Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Globally, it is estimated that almost 250 million children under five years of age in low-income and middle-income countries are at risk of failing to reach their full development potential in 2010. Child development plays an essential role in the individual’s lifelong results, impact on productivity, and income generation and may even jeopardize the development of an entire nation. Understanding the factors involved in child development is essential for the development of public policies that can help all children to achieve their full potential.

This Special Issue will focus on the description of the magnitude of impairment in early child development around the world, as well as on the factors associated with it, following the ones considered in World Health Organization Nurturing Care, such as malnutrition, breastfeeding, low birth weight, micronutrient deficiencies, parenting, parental education, poverty, safety, and toxic stress. Additionally, research evaluating the effect of interventions to improve child development is welcome. In addition, we would like to collect papers dealing with the effect of environmental factors on child development.