Grandma's Experiences Leave a Mark on Your Genes

Your ancestors' lousy childhoods or excellent adventures might change your personality, bequeathing anxiety or resilience by altering the epigenetic expressions of genes in the brain.

According to the new insights of behavioral epigenetics, traumatic experiences in our past, or in our recent ancestors' past, leave molecular scars adhering to our DNA. Jews whose great-grandparents were chased from their Russian shtetls; Chinese whose grandparents lived through the ravages of the Cultural Revolution; young immigrants from Africa whose parents survived massacres; adults of every ethnicity who grew up with alcoholic or abusive parents - all carry with them more than just memories.

Read full story at: Discover Magazine
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Obesity—a disease with many aetiologies disguised in the same oversized phenotype: has the overeating theory failed?

Strategies, Actions, and Outcomes of Pilot State Programs in Public Health Genomics

The Impact of Genomics in Public Health Practice

What is Translational Genomics? An Expanded Research Agenda for Improving Individual and Population Health

Genetic, non-genetic and epigenetic risk determinants in developmental programming of type 2 diabetes.

Note: All articles listed included in this and previous Mid-South TCC eNews are saved in the Mid-South TCC website (resource tab) www.uab.edu/midsouthtcc

REPORTS

STATE of the SOUTH
The State of the South is an annual report that looks at prospects of opportunity for people between the ages 15 and 24 in the South, since they’re the immediate workforce.
Only 15 percent of Alabama students who enroll in high school complete a college degree within 150 percent of the program’s time, according to the report - tied with Louisiana for the fewest in the region.
Alabama also had the biggest drop in per-pupil education spending between the 2008 fiscal year and 2014 in the country, according to the report: $1,242 per student.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Research Projects on Disparities in African American Men’s Health throughout the Life Course (RFA-CHAAMPS-15-001)
Click here to Submit Letter of Intent Online
EVENTS

March 16, 2015
Mid-South TCC Annual Regional Meeting
Birmingham, Alabama

March 17-18, 2015
10th Annual UAB Health Disparities Research Symposium
The Science of Health Disparities: From Social Causes to Personalized Medicine
DoubleTree Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama
REGISTER TODAY

November 17, 2014
6:00pm to 7:00pm - APHA Conference - Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, MCC (Room 224)
New book launching during APHA meeting
"Obesity Interventions in Underserved Communities: Evidence and Directions"
Virginia M. Brennan, Shiriki K. Kumanyika (incoming APHA President), and Ruth Enid Zambrana

November 17, 2014
6:00 pm Book launching during APHA meeting
"Obesity Interventions in Underserved Communities: Evidence and Directions"
Virginia M. Brennan, Shiriki K. Kumanyika (incoming APHA President), and Ruth Enid Zambrana and published by the Johns Hopkins University Press in Baltimore, 2014.

November 17, 2014
12:00-1:00 pm
"Racial Inequality in Health: The Role of Stress, Discrimination, and Neighborhood Conditions"
Tyson Brown, PhD, Professor at Vanderbilt University
University of Alabama at Birmingham (Heritage Hall 420)
Birmingham, AL

February 19-20, 2015
Genomics & Sequencing Data Integration, Analysis and Visualization
Impact of Data Quality and Novel Bioinformatics Tools on Life Sciences Research and Clinical Decisions
San Francisco, CA
MID-SOUTH TCC COMMUNITY PROJECT

Project UNITY: "Uniting Neighbors to Inspire Today's Youth"

Fifteen African American (11-13) year old girls attended Innovative Behavioral Services’ six week summer camp and were educated on issues relating to media, nutrition, and physical activity using the Media-Smart Youth® Curriculum. Data was collected from this group through a pre and post test survey designed to solicit their input and perception of healthy eating practices and making good food choices.

Data obtained from summer camp participants is being analyzed by coalition members/partners (University of Mississippi Medical Center-Drs. Alan Penman and Mario Sims). These youth developed three social media video sharing messages on nutrition, chronic disease and physical activity which have undergone the final editing process and will be pilot tested with other middle school girls within the Jackson, Mississippi area.

An online survey has been developed to collect responses from middle school girls on their perceptions of healthy eating and making good food choices. Orientation has been provided to selected middle schools and superintendent's staff to ensure privacy, confidentiality and protection of human subjects involved in Project UNITY. Second phase of the project is scheduled for November with the Jackson Public School District.

For more information email: Drs. Donna Antoine-LaVigne and Dorothy J. McGill

EDUCATION TOOLS

What if obesity has nothing to do with eating too much? Peter Attia,MD, President and co-Founder of the Nutrition Science Initiative, says we don't know enough about the science of weight gain, and that clinicians and society -- should stop blaming the victims.
Click on the icons below to join the Mid-South TCC social media platforms. Stay connected with the members of the coalition, and build a larger collaborative network. Start discussion groups within the Linkedin platform, post results of your work, share resources, etc.