotional development have been well documented, very little is known about the stability of parental emotion conversations across various situations. It is important to assess how consistent parental emotion conversations are across contexts in order to determine whether parents' emotion talk represents a trait or whether it is situationally determined. The present study is one of the first to explore the question of parental consistency in emotion talk across tasks. Fifty toddlers aged 30 months and their mothers and fathers were videotaped while they engaged in two structured dyadic tasks designed to focus them on talking about feelings. During one task, parent and child looked at a picture book with emotional content. During the second task, parent and child were instructed to enact stories of a happy, sad, and angry family using a doll family. Tasks were coded for parental use of emotion words and of strategies to help children enact the emotion-laden stories. Parents were also interviewed about their everyday experiences with different feelings. Results indicated that parents' emotion conversations varied to some extent depending on the task, but there was also consistency in parental emotion talk across tasks. Findings suggest that certain characteristics of parental emotion talk may represent an enduring parental trait. The need for future studies to observe parental emotion conversations during a variety of structured tasks is emphasized.

258 Examining Family Stress and Parent-Child Interaction Across Time

Lorraine McKelvey, Rachel Schiffman, Hiram E. Fitzgerald (United States)

The purpose of this study was to explore family stress and parent-toddler interaction during a structured teaching task across two time points. The sample consisted of 166 low-income, primarily Caucasian (76%) mothers and their toddlers in an Early Head Start research study. Family stress variables included family conflict, parenting stress and exposure to adversity. Also included in the analysis was the total number of hours of programming devoted to the family (families in the study were randomly assigned to treatment (N=84) and comparison group (N=82), therefore dosage for the comparison families was assumed null. Structural Equation Modeling was employed to determine the relationship between stress variables and parent-toddler interaction. Significant positive relationships were found between parenting stress and family conflict at 24 and 36 months of age. Significant negative relationships were observed between parenting stress and parent-child interaction at 24 and 36 months of age, indicating stability in the relationship between parenting stress and parent-child interaction. In summary, parent-child interaction in this low-income sample of families appears to be best predicted by levels of parenting stress across time, as family conflict and adversity were not significantly related. Program dosage did predict parent-child interaction at either point. Results suggest that targeting parenting stress may be a worthwhile endeavor for early intervention programs.

258A Prenatal Attachment as a Predictor of Early Mother-Infant Relationship

Anver Siddiqui (Sweden)

Abstract Not Available

261 Psychosocial Risk Factors for Postnatal Depression Survey: An Italian Sample

Vania Valoriani (Italy)

This study objective was to administer the Contextual Assessment of Maternity experience (antenatal) to an Italian sample of women to evaluate the incidence of psychosocial risk factors on the onset of postnatal depression. The C.A.M.E., was developed for its application in an European Transcultural Studies of Postnatal Depression, tape recorded and rated for different areas such as: recent life adversity; social and marital support; feelings towards pregnancy and motherhood. On a total sample of 269 European women, we have administered 21 C.A.M.E. antenatal interview to women in the third trimester of pregnancy recruited in Florence as part of an eleven multi-centers European study. The Structured Clinical Interview Non Patient for DSM-IV has been also administered in a version adapted for assessing

depression and other non-psychotic psychiatric illness in perinatal women. Finally the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale has been used to assess mood symptoms related to pregnancy. The results showed that severe recent life adversity was mainly in the interpersonal domain including social, marital and reproductive/parenthood domains. The majority of the treated sample had a good network support including the partner. On the contrary, only few of them have considered the partner support as important as emotional support. Such data will be treated by this study. Results of this trial can help to understand the links between psychosocial risk factors and the onset of depression in the peripartum period. They can also aid to prevent such risks supporting women during pregnancy.

