

A new frontier for prevention science: Reducing later life health risks associated with early environmental adversity using interventions at mid-life.

Roundtable at the *Society for Prevention Research* Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, June 1, 2017

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More than forty years of epidemiological research supports a link between exposure to an adverse childhood environment--including poverty, poor nutrition, child maltreatment --and liability to non-communicable disorders in adulthood such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. Some of the earliest and strongest evidence links fetal malnutrition to worse adult health, with preventive intervention trials underway. Many childhood adversities go unrecognized or, if recognized, therapeutic services are neither well developed nor available. Some health consequences--inapparent in early life--emerge later in the life-course, as a consequence of additional behavioral and biological challenges. Thus, research is urgently required on preventive interventions in adults. The roundtable will review work of the US-UK Reversibility Network and explore the role of prevention science in framing etiological questions and designing effective interventions.