

NEW!

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Using storytelling to translate science for health promotion, disease prevention

A Story of Health

A Multi-media eBook

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The Power of Personal Stories:

Cased-based learning has long been used in medical education. Our eBook grounds the science of health in stories of fictional people, their families, and communities to enable readers to explore the collection of risk factors for increasingly common illnesses that are a serious problem for the health of our nation.

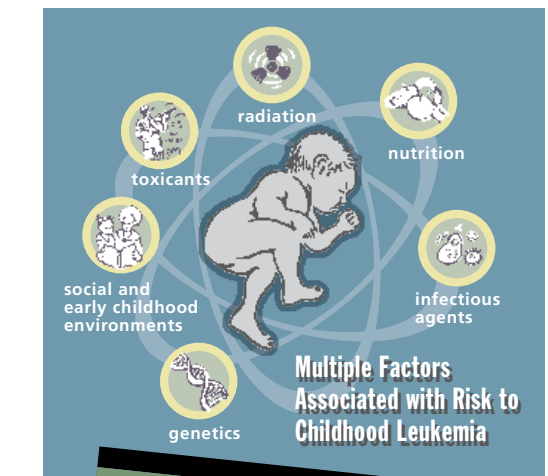
Using the setting of a family reunion as a backdrop, we explore how multiple environments influence our health across the lifespan.

Examples:
"Brett is a nine year old boy who lives with his mother in an urban area. Like many children, Brett suffers from asthma..."

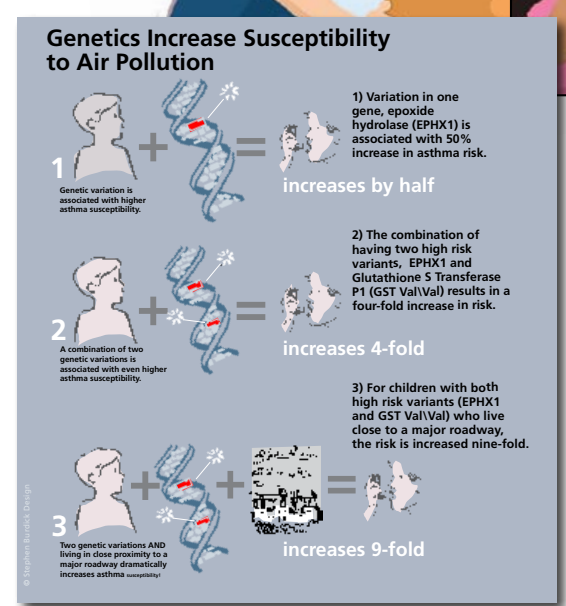


"Stephen is a 3-year-old boy in treatment for childhood leukemia..."

Early life exposures contribute to lifelong effects



Gene-environment interactions, such as in this example from the asthma story, can have dramatic effects.



Stress-environment interactions:
"...For example, prenatal and early life exposure to social stressors, such as violence, can increase the risk of asthma as well as increase the impacts on respiratory health from allergens, air pollution, and tobacco smoke."

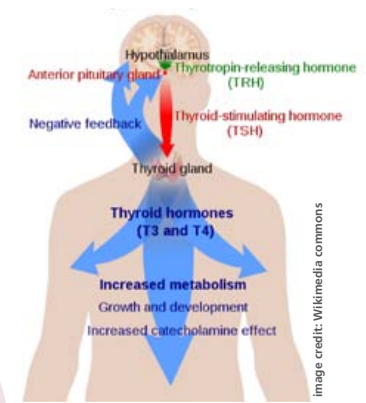
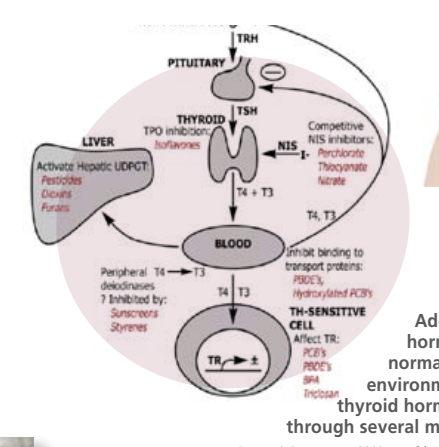
Stress affects our health. Watch this video by Dr. Rosalind Wright to see how social stressors, along with environmental factors, can be linked to asthma. (5 min.)



"Amelia is a 13-year-old. Like one in six young people in America, Amelia has a developmental disability..."