262 First Time Pregnant Women and Their Partner Affect Assessment: Similarities and Differences
Alessandra Rispoli (Italy)

This study main aim is to evaluate the emotional differences in couples waiting for their first born son. During the last period of pregnancy the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) Italian version and the Centre for Epidemiological Study - Depression scale (CES-D) were administered to 45 women. The CES-D, together with a socio-demographic schedule, was administered to their partners. The EPDS is a common scale used in peripartum period to assess the mood disorders. The test has been translated into Italian language and validated for an Italian clients sample. The validity of the EPDS Italian version has been tested considering sensitivity, specificity and predictive value at several cut-off scores against DSM-III-R major depression episodes. A threshold score of 12/13 was found to identify all the six women with a DSM-III-R diagnosis of severe or moderate major depression episodes; while a 9/10 cut-off score identified eight subjects (80%) as mild depression cases. The CES-D is a 20-items scale largely used in clinical studies since 1981, it assesses thoughts and behaviors referred to different troubles. The result of our assessment study confirms that women showed more affective changeability in antenatal period and their partners felt remote from the event, in fact their mood results in the normal range respect to our assessment. We have also correlated socio-demographics data with the EPDS and CES-D outcome above all the length of the relationship, severe life events and feelings towards pregnancy.

263 Paternal Depression and Couple Morbidity in the Postpartum Period: A Florentine Area Survey
Paola Benvenuti (Italy)

Several international studies have the maternal depression as main object, but neglecting or fairly simply noting the father psychological distress. During last years only, researchers started to study the father side also, so outlining a not negligible percentage of fathers, presenting the starting up of depressive phenomena both before and after the delivery. The birth itself represents an event in some aspects to be considered as traumatic for both parents, as they could face a destabilizing situation for the couple equilibrium. Aim of this study is to try to identify, in a sample constituted by 100 couples with one son aged between 1 to 12 months, the incidence of the depressive disorder both for the mother and for the father. All couples were for age, social status, kind of occupation, representative of the Florence territory. A socio-demographic questionnaire, including also the EPDS Italian version, has been administered to both parents. Considering both socio-economical factors, the relation between occupational level and moderate or severe depressive symptoms is quite significant. The correlation between literacy level, low income and depressive symptomatology is quite evident too. As far as the fathers are concerned, the 15% of male sample present a depressive symptomatology and the 66% a morbidity with the partner.

264 An Analysis of Early Coparenting Dynamics at Three Months Post-Partum
Rebecca Lieberson, Tamir Rotman, James P. McHale (United States)

The present study reports on the development and psychometric properties of a new system designed to evaluate coparenting relationship in first-time parents at three months post-partum

using the Fivaz-Depeursinge and Corboz-Warnery's (1999) Lausanne Triadic Play (LTP) paradigm. The coding system includes both a micro approach to record specific parental behaviors occurring at 10 second intervals, and a global approach to capture the rater's overall impression of the quality of the coparenting relationship for such dimensions as family warmth, cooperation between parents, competition between parents, verbal sparring between parents, overall parental sensitivity to baby, and parental disconnection/disengagement..

265 Family Context Organizes the Quality of Young Siblings' Interactions

David M. Shaw, Allison Lauretti, James P. McHale (United States)

We compared infant-sibling interactions during play sessions when parents were actively engaged with the children and sessions when parents were distracted. We also addressed the issue of sibling gender, speculating that the behavior of siblings in opposite-sex pairs would be reactive to context, while that of same-sex pairs would be more consistent. 41 sibling pairs, each containing a 12-month-old and a sibling 18-30 months older than the baby (10 brother-sister, 12 sister-brother, 10 brother-brother, 9 sister-sister) were observed in two contexts: (a) family assigned a series of tasks to complete together; and (b) siblings given toys to play with while parents were distracted. Parents were instructed to intervene in the latter condition only in matters of safety. Interactions were coded for incidence and quality (positive, negative, neutral) of initiating bids by both siblings in both contexts. The frequency and quality of initiating bids by infant children did not differ significantly across contexts, regardless of sex of the older sibling. However, the same was not true for older siblings. The behavior of older siblings in opposite-sex pairings differed as a function of context more than did that of their counterparts from same-sex dyads. Older siblings in same-sex pairs were less positive toward babies during family interactions, but remained equally positive in sibling-only play. Older siblings in opposite-sex dyads were more positive with babies during family play, but much less positive when parents were distracted.

