

Department of Applied Social Sciences
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Funding Source : PolyU (UGC)

Project Title : From Antenatal Family Polyvictimization, Maternal Stress, to Infant Biomarkers: The First Birth Cohort Study among Chinese Families in Hong Kong

Funded Amount : HKD 2,000,000

Period of the Study : 1 Jul 2020 – 30 Jun2022

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Abstract : The proposed project aims at (i) building the first birth cohort data of biomarkers including infant TL and parental TL, as well as infant and maternal blood-based immune biomarkers and gut microbiota diversity in a large sample of Chinese families in Hong Kong; (ii) providing an accurate biologically relevant profile to family polyvictimization (e.g. its prevalence rates and correlates) in the birth cohort; (iii) examining the association between antenatal family polyvictimization and infant TL, with a focus on the violence during pregnancy.

[What are telomeres?](#)

Social Impact : The impacts of the study are:

- 1) Establishing the largest birth cohort of cord blood-derived biomarkers infant TL and cytokine profile, parental TL, and family polyvictimization in the world.
- 2) Pioneering an all-encompassing bio-psycho-social framework to explain the mechanistic link between family polyvictimization on infant's health.
- 3) Providing essential baseline and normative data to support future longitudinal follow-up studies on family polyvictimization, child TL and health, and to strengthen the application of RGC Collaborative Research Fund for such follow-up studies.
- 4) Informing the international research community on, and enhancing awareness of social work and healthcare practices to, the relationship between family violence and child health.