Recent Developments in Early Life Determinants of Obesity

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The obesity epidemic has spared no segment of the population, even infants and young children. In this talk, I will review the role of experiences in early life, even before birth, in contributing to risk for childhood obesity and cardiometabolic risk. Specific exposures to be discussed include maternal obesity, gestational weight gain, gestational diabetes, maternal diet, environmental exposures, and fetal hormones, as well as postnatal factors including infant diet and growth. I will highlight opportunities for obesity and metabolic disease prevention as well as research opportunities.