

*Wednesday, February 25, 8:00AM-9:30AM
Concurrent Breakout Session E*

National Children's Study: Implications for Birth Defects Programs

Moderator: Adolfo Correa, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

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The National Children's Study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children across the United States, following them from before birth until age 21. The goal of the Study is to improve the health and well-being of children.

The Study defines "environment" broadly and will take a number of issues into account, including: natural and man-made environmental factors, biological and chemical factors, physical surroundings, social factors, behavioral influences and outcomes, genetics, cultural and family influences and differences, and geographic locations. Researchers will analyze how these elements interact with each other and what effects they might have on children's health and health disparities.

Recruitment and enrollment of the Vanguard cohort of the National Children's Study will start in 2009. One of the core hypotheses of this study is that among nondiabetic mothers hyperglycemia during the periconceptual period is associated with an increased risk for birth defects.

The objectives of this session are:

- To provide an update on the National Children's Study;
- To review some of the translational research issues related to birth defects and maternal hyperglycemia and how these might be addressed by the NCS;
- To discuss challenges and opportunities in ascertaining birth defects in the National Children's Study; and
- To identify ideas for possible collaborations between NCS and NBDPN investigators.