

PRESENTERS

Advancing the Agenda: **Using Research to Integrate Health and Early Childhood Practice Worldwide**

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Anu Rangarajan, Mathematica Policy Research

Anu Rangarajan, director of the Center for International Policy Research and Evaluation (CIPRE) and a vice president at Mathematica, has 25 years of experience conducting more than 40 research studies (and more than 15 impact evaluations), including many large, complex studies. She is an expert in experimental studies; quality, evaluation, and development assessments; and cost-benefit analyses and has taught program evaluation at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. As CIPRE's director, Dr. Rangarajan coordinates and guides more than 35 researchers conducting international development evaluations in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. She leads the Gates Foundation-funded evaluation of the Ananya program, which focuses on improving maternal and child health in Bihar, India, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation's maternal and child health project in Indonesia. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from Brown University.



Kimberly Boller, Mathematica Policy Research

Kimberly Boller, a senior fellow at Mathematica, studies the effects of early childhood education, parenting programs, and policy on children and families. She is an expert in the measurement of program fidelity, implementation, and quality; child outcomes from infancy through early elementary school; and the well-being and self-sufficiency of parents. Dr. Boller currently directs a study of a teacher professional development intervention to improve the quality of pre-primary education in Tanzania. Previously, she directed the Evaluation of the UNICEF-Government of Netherlands Cooperation Programme on Early Childhood Development; in this role, she studied policies and services for children in 10 countries in Africa and Asia. She also co-directed a cross-site evaluation for the Administration for Children and Families on the use of home visiting to prevent child maltreatment, and she is principal investigator on the Early Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (Baby FACES). In addition, Dr. Boller studied state quality rating systems (QRS) and developed evaluation tools as principal investigator for the Child Care QRS Assessment and the Early Learning Initiative Evaluation. She has a Ph.D. in developmental and cognitive psychology from Rutgers University-New Brunswick.



Harold Alderman, International Food Policy Research Institute

Harold Alderman's research focuses on the economics of nutrition and food policy. He spent 10 years at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) before joining The World Bank in 1991. He rejoined IFPRI in 2012. While at The World Bank, Dr. Alderman divided his time between the Development Research Group and the Africa region, where he advised on social protection policy. His current research focuses on the links between nutrition and early child development and the means by which nutrition and social protection programs contribute to long-term economic growth. Dr. Alderman coauthored the 2013 *Lancet* review of nutrition programs and the 2011 *Lancet* review of early childhood development interventions. He holds a master's degree in nutrition from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.



Emiliana Vegas, Inter-American Development Bank

Since September 2012, Emiliana Vegas has been chief of the Education Division at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. In this capacity, she leads a team of 30 to 40 professionals working in the bank's lending and analytical operations to support education systems throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. From September 2001 to August 2012, Dr. Vegas worked at The World Bank in Washington, DC, where she held various positions in the Human Development Network, her latest being lead economist and human development sector leader for Central America, and lead economist in the education unit of the Human Development Department. Dr. Vegas has a doctorate in education, with a concentration in the economics of education, from Harvard University; a master's degree in public policy studies from Duke University; and a bachelor's degree in communications, with a concentration in journalism, from Andrés Bello Catholic University in Caracas, Venezuela.



Mandana Arabi, The Sackler Institute for Nutrition Science

As executive director of the Sackler Institute for Nutrition Science at the New York Academy of Sciences, Mandana Arabi is leading a global initiative to develop a research agenda for nutrition science, build partnerships across sectors to stimulate scientific research, and advance the use of research findings to create better policies and programs. Dr. Arabi has worked as a nutrition adviser with the Ministry of Health and The World Bank in Iran, and she has served for more than four years as a nutrition adviser for infants and young children at UNICEF Headquarters in New York. An expert in international nutrition, she has facilitated nutrition programming in more than 15 countries dealing with the double burden of over- and under-nutrition. Her research and programmatic work has addressed infant and child nutrition in developing countries as well as the impacts of globalization and broader social and economic factors on nutrition and health in vulnerable populations. Dr. Arabi has also co-authored various global guidance documents, including the "UNICEF Infant and Young Child Programming Guide" and "WHO Indicators for Assessing Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices." She recently led the development and publication of a special issue of *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*: "Every Child's Potential: Integrating Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Interventions." Dr. Arabi earned her Ph.D. in nutrition from Cornell University and an M.D. from Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

