Cardiovascular health in pregnant women and their children
The Generation R Study

Propositions

1. The first pregnancy is a risk factor for suboptimal maternal hemodynamic adaptations, pregnancy complications and adverse cardiovascular outcomes in the offspring. (This thesis)

2. Higher maternal prepregnancy body mass index is a risk factor for adverse cardiovascular outcomes in the offspring via direct intra-uterine programming and other mechanisms. (This thesis)

3. Maternal gestational weight gain in early pregnancy might be critical for cardiovascular health in the offspring. (This thesis)

4. Third trimester feto-placental vascular dysfunction is associated with persistent cardiovascular adaptations at school age. (This thesis)

5. First trimester fetal development might be a critical period for cardiovascular health in later life. (This thesis)

6. Poor fetal and early postnatal nutrition imposes mechanisms of nutritional thrift upon the growing individual. (Barker DJ, Int J Epidemiol 2013)

7. To find determinants of prevalence and incidence rates, we need to study characteristics of populations, not characteristics of individuals. (Rose G, Int J Epidemiol 1985)

8. Lowering the price of ‘good foods’ would be better than taxing ‘bad foods’ in reducing obesity. (Winkler JT, BMJ 2013)

9. The close links among poverty, inequity, undernutrition, and human deprivation are well known, and all these factors have been shown to reduce the potential for human development considerably. (Bhutta ZA, Black RE, N Eng J Med 2013)

10. Statistics is the grammar of science. (Karl Pearson, The Grammar of Science, 1892)

11. It is only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential. (Barack Obama, College Commencement Address, 2005)

Romy Gaillard, June 25, 2014