Letter to AJE

We were surprised by the first article in the January edition of the American Journal of Epidemiology. Entitled “Invited Commentary: The Disillusionment of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Epidemiology”(1), we anticipated a broad discussion of epidemiology in DOHaD and a critique of the concept. Instead, we read a commentary on Masarwa et al, Am J Epidemiol 2018 ' Prenatal Exposure to Acetaminophen and Risk for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Autistic Spectrum Disorder: A Systematic Review, Meta-Analysis, and Meta-Regression Analysis of Cohort Studies.’ The commentary notes that this systematic review was not very informative. We do not understand how criticism of an article on a specific topic could justify a title indicative of disillusionment with the epidemiology of DOHaD in its entirety, especially as the DOHaD concept focuses on developmental exposures *other* than teratology(2). The authors of the commentary themselves note that their criticism of the DOHaD concept is confined to medication during pregnancy, but their concluding paragraph, dismissive of DOHaD, bears no relevance to their opinion of the article. The title, whilst possibly reflecting the opinion of the authors, misrepresents the contents of the commentary, and we ask that it be amended, and an erratum published.

Yours etc.

Hazel Inskip

Keith Godfrey

Cyrus Cooper

Mark Hanson

Caroline Fall

Janis Baird

Mary Barker

Deborah Sloboda

Lucilla Poston

Reference List

1. Gilman SE, Hornig M. Invited Commentary: The Disillusionment of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Epidemiology. *American Journal of Epidemiology* 2019;189(1):1-5.

2. Godfrey KM, Gluckman PD, Hanson MA. Developmental origins of metabolic disease: life course and intergenerational perspectives. *Trends Endocrinol Metab* 2010;21(4):199-205.