

Editorial

The proceedings of the founding meeting of the SF-DOHaD ‘Société Francophone pour la recherche et l’éducation sur les Origines Développementales, Environnementales et Epigénétiques de la Santé et des Maladies’, the French-speaking DOHaD Society affiliated with the international DOHaD, publishes 79 abstracts as a special issue of the *Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*. These represent oral and poster communications, as well as state-of-the-art and keynote lectures at the founding meeting held in Paris on the 8–9 November 2012. Abstracts were received from more than 30 laboratories in the French research community working in the DOHaD field on well advanced as well as emerging topics. Our goal in this selection was that each laboratory could present their work in order to facilitate further interactions between teams, developing a collaborate network of research in this area.

The French DOHaD Society was created 24 January 2012 by nine founding members comprising Pr C. Junien (President), Dr M.-A. Charles, Pr L. Abdennebi-Najar (Treasurer), Dr A. Gabory, Pr U. Siméoni, Dr P. Chavatte-Palmer, Dr A. Chango, Pr A. Vambergue, Pr L. Storme and eight elected members: Pr R. Levy, Pr D. Darmaun, Dr C. Delpierre, Pr A.-M. Nuyt (Canada), Pr D. Luton, Pr D. Vieau, Dr I. Luron, Dr J. Lepeule and E. Lesieux, assistant. The SF-DOHaD aims to promote research, teaching and communication to address the new issues raised by the DOHaD for humans, animals, plants and the living world in general to the French-speaking world, in close relationship with the International DOHaD Society. The SF-DOHaD is an NGO in the form of association (law of 1901), strictly independent, with the aim to gather persons of any horizons concerned by the DOHaD concept. The SF-DOHaD was created on the initiative of its nine stemming founder members essentially scientists from both basic, clinical, veterinary, social sciences and from different backgrounds (epigenetics, physiology, animal models, nutrition, bioinformatics, genetics, gynecology, epidemiology, neonatology, diabetology, sociology) with long-term expertise in the field of DOHaD. The aim of the SF-DOHaD association is to promote research, communication, education and training of professionals on the scientific, medical and societal issues of the DOHaD, involving scientists, clinicians and representatives of human and social sciences, teachers from diverse backgrounds, as well as professionals from health systems, the pharmaceutical industry, agro-food industry and any other area involved in Francophone countries and populations. Our goals for this first meeting were to focus on research performed in France in the DOHaD field in order to: (1) Identify the players and the strengths in French Research; (2) Enlighten and engage French-funding agencies and policy-makers; (3) Argue for access to resources and facilities for large-scale investigations of epigenetic mechanisms in

DOHaD; (4) Raise awareness of this major public health issue that has been seriously underestimated; (5) Apply the principles of DOHaD to animal breeding as a new opportunity for improving livestock; (6) Organize communication and education for health professionals, the food industry, the public and the media; (7) Strengthen the links between basic research and preclinical or clinical research; and (8) consider potential partnerships with the government and industry.

This first SF-DOHaD meeting was hosted by the CNRS (Centre national pour la recherche scientifique) in Paris. The organization of the meeting was strongly supported by several ITMOs (Institut thématiques multiorganismes) and ANR (Agence Nationale pour la Recherche) directors: Jean-Michel Heard, Dominique Daegelen, Christian Boitard, Alexis Brice, Jean-Paul Moatti, Christine Cherbut, Fabien Calvo of Aviesan (Alliance nationale des sciences de la vie et de la santé) which includes among others the CNRS, the Institut National pour la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), the Institut National pour la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), as well as by the Institut Lasalle-Beauvais.

The meeting started with the inaugural lecture for the SF-DOHaD by Prof Claudine Junien, president of the newly created SF-DOHaD society, and was devoted to the first ‘state-of-the-art’ lecture by Prof Mark Hanson, president of the international DOHaD society on ‘The developmental origins of non-communicable diseases and dysfunctions: implications for research and public health’ followed by three sessions on ‘Growth patterns and long-term consequences’, ‘Metabolic and cancer programming’, ‘Placenta: a programming tissue’ including 9 short communications and 14 poster presentations. The first afternoon started with the second ‘state-of-the-art’ conference by Prof Moshe Szyf, on ‘Environmental stressors in the developmental origins of disease: evidence and mechanisms’, followed by two sessions on ‘endocrine disruptors and other toxics in programming’ and ‘mechanisms of programming’, comprising 10 short communications and 18 poster presentations.

The second morning was devoted to the third ‘state-of-the-art’ lecture by Dr Pascale Chavatte-Palmer on the ‘Developmental Origins of Non-Communicable Diseases and Dysfunctions: Implications for animal production’, followed by four sessions on ‘Gut and microbiota’, ‘Chronobiology in programming’, ‘Sexual dimorphism and programming’ and ‘Alleviation of programming dysfunctions’, including 13 short communications and 9 Poster presentations.

The meeting concluded with a session on ‘Towards dietary and therapeutical recommendations’ including six short communications, which was followed by a ‘debate research/society’ on challenges for research and for the society, in terms

of research, education, communication and actions to promote healthy behaviors. This think tank was organized with several representatives from institutes concerned with the DOHaD issues and who supported our endeavour: Dominique Daegelen, (ITMO BDE, GCB), Alfred Spira (ITMO SP), Jean-Michel Heard (ANR), Christine Cherbut (ITMO CMN, INRA), Louis Laurent (ANSES), François Goffinet (APHP for PHRC). The Keynote speaker was Dr Sébastien Bouret, who presented a lecture on NeuroEndocrine origins of obesity and diabetes.

The meeting was closed with the presentation of our new goal, which is to define the agenda for a concerted action to

provide an update of the DOHAD implications for KOLs, HCPs, Food industries and educators responsible for new teaching programs, to develop action plan not only for mothers and children but also for future fathers, to *enhance health and nutrition literacy*.

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