

Notes from Oregon Life Course Network meeting #1, Feb 5, 2013
By Ken Rosenberg

HANDOUTS (available from Ken):

1. Lu MC, Halfon N. Racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes: a life-course perspective. *Matern Child Health J.* 2003 Mar;7(1):13-30.
2. Excerpts from Wikipedia on Dutch Famine of 1944

INTRODUCTIONS: see Appendix (below) for list of attendees, their interests and their activities.

The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of HRSA: turned out to be for a national Life Course Research Network – not a state-based network. The UCLA Life Course Research Network is probably in the best position to become the grantee.

THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION:

What is Life Course? What is the knowledge base for Life Course?: Life Course is broad: it goes from preconception to old age. There are several different Life Course theories; it would be good for us to learn about them. We are looking for a volunteer to set up a Google Group for the Life Course network to store documents and facilitate discussions.

Research to Practice: How can Life Course knowledge change program practice? What do we know about evidence-based interventions that can improve health?

Life Course is a new paradigm: we may have to help the development of the evidence base.

That might include support for development of longitudinal research and evaluation of interventions that are grounded in the Life Course framework.

Research to Policy: How can Life Course knowledge shape new policies like Maternity Leave, anti-poverty programs, and Equity?

Facilitate Collaboration: perhaps create of a directory including names, affiliations, type of work, access to datasets and relevant skills. How can this group foster collaboration, support each others work, and share knowledge?

Missing partners: Oregon Dept of Education, OHA Office of Equity and Inclusion, Kasier Center for Health Research, Aging, Housing, Nurse Family Partnership, Corrections, state Office of Equity and Inclusion. Please pass these notes along to anyone else who might be interested and let me know if there are people who should be added to our distribution list.

We decided to defer trying to define the goals and purpose of the group for now until we see where we are going and have more discussion about where we want to go.

Next meeting: in 6-8 weeks. Ken Rosenberg will schedule the next meeting using Doodle. He will include options for various days and times. At the next meeting, Wendy Shultis, Siobhan Maty and Susan Bagby will each do 20-minute presentations about Life Course science with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. Wendy, Siobhan and Susan will probably send a few articles to participants to read before the next session.

APPENDIX: ATTENDEES with information about interests and activities:

Cheryl Alto, PHD, WIC, cheryl.l.alto@state.or.us

The Oregon WIC Program is interested in Life Course and has incorporated specific elements into our current State Plan:

- Promote consistent, consumer-tested and evidence-based health and nutrition messages which support the Life Course perspective.
- Build collaborations with partners on key public health issues such as life course perspective and healthy weight.

Susan Bagby, OHSU, bagbys@ohsu.edu

I. Involved in basic research in animal model of maternal protein restriction, examining growth patterns, body composition, and cardiovascular/metabolic/renal outcomes; assessing effects of preventing accelerated postnatal growth (via postweaning caloric restriction) on the adverse outcomes.

II. Chair of Community Education and Outreach Committee for the Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition in Wellness at OHSU, with major mission of disseminating developmental-origins science to communities in ways that facilitate whole-food nutrition for all, with special emphasis on children, young women, mothers-to-be, and their families. Committee focused on a) multifaceted K-12 school-centered-community intervention project to improve food culture (students, teachers, food svc, parents, pediatric primary care providers); b) development of Resource Center.

Marit Bovbjerg, Oregon State University, marit.bovbjerg@oregonstate.edu

Reproductive epidemiologist at Oregon State University, studying maternity care in the US and physical activity during pregnancy. She can provide data analysis expertise to other life course network researchers in Oregon.

Lesa Dixon-Gray, PHD, MCH, lesa.dixon-gray@state.or.us

Works on preconception health. Led a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome surveillance project. Currently working on developing a Birth Anomalies Registry for Oregon.

Beth Gebstadt, PHD, MCH, beth.gebstadt@state.or.us

Joyce Grant-Worley, PHD, Center for Health Statistics, joyce.a.grant-worley

Sarah Hargand, PHD, Center for Health Statistics, sarah.hargand@state.or.us

Research analyst

Stephanie Jarem, OHP, stephanie.jarem@state.or.us

Helps staff the Oregon Health Policy Board on issues related to community health, and learning more about life course studies could enhance my knowledge and perspective on related matters.

Maurita Johnson, DHS, Child Welfare, maurita.johnson@state.or.us

Jude Leahy, PHD, Acute and Communicable Disease, judith.m.leahy@state.or.us

Rachel Linz, PHD Family Planning, rachel.s.linz@state.or.us

Research analyst

Siobhan Matys, Western Oregon University, matys@wou.edu

Teaches public health and epidemiology. Analyzing multi-generational data from Ireland.

Julie McFarlane, PHD, MCH, julie.m.mcfarlane@state.or.us

Oregon Public Health Division, Women's Health programs

Lynne Messer, Portland State University, lymesser@pdx.edu

Daniel Morris, PHD, Environmental Health, daniel.s.morris@state.or.us

Epidemiologist for Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking program.

Sarah Present, spresent@hotmail.com

Family medicine physician

Marion Rice, Oregon Public Health Institute, marion@breastfeedingor.org

Marion Rice, is the Director of the Breastfeeding Coalition of Oregon and the Program Manager for Maternal/Child Health at Oregon Public Health Institute, she works to promote, protect and support breastfeeding through building capacity for public understanding of the importance of human milk as an infants best first food. She is working on promoting the development of local breastfeeding coalitions across the state of Oregon.

Ken Rosenberg, PHD, MCH, ken.d.rosenberg@state.or.us

MCH epidemiologist; PRAMS and PRAMS-2 project director.

Becky Seel, PHD, WIC, rebecca.seel@state.or.us

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Wendy Shultis, OHSU, shultis@ohsu.edu
Perinatal epidemiologist training to become a nurse midwife.

Sara Sloan, PHD, WIC, sara.e.sloan@state.or.us
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Jonathan Snowden, OHSU, snowden@ohsu.edu

Anna Stiefvater, PHD, MCH, anna.k.stiefvater@state.or.us
Working on perinatal strategy planning and implementation for the State Public Health Division, Maternal and Child Health Section.
Interested in learning how lifecourse research can inform practice and interventions.

Sarah Tran, Multnomah County Health Dept, sarah.tran@multco.us
MCH epidemiologist

Tom Weiser: NPAIHB, tweiser@npaihb.org
Epidemiologist for Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Jennifer Woodward, PHD, Center for Health Statistics, jennifer.a.woodward@state.or.us
Manager of Center for Health Statistics. State Registrar.

Jennifer Young, PHD, MCH/Adolescent Health, jennifer.l.young@state.or.us
Dietician, Adolescent Health, Public Health Division

Suzanne Zane, NPAIHB, szane@npaihb.org
MCH epidemiologist for Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Amy Zlot, PHD, Genetics, amy.zlot@state.or.us
Genetic Epidemiologist. My current work focuses on moving evidence-based breast cancer genomics into Oregon health care practice through surveillance, education, and policy activities. The Oregon Genetics Program's general mission is to promote the health, well-being, and quality of life of Oregonians using up-to-date knowledge of genomics. Genomics includes all the genes in a person, plus how a person's genes interact with each other and with the person's behavior, and how genes are impacted by the environment, which compliments the life course perspective. I'm very interested in linking existing datasets and developing life course research agendas that could lead to developing best-practices, policies, and effective messaging.

Abbreviations:

PHD: [Oregon] Public Health Division

MCH: Maternal and Child Health

NPAIHB: Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

OHPR: Oregon Office of Health Policy and Research

WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children