



Environmental and Social Influences on Cognitive Development and Function

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The environment plays a critical role on cognitive development and function and consequently upon lifecourse trajectory. Toxins including arsenic, mercury, and lead impact the cognitive development and function of children. In utero exposure to alcohol and consequent fetal alcohol spectrum disorder impair cognitive function. Exposure to sodium valproate in utero may increase the likelihood of autism. Deficiencies in iodine and iron can impair cognition. Traumatic brain injury at any stage in the lifecourse may have major adverse impacts. In utero infection with cytomegalovirus and rubella virus can impair special senses and cognition. Cerebral infections including pneumococcal meningitis can adversely impact cognitive development. Cognitive function is significantly influenced by the social environment, and the social environment modifies the effects of other exposures outlined above.

This Special Issue is open to any subject area related to the impacts of the environment on cognitive development and function.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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