



GOBIERNO DE CHILE
MINISTERIO DE SALUD

Environmental Pediatrics

Dr. Enrique Paris M.

Director CITUC

Contigo, Mejor Salud



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Environmental Pediatrics

- *“Children from all the world suffer from exposure to environmental pollution which has deep consequences on their health. This is an ongoing challenge to the countries of Latin America, independant of their degree of development”.*

Dr Maria Neira WHO

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- *“Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer ‘Tomorrow,’ his name is today”.*

“A call for the Child”, Gabriela Mistral, May 1948



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- Link the environment and the child, from different point of views:
 - Physical
 - Social
 - Psychical
 - The environment can influence the child, including its growing and development.

Environmental Pediatrics

- Environmental Pediatrics
 - It is a structure with defined roles, situated preferentially in a established Health Center.
 - It is specialized in children illnesses related to the environment.

Environmental Pediatrics

- Some questions:
 - Are there learning problems associated to pollutants?
 - Why is there an increase in the incidence of asthma?
 - Is precocious puberty related to pollutants with hormone disrupting activity?
 - Is there a link between child cancer and environmental factors?



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Environmental Pediatrics

- Centers trained to recognize, decide on and manage childhood illnesses related to environmental exposures.
- Education and training in the subject.
- Designed to work in network.
- Currently they exist in USA, Canada, Spain and there are initiatives in Argentina and Uruguay.



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Environmental Pediatrics

- Role of the Environmental Pediatric Centers:
 - Give advice, information and management of clinical cases related to environmental factors.
 - Advice to personnel who take decisions about health, education and the environment.
 - Training of health professionals in diagnosis, management and prevention of pediatrics illnesses of environmental causes.
 - Ability to work in network.



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- Role of the Environmental Pediatric Centers:
 - Development of educative material for communities of children and their families.
 - Organization of programs and public events of informative and preventive character.
 - Promotion of activities of investigation.
 - To work for a cleaner, healthier and safer environment for our children and adolescents.



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- A new approach to the pediatric anamnesis.
- History
 - Potential environmental risks.
 - Exposure places.
 - *In utero* and postnatal exposure.

Environmental Pediatrics

- Demographic Distribution. Chile
- -Total population 16.093.378
- -Crude Birth Rate (1000 hab.) 15.1
- -Crude Mortality Rate 5.2
- -Infant Mortality Rate (1000 live births) 8.4
- -Acute Diarrheic Disease 0.5
- -Acute Respiratory Infections 7.4

- Immunization Coverage Rate 98 %

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Activities to start a PE Unit in Chile

1. The Health Ministry asks for a project
2. A collaboration group is assembled between:

Health Ministry, Healthy Politics Division.

Public Health School, University of Chile.

Toxicology Information Center (CITUC)
from the Catholic University of Chile.

Environmental Pediatrics.

- Activities to start a PE Unit in Chile
 3. Support from Emory University
 4. Work meetings with participation of Emory University, MINSAL, Public Health and CITUC
 5. Five telephone conferences between Emory, EPA, MINSAL, Public Health and CITUC
 6. A visit to PE Unit in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Pediatric Environmental Unit.

- Activities to initiate an EPU in Chile
- 7. International Seminary on Environmental Pediatrics. August 30-31 ,2007. Santiago, Chile. Providencia Hotel.



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- *Lamp on Earth*
 - “Man was dust, earthen vase, an eyelid of tremulous loam, the shape of clay - he was Carib jug, Chibcha stone, imperial cup or Araucanian silica. Tender and bloody was he, but on the grip of his weapon of moist flint, the initials of the earth were written”

Pablo Neruda, Canto General

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- It is a challenge and a goal of everyone to achieve a healthy environment for our children.