276 Social Baby

Bijou Blick, Beulah Warren (Australia)

Abstract Not Available

278 Adapting the Steep Model to Different Cultures and Contexts: Lessons from Research and Practice

Martha Farrell Erickson (United States)

Abstract Not Available

279 Early Intervention for Persistent Post-Partum Depression: Enhancing Dyadic Interaction

Nick Kowalenko, Catherine Fowler, Catherine McMahon, Steve Spielman (Australia)

Abstract Not Available

280 STEEP-Based Intervention with Families in Child Guidance Settings

Gehard J. Suess, Meral Kutsan, Heiderose Dantzer

Abstract Not Available

283 Let's Start at the Very Beginning: Infant-Directed Singing as a Therapeutic Intervention for the Long-Term Newborn Patient

Helen Shoemark (Australia)

Abstract Not Available

284 The Infant Reaches Out: The Communicative Functions of Adult-Infant Vocalizations and Gestures

Stephen Malloch (Australia)

When a caregiver and a healthy young infant interact, communication takes place through the intentions and affect conveyed through the qualities of their vocalizations and the gestures of their bodies and facial movement. Caregiver and infant share emotional experience by imitating and complementing the intensity, rhythm, shape, and duration of the other's expression in the same or different modality (motor movements or voice). Further, unless an infant receives animated vocalizations and gestures from a caregiver that are contingent on the infant's own vocalizations and body movements, the infant finds the vocalizations and gestures first unsatisfying and finally highly distressing. This presentation will draw from the author's research into the affect of post-natal depression on mother-infant interaction; and the use of improvised music therapy with sick infants in an intensive care unit. Results will be presented from analyses of pitch-curves of infant and adult vocalizations, as well as analyses of their bodily movements. Findings support a model of communicative musicality that states that the vocal prosody of both caregiver and infant, together with touch and body gestures, can be understood as a shaping of time into narratives of joint expression that are appreciated by both adult and infant. In post-natal depression this communicative system begin to break down, and in music therapy the therapist uses this system with sick infants to encourage the infant to once again become an active participant in interaction, with the accompanying benefits for the infant's physiological balance and overall development.

- 285 A Research-Based Magazine as an Informative Intervention with Parents of Premature Infants
Carol Newnham, Jeanette Milgrom (Australia)

The quality of early interactions between parents and infants establish long-term effects at behavioral and neural levels. Premature neonates become acutely and chronically stressed because their immature central nervous system is unable to cope with the demands of the Neonatal Intensive Care environment. They are at risk for difficulties in bonding, interacting, attaching, and subsequent long-term outcomes. Parents need to learn to understand and respond to the premature infant's special needs at the very time they themselves are traumatized. While parents report the need for information, professionals report problems in engaging parents, ascertaining which information to impart and what has been understood. This presentation will describe the empirical and theoretical bases for the quarterly publication *Premie Press (PP)*. An overview of its content will be given: PP aims to help parents' understanding of infants' and toddlers' abilities, needs, behavioral cues, appropriate ways of handling, development and parental issues. Firmly based on psychological theory and principles, it reports information from many disciplines in a simple and engaging style. This 'passive' intervention supports (and may sometimes be the only provider of) evidence-based approaches to optimize bonding, early interactions between infants and parents and infant development. The written format means that stressed parents can read and reread the information when they feel ready. The results of a survey of parents and professionals (n= 69 and 35 respectively) regarding PP's content and 'readability' will be presented.

- 286 The Problems of Hospital Noise for the Development of Early Language Awareness in Infants
M. Kathleen Philbin (United States)

Contemporary research describes many features of the auditory environment of the womb. These appear to complement the active learning of the fetal brain to produce a term newborn capable of identifying and showing preferences for the unique features of a mother's voice and language. Likewise, contemporary studies of infant hearing reveal the extent of frequency (pitch) discrimination, acuity (required loudness), and the quite limited ability to discriminate a signal in the presence of masking and background sounds. The acoustic environment of a hospital nursery does not match the biological expectations of the actively learning fetal or newborn brain. In particular, the sounds in these environments are louder, have a wider range of audible frequencies, have more abrupt rise-fall characteristics, and lack clearly defined

acoustic signals from the one essential exemplar - the mother. Early aspects of acquiring the ability to attend to important signals, to habituate (stop attending to repeating signals), and to discriminate important signals against the background may be challenged by these conditions. Common features of traditional nursery design create barriers that can interfere with parents remaining comfortably with their infants and providing their care - activities that bring species-typical, acoustic-bound experience to the infant. The possible detrimental effects of some commonplace practices involving mechanically produced sound in the hospital nursery will be discussed. Remedies for the acoustic conditions of hospital nurseries will be presented briefly.

