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Freely Available Special Issue published in Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences

Safeguarding the healthy development of the next generation is vital for the long term success of the United Nation's Millennium Development goals. New research in *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* highlights the need to integrate global strategies aimed at

tackling nutrition and cognitive development within the first thousand days of childhood.

"Global estimates by UNICEF reveal that over 165 million children below the age of five suffer from stunted growth," said Professor Maureen Black from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and editor of the special issue. "Early stunting is an indicator which helps us estimate the number of

children who do not reach their developmental potential."

Published via Online Access, the freely available special issue reveals how poverty, nutritional deficiencies, and a lack of responsive caregiving and learning opportunities combine to undermine childhood potential. The result is the estimated 200 million children in developing countries, under the age of five who are not reaching

their developmental potential.

Professor Black and Professor Kathryn Dewey, from the University of California-Davis, highlight the importance of combining intervention strategies which focus on both nutrition and early learning. They highlight several implementation recommendations detailed in the special issue, including:

- Effects of integrated child development and nutrition interventions on child development and nutritional status

By Sally M. Grantham-McGregor, Lia C. H. Fernald, Rose M. C. Kagawa and Susan Walker

- Advantages and challenges of integration: opportunities for integrating early childhood development and nutrition

programming

By Ann M. DiGirolamo, Pablo Stansbery and Mary Lung'aho

- Issues in the timing of integrated early interventions: contributions from nutrition, neuroscience, and psychological research

By Theodore D. Wachs, Michael Georgieff, Sarah Cusick and Bruce S. McEwen

- Measures and indicators for assessing impact of interventions integrating nutrition, health, and early childhood development

By Edward A. Frongillo, Fahmida Tofail, Jena D. Hamadani, Andrea M. Warren and Syeda F. Mehrin

Read the full list of papers here

A launch event for the special issue, Every Child's Potential: Integrating Early Childhood Development and Nutrition Interventions , will be co-hosted by The Sackler Institute for Nutrition Science at the New York Academy of Sciences and UNICEF at the United Nations on February 6th 2014.

"This collection of papers contributes not only a number of

perspectives on best-practices for realizing optimal childhood development through various interventions— especially nutrition —but also new ideas to foster increased study of problems that prevent health and well-being of children," said *Annals* Editor-in-Chief, Douglas Braaten.