

Desmond Runyan, MD, DrPH

Brief Bio – 1-25

Dr. Desmond Runyan is a retired pediatrician who previously served as professor of social medicine and pediatrics and chair of social medicine at the University of North Carolina and then as professor of pediatrics and Executive Director of the Kempe Center at the University of Colorado. He remains active in both teaching and research at Colorado, at UNC and at Duke University. Runyan completed the MD degree and a residency in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and then completed a doctorate in public health and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars fellowship at the University of North Carolina before joining the medical school faculty in North Carolina.

Dr. Runyan has published over 200 articles, book chapters and books. His research has addressed the identification and consequences of child abuse and neglect in the United States and in other countries. Among his accomplishments were helping to create the medical specialty of child abuse pediatrics and directing the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program that has trained over 1300 leaders in American medicine. His research includes having helped assess the consequences of having children testify in court and designing and leading the longest multi-site prospective study of the consequences of child abuse; a 20-year study following 1325 children in 5 states called "LONGSCAN." Runyan also helped design and conduct the first US study examining the incidence and consequences of abusive head trauma. His other work has included assessing the rates of harsh or abusive discipline around the world. He led the development and a revision of the ICAST instruments for International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. These instruments have now been used by investigators in more than 30 countries with more than 300 citations. Runyan served on the ISPCAN board for 12 years from 2004 to 2016.