Author's response to reviews

Title: Early life programming as a target for prevention of child and adolescent mental disorders: intervention and research directions

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

RE. Early life programming as a target for prevention of child and adolescent mental disorders.

Authors: Andrew J. Lewis Megan Galbally, Tara Gannon, Christos Symeonides

Thank you for these two helpful reviews and allowing a revision to be submitted. The article has been revised to address both reviewers’ comments as well as general editorial requests.

Reviewer 1:
1. “Not all developmental outcomes... are necessarily adverse” Such as, reference DiPietro, 2012
2. Role of genetic factors may “contribute a sensitivity to positive environments” Such as, reference Way, 2010
3. “…perinatal mood may actually enhance infant development” Such as, reference Davis and Sandman 2010.

These 3 points that raise the complexity of exposure and the evidence that exposures may confer benefit, as well as risk, depending on the specific environment and genetic interaction have been addressed through the addition of a paragraph discussing these points and the research supporting this including the suggested references. All references suggested have been considered and added to the paper. This is the last paragraph on page 13 of the manuscript

Reviewer 2
1. “The review did not ...examine the effectiveness of existing perinatal programs (such as the Olds...”

This has been addressed through revision of the section on “Implications for Mental Health Prevention”. This included, adding on page 21 a specific reference and discussion of these programs.

2. “groups targeted for intervention...were somewhat generic”

This has been addressed through the revision of this final paragraph to make it clearer and more specific as recommended.

General recommendations and editorial requests

The title has been modified, the abstract and manuscript re-formatted and the word commentary replaced with review within the abstract and throughout the manuscript. There has also been provided information on author contribution and author information as requested. Every attempt has been made to ensure the revised manuscript conforms to the journal style.

Kind regards

Andrew Lewis