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National Expert to Discuss The Lifelong Impact of Early Adversity — and How to Break the Cycle

*Annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture co-sponsored by
Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT featuring:*

Daniel Keating, PhD

Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics
Research Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research
University of Michigan

Susan Dickstein, PhD

Psychologist, Bradley Hospital
Associate Professor, Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Board President, Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health

Blythe Berger

Chief, Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health
Division of Community Health and Equity
RI Department of Health

Providence, RI (May 4, 2017): University of Michigan professor Daniel Keating will discuss "The Lifelong Impact of Early Adversity — and How to Break the Cycle," as part of the annual *Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture on Child and Youth Behavior Development*. Following Dr. Keating's remarks, Susan Dickstein, Psychologist at Bradley Hospital and Associate Professor at Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Blythe Berger, Chief of the Center for Perinatal and Early Childhood Health at the RI Department of Health, will provide reflections on how lessons learned from Dr. Keating's research can inform public policies to promote the healthy development of young children. The event will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Brown University in Salomon 001, Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Keating's research on disparities in developmental health is the basis of his talk describing key biological and societal links from early life adversity to lifelong health and development, including discussion of how this research can inform policies and practices to break this cycle.

"We know that harmful stress is increasing significantly in the U.S., showing up in stress-related diseases and disorders via the Center for Disease Control, from increases

in physical stress loads, and from survey data. What we are now learning, though, is the hidden biological toll this is taking on infants and children,” said Dr. Keating. “Early life adversity and stress, occurring as early as during pregnancy and affecting the developing fetus, has negative effects on health and development throughout a lifetime.”

“One pathway we are coming to understand is though epigenetic changes associated with toxic stress early in life, leading to dysregulated stress systems that in turn have negative effects on developmental health. There are ways to break this cycle at the individual and societal level, and the urgency of doing so is becoming ever more apparent,” continued Keating.

“Dr. Keating provides both an excellent overview of the latest data on stress and the impacts on the developing child, along with sound recommendations for how to intervene to ‘break the cycle of disadvantage’ that impacts millions of families in the U.S. Along with expert commentary from local clinical and policy leaders, this will provide a rich forum to discuss critical actions needed in RI and throughout the country,” according to Brown Professor of Epidemiology, Dr. Stephen Buka.

“The topic of this year’s Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is very timely as Rhode Island focuses on strategies to promote healthy child development, decrease toxic stress for infants and toddlers and their parents, and ensure the safety and well-being of children,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “We know that Rhode Island’s future prosperity depends on the strongest possible start for young children, and Dr. Keating’s lecture will put up-to-the minute research and information on what works into the hands of a wide array of community leaders who can immediately apply it to policy and practice.”

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The annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is co-sponsored by Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

Through integrative scholarship and educational leadership, Brown University’s community of students, faculty and staff seeks to aid in the creation of peaceful, just and prosperous societies, to decipher disease, and to improve population health for children and adults in Rhode Island and across the world.

The Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lectures in Child Behavior and Development were established by the Lipsitt family in 2000 to celebrate many years of association with Brown University and to preserve an interest in child psychology at the University. Dr. Lewis P. Lipsitt joined Brown in 1957 as an instructor of psychology after receiving his doctorate in child psychology at the University of Iowa. A pioneer in the study of sensory and learning processes, Lipsitt established a laboratory at Women and Infants Hospital in 1958 to study infant behavior and development. He is the founding director of Brown’s Child Study Center. Dr. Lipsitt received the 1990 Nicholas Hobbs Award for science in the service of children from the American Psychological Association and the 1994 American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award for helping minorities and women in the pursuit of scientific careers. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a resident fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavior Sciences at Stanford in 1979-80.