289 Fathership as Psychosocial Transition

Jorge L. Tizon, Peitat Fuster (Spain)

Functional Unit of Mental Health Attention to the Early Childhood, Sant Mart district of Barcelona (Catalan Health Institute), Pza. de la Infancia s/n, 4 planta. 08020 Barcelona (Spain) jtizon.pb@ics.scs.es Authors are concerned for years in the topic of the father's role and the characteristics of the transition to the fatherhood in our European and technologically developed societies. There are diverse reasons for that interest: for instance, the father's integration in the children and mother's care, the father's integration in the treatments of the children and so on. In such a sense they have collaborated on investigations so much clinical as psycho-socials on that issue: father's participation in the preventive works with children of high risk, participation in the therapies parent-children in the early childhood, father's participation in every type of multimodal treatments of any age children ...In the communication to the panel we shall present a general vision of the topic and some of the results of a research work carried out on the transition to the paternity among the fathers of a nursery in Sant Mart district of Barcelona. Biological variables, psychological and psycho-socials ones were investigated during the pregnancy, in the first three months of the first son's life and before the first birthday. In general, the results point toward the importance of fatherhood as a psychosocial transition more important than expected at the three levels, and including elements of psychosocial crisis.

290 The Infant in the Father's World

Svend Aage Madsen, Dennis Lind (Denmark)

The objective of this study was to examine father's ability to reflect their infants states of mind i.e. Emotions, wishes, motivations etc. And to search for the roots to such ability. Forty-one fathers to be were randomly selected from the pre-birth ward at The Copenhagen University Hospital. The fathers were given three two-hour long semi structured interviews two months before and two weeks and five months after birth. The Father Bonding Interview was constructed on basis of the concepts of sensitivity, attachment and reflective functioning and was developed in the research program Fathers Relations to their Infants, a corporation between Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen and The Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet. Results from the study presented here indicate that men are able to reflect their infant's states of mind and thus evolve one of the essential aspects of a fatherhood constellation. This seems, however, to be found only in some fathers namely those having a model of caregiving representing closeness and compassion from their parents. The study further indicates that fathers having such a model have developed this capacity towards their infants out of the relationship with their mother while their relationship with their father seems to be of no or insignificant importance. These results indicate that future research on infant fatherhood might benefit from focusing on the man's early relationship with his mother and not exclusively on the relationship with his father as has been common in research.

291 Parental Attitude Research Instrument (Father's PARI Q4): Application on a Sample of the General Population

Luciano Bartolli (Italy)

Recent literature reports a rising interest for paternal background and for the father role modifications, thus generating the maternal father definition (Argentieri 1999). The social modifications incurred during last 20-30 years in the Italian society shown a different father-son relationship: greater permissively, lower intrusion in sons guidance, higher attention to the father role. This research aims to investigate the psychological meaning of father s attitude. Therefore we have planned to investigate the fathers' attitude of a central Italy sample. Parental Attitude Research Instrument (P.A.R.I. Q4), of Schludermann Schludermann (1970-79) consisting of 20 scales of 5 items each has been used to determinate more precisely the changes of the father role during last decades. The sample is constituted by 517 clients, male, representative of the population, subdivided by age (20-60 years), marital status, level of education, kind of job activity, son number, and place of residence. The result show that the father image/figure play an important role to encourage the son to be independent. Such result, even if preliminary, could be helpful for the educational program officers.

292

Origins of Risk: Paternal and Neighborhood Influences on Child and Family Functioning

Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Lorraine McKelvey, Rachel Schiffman, Marcel Montanez (United States)

We examined the relationship between father antisocial behavior and neighborhood exposure to violence in 611 families of 36 month old toddlers enrolled in Early Head Start programs in the United States. Fathers were organized into four groups: High and low antisocial behavior (ASB) and high and low neighborhood exposure to violence. Impacts examined included child outcomes (cognitive development, emotion regulation, aggressive behavior, language development and problem), parent outcomes (depression, stress, parenting practices, parent-child interaction, and discipline), and family outcomes (family conflict). The vast majority (82) of the fathers in this sample did not show evidence of antisocial behavior, nor did they appear to have negative impacts on child or family function. The percentage of fathers who scored high in antisocial behavior and the negative impacts of that behavior on child (cognitive development and emotion regulation) and family functioning (parental distress, family conflict) mirror the general literature involving similar samples of low-income men and their families. The negative impact of neighborhood violence exposure was consistent with the literature as well. Not expected were the strong effects of father ASB and violence exposure on paternal depression. The results have implications for family functioning and equally important, have implicaitons for evaluations of community based prevention programs.

