

# INRICH: 1<sup>st</sup> WiZiQ Teleconference Minutes

February 15, 2010 (05:00 PM GMT)

## Welcome

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Nick welcomed everyone to this first INRICH WiZiQ web conference.

## Introduction of participants

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Participants who attended the WiZiQ online conference were:

Aluisio Barros  
Jeffrey Goldhagen  
Catherine Law  
Jennifer McGrath  
Kate Pickett  
Louise Seguin  
Nick Spencer

Luis Rajmil  
Russell Wilkins  
Beatrice Nikiema  
Mai Thanh Tu  
Lucie Levesque  
Isabelle Therien

## Scientific debate

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Nick lead the discussion on the issue of stress and its relationship to health equity. Slides were presented and are available here:

[http://www.centrearoback.org/inrich/assets/documents/INRICH-Teleconf100215stress\\_dis-Feb-15.pdf](http://www.centrearoback.org/inrich/assets/documents/INRICH-Teleconf100215stress_dis-Feb-15.pdf)

This presentation was followed by a discussion period during which these points were raised:

- There is significant work from around the world that has identified the impact of fetal exposures to adversity on early neural development. We need to start thinking of how it occurs and what pathways are involved in health outcomes, instead of whether the hypothesis of stress as a pathway holds. Social epidemiology has addressed the issue of social determinants on health, but not the pathways of mechanisms.
- The argument is that stress is only one mediating pathway among many others. There is otherwise a tendency that it is somehow a separate factor. There are physical influences, not just social stress. The hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal hypothesis is not complete to explain the observed outcomes. For instance, it doesn't explain why there is a reverse social gradient with breast cancer and prostate cancer prevalence.
- We always need to underline the links between poverty and the exposure to multiple negative life conditions that can be seen as stressors so we don't minimize the role of life conditions.
- What other pathways and factors? There are a whole range of physical stressors that we know are problematic and need to address. There is a good case for looking at the ways

in which societal factors impact on children's health, because it gives us a clear idea on how solutions are related to them. We need to know a bit more about how particular types of exposures affect children over time, whether they are cumulative or not.

- Thinking in terms of individual impact and population/social impact is a good strategy. Violence will have an impact on fetal development by affecting the mother. However, after birth, child exposure to violence is a different vector. In epigenetics, the individual is given a genetic endowment, influenced by her/his environment. This is a cumulative issue.
- There seems to be a consensus on the conceptual models, but how to measure stress?
- In reference to this discussion, the following paper was sent to all members: [Barbara Starfield \(2007\) Pathways of influence on equity in health. \*Social Science & Medicine\*, 64 : 1355–1362. \(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17208343?tool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed\\_ResultsPanel.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum&ordinalpos=3\)](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17208343?tool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum&ordinalpos=3)

**\*\*\* Nick and Louise invite you to suggest other topics for future scientific debates.**

## **INRICH business**

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### *Summary of 2nd Workshop*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop is successful, useful meeting.

### *Collaborative projects - update*

Among decisions taken during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop was to start collaborative projects.

One of the projects is on perinatal morbidity, pregnancy outcomes, and socioeconomic effects on outcomes in different countries. We now have 7 countries and are hoping to bring them together to check the extent of social gradients on pregnancy outcomes. If there are differences, what are the likely societal factors that are linked to those paths? Russell Wilkins is leading this project, which can be done without funding. He is current working on a proposal. We will need to get all the researchers involved.

### *Integration of new Students in the network*

Kate Pickett would like to recruit a PhD student to work on a project comparing social gradients in child indicators, which are good predictors of adult health, across more and less equal societies, funded by the [UK ESRC](#). The student will need to have settled UK residency.

Collaborations with INRICH members are welcome to provide access to nationally-representative data-sets with individual indicators of child well-being (particularly with height, IQ and mental health/behaviour) and parent's socioeconomic status. This student has to be recruited rather quickly to benefit from the funding opportunity

Louise Seguin believes that it would be possible to integrate ELDEQ data for this project. For this, she will need to contact the person responsible at the Institut de la statistique du Québec to get their agreement in sharing these data. There is already a student who is interested in examining different SES indicators in relation with child health in the ELDEQ data. But, this needs to be confirmed with her.

### *3rd Workshop - venue/dates/theme/travel/funding etc.*

Location for the 3<sup>rd</sup> INRICH workshop will be Recife, Brazil, November 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2010. Jailson has managed to obtain funding for the meeting rooms and for lunches, and is currently looking for funds for housing. We are hopeful to have funds for travel expenses for speakers and would like to hold a public meeting in the Brazil and Recife area, which will take advantage of the fact that there are a number of local people who can present on the theme of child health.

We are also thinking of people to present posters so they can secure money to travel, which is common in North America. However, this will bring a slightly different approach to the workshop. As more information comes available about the logistics of organizing this workshop, we will keep INRICH members updated.

### *Current INRICH finances & future funding*

As always, we are inviting everyone to think about creative ways to finance our common endeavours. We could perhaps have 3 types of funding: for projects, for the functioning of the network and for students.

**13:45 The meeting closed.**