

CHILDREN AND SCREENS INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY TO HOST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EFFECTS OF DIGITAL MEDIA ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT

New Exposition Features a Show and Tell by Technologists

COLD SPRING HARBOR, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development, and its partner for this conference, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, will host the Second National Congress on *Digital Media and Developing Minds* on October 15-18, 2018. This continues the Institute's ongoing work to define and promote childhood media health in our increasingly technological society. The upcoming event will draw neuroscientists, clinicians, medical researchers, social scientists, public health experts, data scientists, educators, policy makers and others for thought-provoking keynotes, panels, and discussions on the impact of digital media on children's health.

Speakers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as researchers from the nation's leading academic and research institutions here and abroad, will address pressing topics affecting young people, including fake news, internet addiction, privacy, cyberbullying, digital media and relationships, the links between social media depression, and suicide - and health-promoting uses of media.

Attendees will also have opportunities for scientific collaboration on how to study, measure and evaluate outcomes of children's interaction with current and emerging technologies.

Dr. Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra, President and Founder of Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development, expects that this conference will "provide a platform for experts to expand our current knowledge, hone the national research agenda developed at the first *Digital Media and Developing Minds* Congress held at the National Academy of Sciences, and advance the science in this evolving field." She also sees it as "an opportunity to evaluate research methodologies for children's health in order to encourage a paradigm shift in the way that research is conducted in the field."

Dr. Bruce Stillman, president and CEO of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, adds, "There is no better time than now to highlight how digital media and methods of research impact children's health and wellbeing. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory is pleased to collaborate with Children and Screens for this important meeting."

Dr. Hurst-Della Pietra explained that, “current indirect methods in wide use, such as parental surveys and media diaries, help frame important questions, as does the research conducted on small groups of children under controlled laboratory conditions. However, the movement toward direct, large-scale, short and long-term qualitative and quantitative assessments of children’s media exposure and its impact is imperative to understanding the risks and benefits, and making evidence-based policy and parenting decisions.”

Digital Media and Developing Minds 2018 will, for the first time, introduce a concurrent Tools and Methodologies Exposition and hands-on workshop to demonstrate tools and technologies for scientific research.

“We’re excited to advance innovative approaches to building a scientific foundation for what’s currently a very emotional topic around what’s best for healthy child development,” said Dr. Hurst-Della Pietra.

Dates: October 15 - 18, 2018
Location: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory,
 Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island,
 New York

About Children and Screens

Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2013, is dedicated to stimulating a dialogue on the impact of digital media on children and adolescents. It has two main objectives. The first is to promote objective, high-quality scientific research (by making grants, identifying and nurturing talent, and fostering bold interdisciplinary collaborations). The second is to empower parents, teachers, clinicians, and policymakers with actionable information – about what we know and what we don’t – with which they can maximize children’s benefits from digital media and minimize their risks. The ultimate goal is to provide all interested parties – parents, clinicians, educators, parents, policymakers, manufacturers, and children themselves – with the credible data they need to make good decisions about digital media. childrenandscreens.com Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook.

Contacts

CHILDREN AND SCREENS: INSTITUTE OF DIGITAL MEDIA AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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