294

Australia's Current Immigration Policy: The Impact on Families with Infants

Sarah Mares (Australia)

This symposium will explore the clinical and professional issues arising in work with asylum seeker and refugee families with infants and young children who live in Immigration Detention and in the Australian community. The impact of these policies on families, infants and children is explored in a series of papers on differing aspects of the policy. Clinical material is presented from families remaining in detention often for years at a time, and from families now living in the community. This material illustrates the impact on family life and parenting capacity and as a consequence, infant and child development. A survey of women giving birth while in Immigration Detention will be presented, including their experiences of pregnancy, obstetric and per- natal care, and their thoughts on the impact of this on their infants. Clinical and ethical dilemmas about the clinician s role are explored in a circumstance where, the authors argue, human rights and equity and access to services are compromised as a direct effect of Australian government policy. Significant issues about the ability of local health and child protection services to respond to the needs of these families and children will be discussed. There will be ample time for discussion.

295

Families with Infants in Immigration Detention

Sarah Mares (Australia)

This paper will briefly outline Australia's current Immigration policy and the human rights implications of this for asylum seekers. Clinical material from children and families and results of a survey of women giving birth while in Immigration detention will be presented. There are significant limitations in the ability of local health and child protection services to respond to the needs of these families. The impact on involved clinicians will be explored.

296 Temporary Protection: What That Means for Families

Rosalind Powrie (Australia)

This paper will use clinical and research material to examine the impact on families now living in the community who have been granted temporary asylum in Australia under current government policy. The temporary nature of asylum leaves families in distress, unable to resolve trauma experienced prior to arrival in Australia, or during time in immigration detention. The adequacy of services available for these families is examined, plus factors contributing to resilience.

297 Personal and Professional Responses to the Ethical Issues Posed by Current Government Policy

Louise Newman (Australia)

This paper will explore the ethical dilemmas posed to individual clinicians and professional organizations by the evidence of the impact of current government policy on infants, children and their families who seek asylum in Australia. Whether clinical intervention in this circumstance is necessary and human or amounts to complicity with a traumatizing system will be explored. There will be extensive opportunity for discussion of these difficult issues.

298 Working in Partnership with Parents: The Family Partnership Program and the West Australian Experience

Trevor Stewart Parry (Australia)

THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM - WEST AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE. Parry T, Lamont L, Women s and Children s Health Service. SCDC, PO Box 510, West Perth 6872, WA. Trevor.parry.health.wa.gov.au The prevalence of psycho-social problems in children and family isolation requires a high level of professional competence and accessibility to be effective. Surveys have identified dissatisfaction by both parents and professionals at the present level of skills requiring a different and family centred approach. The Parent Adviser model developed by Prof Hilton Davis in the UK (and part of the European Early Promotional Program) is designed to enable non-mental health trained community professionals to provide effective and sensitive psycho-social support. The program was introduced in WA in 2001 and is known as the Family Partnership Training Program. The training provides attitudinal and relational skills which enhance respect and trust between families and professionals and is of relevance to any program or service. To date 27 professionals have been trained as trainers and 248 trained in the Family Partnership model. There are four government department and several NGO s involved in collaborative training ranging over 13 disciplines. This has contributed to subsequent working partnerships. Extension of training has spread to rural and remote areas, and courses are running now in other Australian states. Feedback from professionals is highly positive with 90 indicating that the course is useful in everyday practice.

299 Treatment of Feeding Disorders: Creating a Bridge Between Pediatrics and Child Psychiatry

Birgitt Naessens, Gigi Veereman - Wauters, Ulla Van Wetswinkel, Pats Boeykens (Belgium)

The objective of this workshop is to discuss the working alliance between a child-gastroenterological department and a department of infant psychiatry in treatment of feeding disorders. It is our experience that it is essential to integrate the findings and observations of the child gastroenterologist, child psychiatrist, child psychologist and speech therapist in deciding

what treatment is best for this infant and his parents. We will explain our multidisciplinary approach, review our population of the last year and finally illustrate this with a case study.

