

## EDITORIAL: The Metabolic Syndrome and Childhood Obesity: A Critical Public Health Issue

Childhood obesity is a global health problem and is disturbing several countries all over the world. The prevalence and magnitude of childhood obesity are increasing dramatically and associated by preventable negative health consequences.

The objective of this Special Issue in *International Journal of Child Health and Nutrition* is to highlight advances in childhood obesity and related new researches.

The articles presented in this issue address:

1) To determine association between two Waist-to-Height Ratio Measurements by the World Health Organization (WHO) or National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) protocol with cardio metabolic risk factors in a sample of youth with diabetes by Lenna L. Liu. *et al.* This practical article by internationally recognized researchers address these critical health problem by using two easily available measurement. Also, this article provides a fertile ground for future research explore these relationships among youth with diabetes, including longitudinal analyses and comparisons with new measures of cardio metabolic risk. The authors recommended that The WHO waist circumference protocol may be preferable to NHANES waist circumference.

2) To understand the association of weight status to adolescent weight control, body image, and emotional well-being responses, in African American high school students by Delenya Allen *et al.* This notable study showed that overweight and obesity are associated with body dissatisfaction and use of unhealthy weight control behaviors in African American adolescents.

3) To show that DNA damage of the cells in multiple organs in Mice could be suppressed by the combination of health-food drinks and mild stress exposure b y Minoru Higashimoto *et al.* Their interesting study showed that use of anti-oxidative foods may be able to prevent the development of lifestyle-related diseases associated with obesity and hyperlipidemia in combination with beneficial effects of mild stress, not only in the experimental animals but also in humans food. Future studies to investigate the relationship between the antioxidant food and its impact on weight changes and metabolic syndrome in child hood proposed.

Finally, I would really like to appreciate all those who by different way contributed to this special issue, including the *Journal of Child Health and Nutrition* people and of course the authors and the reviewers.

The noticeable support given by Mr. Madiha from the Lifescience Global publication department is also deeply appreciated.

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