Child Health Is the Foundation of Society

• Child health is one of the critical determinants of adult health
  – **Reservoirs** (how much will adults begin with?)
  – **Trajectories** (how high, how far, how fast?)
  – **Ceilings** (what is the potential?)

• Adult health is the **area under the curve** whose basic parameters are established in childhood
Massive, Rapid Change

- From a developmental perspective, aging from:
  - 32 to 34 years → same old song
  - 2 to 4 years → brand new bag

- Reservoirs, trajectories, and ceilings are established by multiple narrow overlapping critical windows throughout childhood
Key Critical Window Domains in Childhood

- Fetal nutrition and stress
- Childhood resilience and trauma
- Social integration and isolation (families and beyond)
- Development and educational achievement
- Economic and environmental security
- Health-related behaviors
- Health care
What Outcomes Really Matter?

• Primary goals of pediatrics
  – Increase total adult health area under the curve
  – Increase net adult societal productivity
  – Increase adult health equity
  – Increase adult resilience, skills, and supports for the next generation of parents

• What must we **measure** in key critical window domains if these are the outcomes we pursue?
High-Quality Primary Care for Children

• Requires systems that are
  – High-touch, with frequent and longitudinal opportunities to intervene during key critical windows
  – Aimed at long-term health, productivity, and equity outcomes
  – Supported by adequate and innovative structures and financing that encourage cross-system integration (e.g., community systems of care, regional networks)
Cross-System Integration

• With community partners to address social complexity
  – Family education and support services
  – Childcare providers and schools
  – Neighborhoods, businesses, and governments

• With health care providers to address medical complexity
  – Developmental/behavioral/mental health care
  – Transitions to adulthood
  – Extended primary care-subspecialty regional networks (relative rarity of diseases and scarcity of providers)
Thank You

On behalf of the Academic Pediatric Association (APA)