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# *Influence of Childhood Maltreatment on Adulthood Mental Health and Disorders*

**MONDAY, 26 MARCH 2018 / 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**McIntyre Medical Building**

**3655 promenade Sir William Osler – Meakins Rm 521**

ALL ARE WELCOME

**ABSTRACT:** Child maltreatment is internationally considered as a serious public health, human rights, legal and social issue. Every year it is estimated that millions of children are abused and neglected. The negative consequences accompanying child maltreatment not only cause adverse consequences during childhood, but also initiate a negative developmental trajectory that lasts through the lifetime. However, despite the increase risk of psychopathology, research indicates that some abused individuals retain normal levels of functioning. This dynamic developmental process encompassing the attainment of positive adaptation within the context of significant adversity is referred as resilience. It is of importance to understand the dynamic balance between resilience and allostatic load in mental health and mental disorders. Recent interesting findings of our studies include: 1) resilience and protective factors among people with a history of child maltreatment; 2) gender moderates the relationship between childhood abuse and internalizing and sub-

stance use disorders later in life; and, 3) childhood maltreatment substantially increases the risk of adult depression and anxiety in prospective cohort studies.

### OBJECTIVES

1. There is a significant gender effect in the relationships between different types of childhood maltreatment and mental disorders. Appreciate the epidemiologic issues faced in estimating the link between malnutrition and nutrition interventions on child development in resource-limited settings.
2. Protective factors associated with resilience at individual, familial, and societal levels reduced the likelihood of negative consequences of childhood maltreatment.
3. Public and population mental health preventions should focus on early childhood and apply preventive strategies as

early as possible.

**BIO:** Xiangfei Meng, a Medical Scientist in the Douglas Hospital Research Centre, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, and an Associate Member in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health at McGill University. Her research interests focus on population mental health and neuro-psychiatric epidemiology and health services use, using a wide range of techniques to study the roles of genetic, epigenetic, psycho-socio environmental risk factors and their interplay in common mental disorders across the life span of mental diseases, especially focusing on the importance of prevention strategies in diverse ethno-cultural environment.

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