Dr. Frank Elgar is an associate professor of psychiatry at McGill University’s Institute for Health and Social Policy and holds a Canada Research Chair in Social Inequalities in Child Health.

The odds that a child is healthy, happy and doing well in school all progressively improve as social class rises. This social pattern tracks strongly into adulthood and defines health inequalities throughout life. In Canada, there are five- to 10-fold differences in the rates of some illnesses and a 10-year gap in life expectancy across socioeconomic conditions. Internationally, child and youth health varies depending on economic wealth and inequality. Using research on poverty, inequality, bullying and corporal punishment, this talk examines the social and moral implications of health inequality in early-life, policy choices that shape opportunities to be healthy and potential consequences of inaction.