



NSSA newsbits

The 9th World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHAD) will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, from 8-11 November 2015. The congress brings together scientists, clinical researchers, obstetricians, paediatricians, public health professionals and policy leaders from around the world. Experts will address the many challenges which currently impact upon the health of mothers, babies in the womb, infants, children and adolescents, as well as explore solutions, interventions and policies to optimise health across the life of people.

The 9th world congress, the first to be held in Africa, presents an incredible opportunity for the vastly relevant DOHAD research to be featured to African researchers, clinicians and policy leaders. This important event is expected to attract more than 1 200 participants and will showcase over 350 speakers. The 9th world congress will be a momentous occasion where new solutions to persisting infant and child malnutrition, and the burgeoning epidemic of obesity and noncommunicable diseases will be highlighted.

Longitudinal data analysis, theories of behaviour change, early child development, as well as environmental and sexual dimorphism, will be presented during a satellite programme workshop on the preterm infant. Topics covered in the main programme include maternal-fetal crosstalk, the importance of the first 1 000 days, infant feeding, growth and cognitive development, nutrition in adolescence and during ageing, and the nutrition “triplets” of undernutrition, overnutrition and food security.

Prof Shane Norris, Director of the South African Medical Research Council’s Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, will chair the 9th world congress.

More information is available on the website:
<http://www.dohad2015.org/>