



What the Experts Are Saying About The “Digital Media & Developing Minds” Conference

Dr. David Hill, M.D. Pediatrician, Cape Fear Pediatrics; AAP Council, Communications and Media; Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics, UNC School of Medicine: “I am excited to see so many talented and engaged people gather in one place to tackle one of the most profound questions of our age: what are the outcomes of this vast uncontrolled experiment we are running on our children’s minds with new types and volumes of media exposure?”

Vint Cerf, V.P. Chief Internet Evangelist, Google “...the question of course is whether anything interesting or unusual or potentially hazardous happens to our minds and brains as we are interacting with online sources. That is why this conference is so important - because we don’t know the answer to that question, and there is a research agenda which needs to be developed, and presumably prioritized so that we can find out answers to that question.”

Michael Brody, M.D. Chair of the Media Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: “This important conference will provide information about the impact of new media on child development, and it will also serve as a nexus for any future research about the effects and consequences of these screen experiences on our young children.”

Melina Uncapher, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Stanford University, Co-Founder / CEO Institute of Applied Neuroscience: “The Sackler conference constitutes a global convening of field-leading scientists to discuss an increasingly urgent issue: the impact of technology and media on the developing mind. Kudos to the National Academy of Sciences and Children and Screens: the Institute of Digital Media and Child Development for leading this important field-building effort that promises to galvanize research efforts across multiple disciplines and methods. This represents an important

next step in empowering parents, educators, and policymakers in understanding what is a healthy media diet.



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Dmitri Christakis, M.D., Director of the Seattle Children’s Hospital Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development: “I have never attended a conference where so many of the leading media researchers from an eclectic set of disciplines convened to review the current state of the science and make recommendations for future research ... This promises to be a groundbreaking opportunity.”

Ellen Wartella, Ph.D., Department Chair and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor of Communication Studies: "This is a remarkable collections of scholars from medicine and the social sciences to consider the question of how this technology heavy world is impacting our youth ... and what a timely event for setting a future research agenda."

Sherry Turkle, Ph. D., best-selling author, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT, and the founder and current director of the MIT Initiative on Technology and Self: (Digital Media and Developing Minds) is an opportunity to hear a range of voices who are investigating the impact of digital media on development. Some of those participating disagree with each other. So there will be an opportunity, far too rare in the world of conferences, to hear differences aired, discussed, to potentially formulate research programs that could lead toward deeper understandings not just louder declarations. This could be a significant moment in the development of the discipline.”

Sam Aronson, former Director of Brookhaven National Laboratories: “We need to understand how to train and integrate young people into the scientific enterprise. As the director of a federal research facility, I have recruited many young scientists, and nowadays, when much science is performed in large interdisciplinary collaborations, the

students are all using digital media. How does growing up with a computer or a smartphone as your main source of information and communication affect the collaborative process of science? Digital Media and Developing Minds is an important



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next step in helping us to better understand the positive and negative impacts of new technology on our next generation of ‘knowledge workers’.”

Elizabeth Englander, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Bridgewater State University and Director and Founder, Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center: “The Sackler Colloquia, “Digital Media and Developing Minds,” is a unique opportunity to be part of a project helping to define the nation’s research agenda regarding digital technology and child development. For anyone interested in learning about the most interesting research and practices in this area, this conference will be an important professional source of collaboration and information.”