

**Department of Child & Adolescent  
Psychiatry**  
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and  
Neuroscience

Emily Simonoff, MD FRCPsych  
Professor of Child & Adolescent  
Psychiatry  
Head of Department

PO85  
16 De Crespigny Park  
London SE5 8AF  
Telephone 020 7848 5312  
Fax 020 7848 5800  
Email: emily.simonoff@kcl.ac.uk



12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Central Institute for Mental Health  
J 5  
68159 Mannheim

Dear Tobias,

### **Collaboration for Centre for Child Health**

As Head of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, I am writing to give my support and that more generally of the Department to your proposed Centre for child health. Child health is a critical area for advancement in order to improve social, economic and mental well-being of future populations. The strategy proposed for your Centre, which uses trends diagnostic concepts to integrate research on the interplay between physical and mental health problems, is an important strength as it is well-recognized that there is great overlap between risk factors for these conditions but currently little understanding of their underpinning mechanisms. The research plans for the Centre employ cutting-edge methodologies and research designs, and should provide important new mechanistic insights, as well as the potential for advancement of prevention and intervention strategies.

The work proposed for the Centre overlaps strongly with the scientific interests of myself and many others in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and more widely at King's. For example, we have extensive links, strengthened through digital infrastructure, between measurements of maternal mental and physical health during pregnancy and the outcomes of their offspring, now followed into early childhood. We also intensively study the pregnancies and early child development of high-risk pregnancies, whether due to physical/mental health of the mothers or family history of neurodevelopmental disorders. Through joint collaborations between King's Institute of Women and Children's Health and the IoPPN, we are using both population and clinical cohorts to explore the shared and specific risk factors for physical and mental health disorders emerging in childhood. With the new Pears Maudsley Centre for Child and Young People opening in 2023, our new Clinical Research Facility will enhance our ability to focus on underpinning brain mechanisms associated with the emergence of disorder and to test novel interventions.

There have long-standing collaborations between myself and other Departmental colleagues with yourself and members of your collaborative centre. These include shared research projects and publications on neurodevelopmental disorders, especially ADHD. We look forward to extending these collaborations in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Simonoff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

**Emily Simonoff MD, FRCPsych**  
**Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**  
**Head of Department**