



Professor George Davey Smith

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Summary

Biography

George Davey Smith is a clinical epidemiologist whose research has pioneered (1) understanding of the causes and alleviation of health inequalities; (2) lifecourse epidemiology (3) systematic reviewing of evidence of effectiveness of health care and health policy interventions (4) population health contributions of the new genetics. He has published over 1000 peer-reviewed journal articles, 15 books/edited collections and numerous editorials, commentaries and reviews. Major contributions include: a) the demonstration of the influence of childhood socio-economic deprivation on cause-specific morbidity and mortality patterns in adult life; b) methodological developments in meta-analysis; c) elucidation of factors underlying socio-economic differences in morbidity and mortality in the UK, US, Norway and India d) the development and application of Mendelian randomisation approaches, interrogating the causal role of behavioural factors (such as alcohol consumption) and intermediate phenotypes (such as fibrinogen and C-reactive protein) on different health outcomes; e) application of causal analysis approaches to epigenetic data. He is an ISI highly cited scholar and Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Medicine Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is co-editor of the International Journal of Epidemiology (during his tenure the impact factor has increased from less than 2 to over 9), has sat on the MRC Public Health and Health Services Research, Physiological Medicine and Infection Boards and the MRC Military Health Research Advisory Group and Global Health Group. He is on the Wellcome Trust Science Funding Interview Panel. He has established or has been central to the running of a large number of epidemiological cohort studies involving detailed clinical and biomarker assessments. He is currently Scientific Director of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children; and became Director of the MRC Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology in 2007 and of the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit in 2013. He is Director of the Wellcome Trust 4 year PhD programme in Lifecourse and Genetic Epidemiology at the School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol.

Activities / Findings

George Davey Smith is a clinical epidemiologist whose research has pioneered (1) understanding of the causes and alleviation of health inequalities; (2) lifecourse epidemiology (3) systematic reviewing of evidence of effectiveness of health care and health policy interventions (4) population health contributions of the new genetics. Contributions include: a) the demonstration of the influence of childhood socio-economic deprivation on cause-specific morbidity and mortality patterns in adult life; b) methodological developments in meta-analysis; c) elucidation of factors underlying socio-economic differences in morbidity and mortality in the UK, US, Norway and India d) the development and application of Mendelian randomisation approaches, interrogating the causal role of behavioural factors (such as alcohol consumption) and intermediate phenotypes (such as fibrinogen and C-reactive protein) on different health outcomes; e) application of causal analysis approaches to epigenetic data. He is an ISI highly cited scholar and Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Medicine Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He has sat on the MRC Public Health and Health Services Research, Physiological Medicine and Infection Boards, MRC Military Health Research Advisory Group, the MRC Global Health Group and the Wellcome Trust Science Funding Interview Panel. He has established or has been central to the running of a large number of epidemiological cohort studies involving detailed clinical and biomarker assessments. He is currently Scientific Director of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children; and became Director of the MRC Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology in 2007 and of the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit in 2013. He is Director of the Wellcome Trust 4 year PhD programme in Lifecourse and Genetic Epidemiology at the School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol.

Memberships

Organisations

Other sites

- [Bhi](#)
- [Cancer](#)
- [Populationhealth](#)

Centres, collaborations and units

- [MRC Centre for Causal Analyses in Translational Epidemiology](#)
- [MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit](#)

