

Are the ills of middle and later life rooted in our early development?



During the past few years a series of articles, mostly from the Medical Research Council's Environmental Epidemiology Unit at the University of Southampton, has been published in leading medical journals. They set out the evidence that certain adult diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke and diabetes originate in impaired development during fetal life and infancy. Because of the obvious implications for prevention of some of the commonest diseases in Western society, they have attracted international attention. In this book, Professor David Barker, Director of the Unit, has selected 31 articles that he considers seminal and a comprehensive guide to the development of this important topic. Professor Roger Robinson's introduction summarises and interprets the evidence for non-epidemiologists.

The first chapters describe the origins of the hypothesis in geographical studies in England and Wales. These are followed by a series of studies of men and women in middle and late life whose early growth was recorded at the time. In those who have died, cause of death can be related to early growth. Examination of the living has allowed blood pressure, blood lipid and insulin concentrations, and other measurements to be related to different patterns of early growth. Together, the findings show that early development affects the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, obstructive lung disease and diabetes at least as strongly as obesity, smoking and other aspects of adult life style.

Fetal and Infant Origins of Adult Disease brings together in one volume a body of work that cannot be ignored

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EUROPE MEETS THE VANCOUVER GROUP

An invitation to all European medical editors to come and meet members of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (the Vancouver Group) and discuss with them key editorial issues.

To coincide with the 1993 meeting of the Vancouver Group (the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) the *BMJ* and *The Lancet* are hosting a meeting at the Royal Institution of European medical journal editors and members of the Vancouver Group (including the editors of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*). The aim is to allow editors to meet and learn from each other and to influence the issues that the Vancouver Group considers.

The meeting will be followed by an evening reception at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR

All editors of medical journals are welcome to attend.

14 January 1993

The Royal Institution,
21 Albemarle Street, London W1
followed by a reception at
BMA House, Tavistock Square,
London WC1H 9JR

Programme

- 10.00** Welcome — Richard Smith, editor, *BMJ*
Robin Fox, editor, *The Lancet*
- 10.05** Developing a journal — Stefano Bombardieri,
Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology
- 10.25** Discussion
- 10.35** The search for better referees — Bob and Suzanne Fletcher, editors
Annals of Internal Medicine
- 11.30** Coffee
- 12.00** What should be on the Vancouver Group agenda? — Magne Nylenna, editor
Norwegian Medical Journal
George Lundberg, editor *JAMA*
- Group discussions
- 1.15** Lunch
- 2.30** The end of the paper journal? — Karen Hunter, Elsevier
- 3.15** Should European medical editors join together? — Hannu Vuori, WHO Europe
Group discussions
- 4.40** Summing up Richard Hughes, editor,
Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry
- 6.00 - 8.00** Reception, BMA House,
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