

# 2012 PUBLIC HEALTH OPHS COLLOQUIUM SERIES

PRESENTS:

**Michel Odent, MD,  
Founder, Primal Health  
Research Centre,  
London U.K.**



## **“Primal Health Research in the Age of Epigenetics ”**

Primal Health Research is an emerging branch of epidemiology & includes studies exploring correlations between what happens during the primal period and what happens later on in terms of health and personality traits. The primal period includes fetal life, perinatal period and the year following birth. With the advent of epigenetics - as another emerging discipline - many correlations detected through the primal health research perspective can be interpreted in a new way. The database appears also as a tool to provide indications regarding critical periods for genes-environment interaction during the primal period, where specific pathological conditions and personality traits are concerned. Since the possible transmission of epigenetic markers to the following generations has been demonstrated, we found new reasons to include in the database studies about transgenerational effects of events during the primal period. Today, one cannot ignore the transgenerational effects. Understanding how acquired traits can be transmitted to the following generation is a new step in the history of sciences.

Michel Odent has been in charge of the surgical unit and the maternity unit at the Pithiviers (France) state hospital (1962-1985) and is the founder of the Primal Health Research Centre (London). He introduced in the 1970s the concepts of home-like birthing rooms and birthing pools in maternity hospitals. He is the author of the first article in the medical literature about the use of birthing pools (Lancet 1983), of the first article about the initiation of lactation during the hour following birth, and of the first article applying the 'Gate Control Theory of Pain' to obstetrics. Odent is the author of 12 books published in 22 languages & co-author of five academic books, as well as author/co-author of 92 articles.

**Date:**

**Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012**

**Time:**

**12:00 noon to 1:00pm**

**Location: Biomed Bldg, room D-207, UH-Manoa**

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