



The National Children's Study

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Nothing to Disclose

- No disclosures of conflict of interest
- No discussion of use of drugs, products, or devices

My charge

- Illustrate some of the potential of the NCS to answer complex developmental and psychosocial questions
- Outline reasons why pediatric community and general public should advocate for the NCS

NCS aims to measure full spectrum of determinants of health, illness & disability

- Banking biological specimens and environmental samples
- Detailed and comprehensive measurements of neurobehavioral and psychosocial functioning
- Measures of family, community, and other social, ethnic, and cultural variables

NCS will take us beyond simply demonstrating there are gene-environment interactions

“NCS aims to study too much and includes complex constructs”

- Work over the past several years:
 - Drawing on expertise to develop protocols
 - Commissioning groups to research measurement issues
 - Bringing together scientists of diverse backgrounds to answer methodological questions

NCS will provide knowledge on research methodology that will enhance ability to conduct other studies

Examples of how knowledge from NCS will support other studies

- Assist research community in reaching consensus on measurement of critical variables
- Difficulty developing reliable and valid instruments to measure constructs across developmental spectrum and range of skills – study will amass normative data
- Attention to methods to engage diverse communities will provide insight into subject recruitment and retention

Three questions/criticisms of NCS

- The NCS will raise more questions than it will answer
- In a time of burgeoning healthcare costs and limited resources, is it appropriate to devote resources to observational study?
- Worry that NCS will compete for limited research dollars

The reality

- It is naïve to assume that money saved by not initiating the NCS will be spent on other worthwhile child health research endeavors
- If pediatric community does not support NCS, it will be interpreted by leadership and general public that the health of children and child health research is NOT critical
- By supporting NCS, we have rare opportunity to establish child health research as major national agenda
- If pediatric community does not advocate for NCS with one voice, then all child health research will suffer