PRENATAL HEALTHY CARE A Rationale for Thyroid Screening Before or During Pregnancy



Adequate levels of thyroid hormone are necessary for normal brain development. Some environmental chemicals can disrupt thyroid hormone levels and function through several mechanisms.

Although not an exhaustive account, the eBook is a presentation of current scientific evidence to help readers make informed decisions and take actions to promote health.

Multiple factors influence health

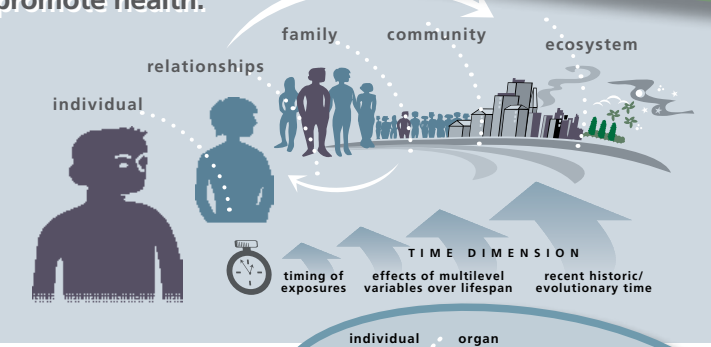
Our individual stories highlight the many ways our health is influenced by the complex environments where we live, eat, work, exercise, gather and socialize.



Individuals and families are progressively nested within communities, societies, cultures, and ecosystems. Each of these levels has significant influences on the others.

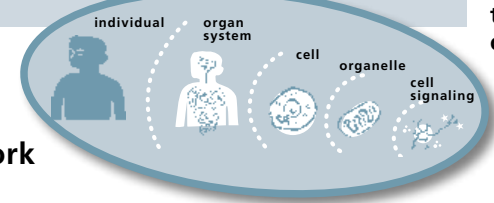
In many instances, each can influence levels of healthy or harmful biologic markers, such as inflammatory mediators or stress hormones, that can be measured in people's blood.

We call this an ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK because it recognizes the contribution of each level to the health status of individuals, families, communities, ecosystems.



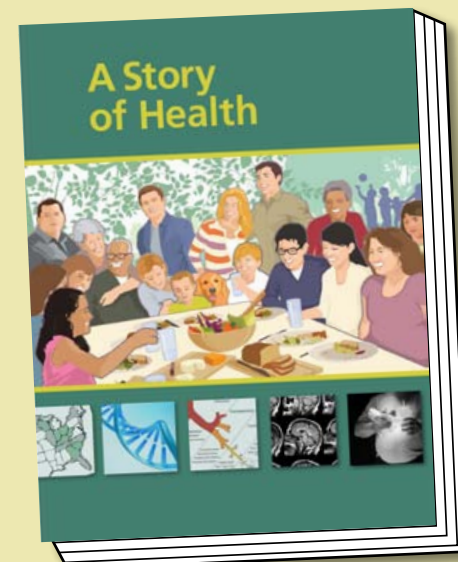
Ecological Health Framework

The ecological health framework also extends to the sub-cellular level.



About the eBook:

An interactive document with multiple chapters features prompts for embedded information and links to online resources.



Finally, a resource that clearly explains the multiple factors that influence our health across the lifespan – the natural, built, chemical, food, economic, and social environments – and how they interact with genetics and each other.

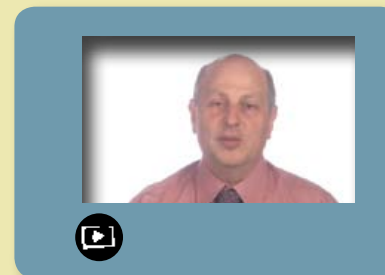
A Story of Health is the first installment of a new eBook on how to promote health and prevent disease.

Pop-up graphics and rollover functions reveal key concepts, relevant graphics and links to videos presented by researchers – in-depth information for clinicians.



A Story of Health is written by health experts with content relevant to a wide audience, from clinicians, to health advocates, to policy makers.

The stories are accessible to an educated lay audience with more technical sections for scientists and medical professionals who can access free continuing education credits through the eBook.



Our goal: Improve the health of individuals, families, communities and patients.

Watch: Dr. Mark Miller discusses the Barker hypothesis (1:40 min.)

Download A Story of Health at www.healthandenvironment.org/resources/story_of_health



Acknowledgements

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Free Continuing Education credits offered through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ATSDR. For more information contact: Maria Valenti, mvalenti@igc.org or Brian Tencza, bht1@cdc.gov.