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**ABSTRACT TITLE:**

RE-THINKING ADVERSITY: EARLY LIFE STRESS FROM THE CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

**Abstract Body:**

Discovering the processes through which early adverse experiences affect children's development is critically important for developing effective prevention and interventions for youth, and also for understanding the basic science of human development. Research on early life stress has generally been anchored on the specific events that have (or have not) occurred in a child's life. Yet, there is increasing evidence that children's perceptions of their experiences can deepen our understanding of adversity related outcomes. How can we better embrace the real complexity of human development? Increased attention to dimensions of children's experiences and variability in how individuals construe and respond to their circumstances holds tremendous promise for advancing knowledge about the neurobiological mechanisms through which stress affects human development. This presentation aims to serve as a catalyst for thinking about new future research directions.