



Subject Matter Expert

Laurie C. Miller, MD, Senior Advisor

Expertise

Health and developmental issues concerning orphaned children

Dr. Miller is a world-recognized expert in her field and is an international pediatric consultant to Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Romania, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Guatemala, and India. She holds current appointments as Director of the International Adoption Clinic at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts and as Professor in the Pediatrics Department at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Experience

Dr. Miller's medical practice and research is primarily focused on the health and well-being of children who have experienced adversity in early life, including children who have been adopted or live in foster care in the United States, children in institutional care (orphanages) and foster care in other countries, and children who live in impoverished families. These children have usually had no prenatal care and have probable prenatal exposure to drugs, alcohol, and/or maternal stress. After birth, the children often experience malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, infections, exposure to toxins, as well as environmental and emotional deprivation. Her research projects include protective factors related to growth, developmental, emotional, and behavioral outcomes for the children and their families.

Representative of Dr. Miller's numerous research and training projects is her implementation of a training program in Russia, funded by the National Institute of Health, to enhance the objective documentation, identification, and research of growth and developmental delays, disorders, and risk factors affecting outcomes in orphanage children, and to improve the lives of the children "left behind" in Russia by increasing awareness and involvement with children presenting with various risk factors. Another representative project, funded by the Collaborative Research Support Program, involved Dr. Miller's travel to Nepal over six months to develop a proposal to enhance the nutritional status of children, including those in orphanage care.

Dr. Miller founded the International Adoption Clinic of Tufts Medical Center in 1987. She and her team run an "Adoptive Families Seminar" for pre-adoptive families. The seminar is designed to assist prospective parents in gaining awareness of the common circumstances of children available for international and domestic adoption from countries around the world, including the United States. The seminar educates families on the medical, developmental, and short and long-term issues the team has encountered in its experience of assessing and treating adopted children.

Dr. Miller and her team at the Center for Adoptive Families, formerly known as the International Adoption Clinic, also provide post-adoption services to adoptive families and their children. These services include developmental evaluations including motor, language, cognitive/play, pre-academic, visual motor, sensory processing, and social/emotional skills. The team provides ongoing family support on medical and developmental issues, resource information and referral for community and school services, and ongoing parent support groups.

Awards and Affiliations

Dr. Miller is a senior fellow with the Evan B. Donaldson Institute, a member of the Board of Directors of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA), and a member of the Board of Directors of Romanian Children's Relief (RCR).

Publications

Dr. Miller has authored several books, including *Encyclopedia of International Adoption* and *Handbook of International Adoption Medicine*. Further, she is an ad hoc reviewer for more than 30 medical publications, has personally authored 87 peer reviewed publications, and has written an additional 34 chapters and reviews.

Education

Dr. Miller holds a BA degree (cum laude) from Yale University, and a MD degree from Ohio State University College of Medicine. She has Board Certifications from the American Board of Pediatrics, the American Board of Pediatric Nephrology and the American Board of Pediatric Rheumatology.