

Child maltreatment and abuse: special issue of Paediatrics and International Child Health

Dear colleagues

I am grateful to Prof Nick Spencer for forwarding information on this special issue of Paediatrics and International Child Health on child abuse, which will be of interest to CHILD 2015 members.

Tony Waterston

CHILD2015 profile: Tony Waterston is a retired consultant paediatrician who worked mainly in the community in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. He spent 6 years working in Zambia and Zimbabwe and currently directs the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Diploma in Palestinian Child Health teaching programme in the occupied Palestinian territories. He is an Editor of the Journal of Tropical Pediatrics and is on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Social Pediatrics. His academic interests are child poverty, advocacy for child health and children's rights. Tony.Waterston AT newcastle.ac.uk

Embargoed until Tuesday 5 November 2013 Paediatrics and International Child Health investigates child abuse and neglect The next issue of the peer-reviewed journal Paediatrics and International Child Health focuses on the scale of child maltreatment and abuse in low- and middle-income countries, and contrasts it with the situation in high-income countries. This issue (volume 33, number 4) entitled 'Child maltreatment and neglect: understanding it and responding to the challenge', includes fifteen original articles and case studies.

The issue deals with various forms of child maltreatment, including exploitation, neglect and physical and sexual abuse. Child abuse can be more varied and prevalent in areas of extreme poverty where families are often forced to sell their children, or make them beg on the streets. This can lead to children being subjected to violence and crime from people outside their families, which is less common in well resourced and developed countries in which the majority of crimes against children are committed by someone close to them.

In their guest editorial, David Southall and Rhona MacDonald, of the international medical charity Maternal & Child Health Advocacy International, call for a global plan of action for child protection as part of the international child health agenda. The editors comment: "Pervading every aspect of child and adolescent health, the protection of children should not be perceived as a task for the minority but rather as a top priority for the international community in the pre- and post-2015 agenda, not only to meet Millennium Development Goal targets, but to look beyond survival to improve the quality of life of millions of affected children and adolescents around the world, particularly in low-resource settings."

Much of the abuse described in this issue stems from harmful practices ingrained in culture and tradition: key examples include child discipline in Kenya; child soldiers in northern Uganda and Sri Lanka; mental illness in children exposed to armed conflict; and female genital mutilation. Methods of preventing and managing child abuse are discussed. The report of an international collaborative study on knowledge of the shaken-baby syndrome in Australia, Hungary, Greece, Brazil and Turkey describes the difficulties, and successes, of tackling this serious problem. The importance of establishing special units to deal with sexual abuse is also described. Education is central to

building awareness among professionals, parents and the public at large, so that infants and young people receive safe and appropriate care, and respect and fair treatment within judicial systems. The Introduction to this issue of Paediatrics and International Child Health by Brian Coulter, the Editor of the journal, and the invited Editorial by David Southall and Rhona MacDonald will be available free to download from 5th November at

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/maney/pch/2013/00000033/00000004. The full content of the issue will be available to subscribers to Paediatrics and International Child Health.

Individuals interested in ordering a print copy of the special issue can do so for the special price of GBP£10 / USD\$16, by contacting Maney at subscriptions@maneypublishing.com or +44 (0)113 386 8168. Maney can also supply quotes for bulk copy orders upon request.

Paediatrics and International Child Health is an international forum for all aspects of paediatrics and child health in developing and low-income countries. The international, peer-reviewed papers cover a wide range of diseases and health problems in childhood, and examine the social and cultural settings in which they occur.

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For advance copies of the Introduction and the Editorial, or a media interview with David Southall or Rhona MacDonald, please ring or write to Layla Robleh, Corporate Communications Executive, Maney Publishing, at l.robleh@maneypublishing.com or +44 (0)113 386 8160

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Our thanks to ICHG for supporting the current thematic discussion on Protecting children from child abuse, in the run-up to the ICHG Winter Meeting, London, 4th November 2013. CHILD2015: By 2015 every child worldwide will have access to an informed healthcare provider

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