**ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND CHILDHOOD EATING BEHAVIOURS IN 5-YEAROLD CHILDREN. FINDINGS FROM THE ROLO LONGITUDINAL BIRTH COHORT STUDY**

Delahunt A1, Conway MC1, O’Brien EC 2, Geraghty AA 2, O’Reilly SL1, 3, McDonnell CM4, McAuliffe FM1

1UCD Perinatal Research Centre, School of Medicine, National Maternity Hospital, University

College Dublin, Ireland.

2School of Biological and Health Sciences, Technological University Dublin, Ireland.

3School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

4Department of Paediatric Endocrinology & Diabetes, Children's Health Ireland Temple St &

Tallaght, Dublin, Ireland.

**Background:**

The current study examines if three key environmental factors; maternal socio-economic status

(SES), children’s screentime and childcare arrangements are associated with eating behaviours in children aged 5-years-old.

**Methods:**

This is secondary analysis of the ROLO pregnancy study, at the 5-year follow-up. SES was determined by maternal education level and neighborhood deprivation score. At aged 5 years, information on children’s screentime and childcare arrangements were collected using lifestyle questionnaires and the Children’s Eating Behavior Questionnaire (CEBQ) was completed. Multiple linear regression was completed, to examine associations between maternal SES, children’s screentime, childcare arrangements and children’s eating behaviours.

**Results:**

In this cohort, mothers in the lowest SES group had higher BMI and were younger than those in the highest SES group (p=0.005,0-<0.001 respectively). Compared with the highest SES households, lowest SES was associated with a 2.49 point (95% CI=-5.00,0.01) lower mean ‘Food Fussiness’ score. Higher mean scores for ‘Desire to Drink’ were positively associated with the lowest SES households compared to those from the highest SES households (B=1.26; 95% CI=0.07, 2.45). Screen time (hours) exposure was associated with higher ‘Food Fussiness’ (B=0.17; 95% CI=0.07,0.28, P=0.001). Longer duration of attending childcare (years) was positively associated with ‘Food Responsiveness’ (B=0.42; 95% CI=0.01,0.83) and ‘Emotional Overeating’ (B=0.27; 95% CI=0.07,0.48).

**Conclusions:**

Associations were observed between key environmental factors and children’s eating behaviours, suggesting that a child’s eating style is impacted by the environment they are embedded within. Screentime and time spent in childcare are modifiable factors that could be addressed in future prevention initiatives.

Presenting Author: Anna Delahunt