300 The Infant as Inpatient: Managing High Risk, Premature Infants

Megan Galbally, Andrew Watkins, Patricia Moore, Ivana Stipanovic, Gillian Opie, Klara Szego, Martien Snellen (Australia)

This workshop will be run by a Paediatrician, Obstetrician and Psychiatrist and will offer an insight into how these diverse departments work together in managing high risk, premature infants and their families. The workshop will comprise of three sections, an overview of the literature will be presented including a discussion of specific interventions for premature infants followed by a discussion of the different yet unique roles that each of the three multi-disciplinary departments has in managing these families and finally a case presentation and discussion. Throughout this workshop the audience will be encouraged to participate in the discussion of relevant issues. The Mercy Hospital for Women is a 140 bed tertiary obstetric hospital in Melbourne, Australia. The Mercy Hospital includes specialist antenatal clinics, a large Paediatric department with NICU facilities and a comprehensive psychiatric service, which has included an inpatient, outpatient and consultation liaison service. The Mercy Hospital has a long history of treating high risk, disadvantaged women including young mothers (under 18 years old), indigenous women and women with substance abuse problems. These specific groups of women are more likely to have premature infants which brings with it another level of complexity to any treatment plan that adequately addresses the needs of the mother, her family and the infant. This workshop will give an overview of this challenging area of clinical practice.

301 The Baby's Place with the Mother: Assessing Mother-Infant Interaction

Jan C. Smith, Melissa Ferrier (Australia)

Abstract Not Available

303 Assessing Father-Mother-Baby Interaction in Normative and Clinical Contexts

France Frascarolo (Switzerland), Miri Keren (Israel), Nicolas Favez (Switzerland)

This workshop aims at familiarizing clinicians and researchers in observing and assessing father-mother- baby play interaction, in the Lausanne Trilogue Play (LTP). In this video-recorded situation, the parents play with their infant according to a scenario in four parts: 1. one parent plays and the other one is observer participant; 2. they switch roles; 3. the three partners play together; 4. the parents interact whilst the baby is third party. According to the Lausanne model, in order to play together, the partners fulfill four functions: 1) participation (is everyone included) 2) organization (is everyone in their active or participant-observer role) 3) focalization (is everyone attending to the games) and 4) affective contact (is everyone in touch). The family alliance, defined as the degree of coordination achieved, is assessed by the degree to which the functions are or not fulfilled. Through video recorded of contrasted family interactions, keys for assessing the fulfillment of the functions will be presented. The usefulness of the situation and the evaluation it provides for clinical application will also be developed. The LTP is part of a new method of structured therapeutic assessment of family relationships, used in Israel and Switzerland, which will be described. It is especially useful in the frame of consultations for therapists and other professionals working with infants suffering functional problems and their parents, one of the topics of the discussion being its use as a structured procedure, as compared with unstructured clinical session.

304 The Child's Experience in Interaction with Mother and Father: Links with the Parent's View of the Child

Judith Harel, Yohanan Eshel, Amit Penso, Dana Muchtar, Miriam Ben-Aaron (Israel)

The child s different experience of self and other in actual interactions with parents was

investigated by studying relational themes of thirty five-year-old boys and girls in their interactions with mother and father. An adaptation of the Core Conflictual Relationship Theme (CCRT) method (Luborsky Crits- Cristoph, 1998), developed for this study was used. Interactions were videotaped in play and a more stressful teaching situation. The parent's view of the child's behavioral symptoms was assessed by the Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach Edelbrock, 1983). It was hypothesized that (a) children's relations with parents will concentrate on a small number of core relationship themes, (b) experiences of self and of other will be affected by the parent (Mother vs. Father) as well as the aim of the interaction, (c) the differences in relational themes will be most evident in stressful interactions, and (d) the relational themes of fathers, but not of mothers, will reflect their perception of the child's behavioral symptoms. The data tended to support these hypotheses. Results will be discussed in terms of a) the child's different experience with mother and father and the implications of this difference for assessment and therapy and b) the effects of the context of the interaction on the stability and change of relational themes.

