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Julia Dratva is a medical doctor with a background in internal medicine. She holds a Master in Public Health and a Specialist Certification (FMH) for "Prevention and Public Health". Next to her research focus on child health and early life factors of health and disease, she has acquired expertise on health monitoring and observational cohort studies. She developed a particular interest in the life course approach to health and disease in research and teaching, addressing vulnerable groups and vulnerable time spans. She leads the health sciences research at the institute in health sciences (IGW), School of Health Professions, ZHAW, Switzerland, is fellow of the Swiss School of Public health, and is the president of the Swiss Society Public Health Doctors. Julia Dratva holds an assistant professorship (PD) position at the University of Basel (medical faculty) and joined the ZHAW in Nov. 2017.