Recent publications

- , , , Demontis, D, Walters, RK, Martin, J, Mattheisen, M, Als, TD, Agerbo, E, Baldursson, G, Belliveau, R, Bybjerg-Grauholm, J, Bækvad-Hansen, M, Cerrato, F, Chambert, K, Churchhouse, C, Dumont, A, Eriksson, N, Gandal, M, Goldstein, JI, Grasby, KL, Grove, J, Gudmundsson, OO, Hansen, CS, Hauberg, ME, Hollegaard, MV, Howrigan, DP, Huang, H, Maller, JB, Martin, AR, Martin, NG, Moran, J, Pallesen, J, Palmer, DS, Pedersen, CB, Pedersen, MG, Poterba, T, Poulsen, JB, Ripke, S, Robinson, EB & others 2019, '[Discovery of the first genome-wide significant risk loci for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder](#)'. *Nature Genetics*, vol 51., pp. 63-75
- Khera, AV, Chaffin, M, Wade, KH, Zahid, S, Brancale, J, Xia, R, Distefano, M, Senol-Cosar, O, Haas, ME, Bick, A, Aragam, KG, Lander, ES, Smith, GD, Mason-Suares, H, Fornage, M, Lebo, M, Timpson, NJ, Kaplan, LM & Kathiresan, S, 2019, '[Polygenic Prediction of Weight and Obesity Trajectories from Birth to Adulthood](#)'. *Cell*, vol 177., pp. 587-596.e9
- Grove, J, Ripke, S, Als, TD, Mattheisen, M, Walters, RK, Won, H, Pallesen, J, Agerbo, E, Andreassen, OA, Anney, R, Awashti, S, Belliveau, R, Bettella, F, Buxbaum, JD, Bybjerg-Grauholm, J, Bækvad-Hansen, M, Cerrato, F, Chambert, K, Christensen, JH, Churchhouse, C, Dellenvall, K, Demontis, D, De Rubeis, S, Devlin, B, Djurovic, S, Dumont, AL, Goldstein, JI, Hansen, CS, Hauberg, ME, Hollegaard, MV, Hope, S, Howrigan, DP, Huang, H, Hultman, CM, Klei, L, Maller, J, Martin, J, Pedersen, CB, Smith, GD, St Pourcain, B & others 2019, '[Identification of common genetic risk variants for autism spectrum disorder](#)'. *Nature Genetics*, vol 51., pp. 431-444
- McGowan, L, Smith, GD, Gaunt, T & Richardson, T, 2019, '[Integrating Mendelian randomization and multiple-trait colocalization to uncover cell-specific inflammatory drivers of autoimmune and atopic disease](#)'. *Human Molecular Genetics*.
- Vie, G&#x, Wo;otton, R, Bjørngaard, JH, Asvold, BO, Taylor, A, Gabrielsen, ME, Smith, GD, Romundstad, PR & Munafo, M, 2019, '[The effect of smoking intensity on all-cause and cause-specific mortality: – a Mendelian randomisation analysis](#)'. *International Journal of Epidemiology*.
- Østergaard, SD, Larsen, JT, Petersen, L, Smith, GD & Agerbo, E, 2019, '[Psychosocial Adversity in Infancy and Mortality Rates in Childhood and Adolescence: A Birth Cohort Study of 1.5 Million Individuals](#)'. *Epidemiology*, vol 30., pp. 246-255
- Haworth, S, Mitchell, R, Corbin, L, Wade, K, Dudding, T, Budu-Aggrey, A, Carslake, D, Hemani, G, Paternoster, L, Smith, GD, Davies, N, Lawson, D & Timpson, N, 2019, '[Apparent latent structure within the UK Biobank sample has implications for epidemiological analysis](#)'. *Nature Communications*, vol 10.
- Taylor, K, Smith, GD, Relton, C, Gaunt, T & Richardson, T, 2019, '[Prioritizing putative influential genes in cardiovascular disease susceptibility by applying tissue-specific Mendelian randomization](#)'. *Genome Medicine*, vol 11.
- Kemp, JP, Sayers, A, Fraser, WD, Smith, GD, Ala-Korpela, M, Evans, DM & Tobias, JH, 2019, '[A Metabolic Screen in Adolescents Reveals an Association Between Circulating Citrate and Cortical Bone Mineral Density](#)'. *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*, vol 34., pp. 1306-1313
- Richardson, TG, Smith, GD & Munafò, MR, 2019, '[Conditioning on a Collider May Induce Spurious Associations: Do the Results of Gale et al. \(2017\) Support a Health-Protective Effect of Neuroticism in Population Subgroups?](#)'. *Psychological Science*, vol 30., pp. 629-632

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Projects

- [Accessible Resource for Integrated Epigenomics Studies \(ARIES\)](#)
- [Boyd Orr Cohort Study](#)
- [Epigenetics and Social Science Network](#)
- [Epigenetics: Environment, Embodiment and Equality \(E4 project\)](#)
- [Interpreting epigenetic signatures in studies of early life adversity \(Interstela project\)](#)
- [Promotion of Breastfeeding Intervention Trial \(PROBIT IV\)](#)