305 Ten Years of Clinical Experience in Infant Psychiatry: What Do We Wonder Now?

Tuula Tammlinen, Palvi Kaukonen, Kaija Puura (Finland)

We aim to describe and evaluate inpatient and outpatient treatment programmes used with infant families in the child psychiatric department of Tampere University Hospital. In the workshop we first describe the treatment programs developed in our infant family ward and baby-team. Then we present clinical evaluation of our work (e.g. diagnostic spectre of disorders) and also our study on the outcome of the infants and families treated in these programs. Currently we have evaluated 71 families treated in the family ward 1993-2000 with a set of questionnaires. Reasons for treatment included child's problems (50%), parenting problems (30%) and other reasons (10%). According to mothers, the treatment helped the child a lot in 50 of the cases, and a little in 20%. The evaluation of infants treated in the baby-team will take place autumn 2003. The need for specialized treatment programs for infants and their families is clinically evident. Ever since the programs started the demand has exceeded the resources and problems with the long waiting list need to be solved. According to preliminary results, the treatment programs have been effective. The evaluation we have started will be a continuous part of our service. More data is needed for further improving the organization and content of infant treatment programs.

306 Leaders for the 21st Century: Nurturing Leadership Development in the Infant Mental Health Field

Victoria Youcha, Harry Wright, Deborah Weatherston, Joy D. Osofsky (United States)

This session describes the ZERO TO THREE Fellowship program, an interdisciplinary leadership development program for infant mental health professionals who are at various stages in their careers. It describes the impact the program has had on its participants, on the sponsoring organization and on the larger infant/family field. The session presents strategies for identifying and implementing leadership development opportunities at the individual and organizational levels. Leadership is a developmental process. Future leaders who are just beginning their careers often face issues related to career paths and balancing demands of family and work. Leaders who are well established in their careers face issues of isolation and burnout. These leaders often share similar characteristics. They feel like misfits and might be viewed as troublemakers in their own programs. They tend to be risk-takers, trying out ideas rejected by others. They are always boundary spanners, thinking across disciplines. They don't fit neatly into any one discipline or job description and often feel they have no professional home. Most wouldn't identify themselves as leaders. Leadership development opportunities can promote professional and personal growth leading to new professional achievements and increasingly powerful impact on outcomes for infants and their families.

307 Developing and Implementing Statewide Prevention/Early Intervention

Victor Nossar, Pam Linke (Australia)

Over the last decade it has been clearer that improvements in population health require different strategies, beyond the application of larger scale clinical interventions. Experience teaches that more focus needs to be given to the determinants of health and of health problems and to strategies that build systems to make a measurable difference in the outcomes for children. South Australia is in a relatively unique position, in Australia, of having a State wide child and family health service. This offers both opportunity and challenge to the development of a population based early intervention across metropolitan, regional and remote areas. The implementation of this program is based on extensive research of evidence based programs from around the world, on evidence based parent support programs in Australia and on experience in developing policy and practice in a large regional health area. The South Australian program is multi-level from universal to responsive, or targeted interventions and from provision of information to parenting education for specific issues. A keystone of the program is a Statewide universal nurse home visiting program, as part of a multidisciplinary approach during which staff, in partnership with parents, assist parents to identify and choose appropriate pathways for their families and children. This presentation explores the challenges and opportunities and look at some preliminary outcomes of the program.

308 Clinical Observation and Treatment in the Boulder Community Infant Program

Janet Dean, JoAnn Robinson (United States)

We will discuss recent developments in the integration of parent-infant psychotherapy and nursing intervention that assist providers in caring for severely at-risk dyads. Over the past 20 years, the staff has often felt ill-equipped to adequately address the severe emotional dysregulation of parents diagnosed with personality disorders. It is this subset of parents who are most at risk for losing their children to foster care and is over-represented in our court systems. It has also been the perception of staff that while there are thoughtful and informed practices that guide our work with infant-parent interactions, we have not been as effective with this population in simultaneously assisting parents in the development of skills to better manage their own severe emotion dysregulation. The question of how to best enhance emotion regulation skills and work with past issues to build positive parent-infant relationships, while providing safety and containment of past trauma has led us to integrate a Dialectical Behavioral Treatment (DBT) model with psychoanalytic practice. In this teach-in, discussion will center on the systematic use of clinical observation and microanalysis of videotaped infant-parent interactions to inform this aspect of the treatment process. Clinical observations include the use of the Clinical Application of the Emotional Availability Scales and NCAST Teaching and Feeding Scales. Discussion will also focus on treatment developed over time to include and integrate behavioral approaches of DBT with psychoanalytically-informed practice.

