

Inaugural Conference of the Health Inequality Network (HINET)

The Health Inequality Network is a multidisciplinary research network that has been created at the University of Chicago, within the INET (Institute for New Economic Thinking). It comprises a group of world-class scholars on health research from diverse fields, such as: anthropology, economics, epidemiology, epigenetics and medicine - led by Prof. Heckman, under the coordination of Prof. Janet Currie (senior coordinator) and Dr. Gabriella Conti (junior coordinator).

The aim of the Health Inequality Network is to synthesize and extend insights from several disciplines into a unified approach, in order to build up a comprehensive framework for the emergence and the evolution of health disparities over the lifecycle and across generations which incorporates the study of: socioeconomic determinants; genetic inheritance; epigenetic mechanisms; biological and neuronal pathways; policy interventions and behavioral responses.

The objective of the first HINet workshop is to allow the network members to deepen the knowledge of each other's work and to start interacting, towards the development of a synergistic approach to understanding the evolution of health disparities over the lifecourse and across generations, integrating frontier approaches in different disciplines. Key aspects which will be investigated include the following:

- **Definition of outcomes/phenotypes: *what is health?***
- **Dependence on proxies of exposure: *how to deal with multiple exposures?***
- **Heterogeneity in behavioral responses: *what happens within and across families?***
- **Critical windows and opportunities for interventions: *when shall we intervene to reduce health disparities?***

- **Latency and nonlinear epigenetic effects: *how visible and when are the effects of early-life adversity?***
- **Will health inequalities always be with us?**

Agenda

09:00AM – 09:20AM: Introduction -- **Jim Heckman**

09:25AM – 09:45AM: **Janet Currie**

09:45AM – 10:00AM: Discussion

10:00AM – 10:20AM: **Chris Kuzawa**

10:20AM – 10:35AM: Discussion

10:35AM – 10:50AM: Coffee Break

10:50AM – 11:10AM: **Steven Durlauf**

11:10AM – 11:25AM: Discussion

11:25AM – 11:45AM: **Jere Behrman**

11:45AM – 12:00PM: Discussion

12:00PM – 12:20PM: **Titus Galama**

12:20PM – 12:35PM: Discussion

12:35PM – 01:45PM: Lunch

01:45PM – 02:05PM: **Donna Gilleskie**

02:05PM – 02:20PM: Discussion

02:20PM – 02:40PM: **Funmi Olopade**

02:40PM – 02:55PM: Discussion

02:55PM – 03:15PM: **Peter Gluckman**

03:15PM – 03:30PM: Discussion

03:30PM – 03:50PM: **Burton Singer**

03:50PM – 04:05PM: Discussion

04:05PM – 04:20PM: Coffee Break

04:20PM – 04:50PM: Summary of key points and implications for future HINet activity
Heckman and Singer, discussion leaders