309 Alienation, Regression and "The Death of the Object", Postmodernist Thought and the Baby's Place in the World

Kim Anne Warner, Brian John Hunt (Australia)

This workshop seeks to raise questions about the relationship between cultural forms and individual development and an experience of a sense of self, of an I embedded in culture. The culture we speak of here is western European culture in its post industrial, post modernist form and by examining this, question the babies place in this world that does not in many of its aspects appear to have a place for the baby. The emphasis on separation and individuation formulated as an ideology that promoted the cult of the individual seems to have lead us down a path marked by an increase in isolation and impoverished relatedness and particularly stresses the need to grow up quickly and take an adult place in the world; a world that is able to deny the relevance of attachment as the matrix of meaning and the capacity to be an I with others, to be

both subject and object; to have a place in the world, where place means a point in space and time relative to others. It is hoped that discussion will take place in relation to the two short papers that will be presented. The first of these is an analysis of a paper by the French Feminist Hélène Cixous by means of a contemporary developmental psychoanalytic model, the second paper will examine conceptual and postmodernist imagery in relation to fragmentation and alienation and a loss of meaning contained within the idea of the death of the object .

310 Development of an Infant Mental Health Website: Potential Applications For WAIMH Affiliates

Michael Cramer Thomasgard (United States)

In March 2003 the Ohio Association for Infant Mental Health (OAIMH) launched its Web site www.oaimh.org. Goals were to construct a site to provide up-to-date information regarding relationship-based, culturally sensitive best practice in IMH and to enhance communication between consumers, primary health care providers and IMH professionals. Our Web site has six main sections: about OAIMH/its members; newsletter archive; database of IMH providers; training/licensure requirements; glossary, links to related Web sites, state IMH library holdings and start-up materials to form a chapter or a case-based peer supervision group. Clinician profiles include his/her discipline, academic degree(s), licensure, relevant IMH training, office location, phone/fax/(e)mail address and area(s) of expertise. A disclaimer section states that providers are not endorsed by OAIMH. An administrative Web site was created to provide non-public access to the database. This allows generation of mailing labels, profile editing and recording dues paid for OAIMH members. Benefits realized include posting of conference dates, expanded membership and linkage of IMH clinicians with consumers. Challenges include finding a consistent financial sponsor and writing the database program for the IMH provider and OAIMH members. Future goals include provision of interactive opportunities for parents and providers, on-line training and expanded information regarding childrens' mental health issues. We are confident that other WAIMH affiliates could benefit from similar Web site applications.

311 Internet-Based Parenting Support: Is It Socially Biased?

Anna Sarkadi, Sven Bremberg (Sweden)

The Internet as a source of social support is increasingly recognised. Parents of children with cancer and autism have been shown to find social support online. General parenting websites often focus on infants and parents increasingly seek information online. However, access and use of the Internet is greater among socioeconomically advantaged groups, a phenomenon known as the digital divide . Our aim was to investigate whether users of a Swedish general parenting website perceived support in the parenting role and if so, if this support was socially biased due to the digital divide. The investigated website has 81000 members, 250 discussion groups, and 10000 individual IP-logons daily. Mean age of registered members is 32 years; 86.5 are women. N 2221 users completed the anonymous survey posted on the website during a week: 95 were female, mean age 30.6 years. Respondents educational level was slightly, but not significantly higher than in the general population, whereas 68 had income levels at or under the national average, contradicting the intuitive hypothesis that users would be socioeconomically privileged. Perceived social support, measured by the ISEL appraisal subscale, averaged 21.5 points, indicating high perceived support. Living alone and having lower levels of education increased perceived support. The perception that other parents opinions are more valuable than expert advice was influential in the regression equation, indicating that peer help is important in online social support, an exciting possibility in infant public health

312 Pre/Post Natal Exposure to Alcohol and Other Drugs

Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Sandra Jacobson (United States)

