

Dear friends, colleagues, mentors and supporters:

Welcome to the first March of Dimes Monthly Research Brief, a monthly email about our news, podcasts, grants, blogs and publications.

We have a lot going on, and we want you to know. You are receiving this briefing because we thought you might be interested - but if you don't want to receive these emails anymore, please respond to this email with the subject line 'unsubscribe.'

And now, the August Research Brief:



NEWS

Recently, we launched a monthly research podcast called [MODCAST](#). Our first episode features March of Dimes Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Emre Seli discussing our motivation to start a podcast and our greater research vision at MoD. Our second episode, posted in mid-July, features Dr. Marina Sirota from our University of California San Francisco Prematurity Research Center (PRC) discussing how machine learning experts from around the world used data from across MoD PRCs to make predictive models for preterm birth.

Listen to both episodes [here](#).

Find and follow and subscribe to the [podcast](#) on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#) or [Google](#).

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

We are calling for nominations for the annual March of Dimes, Richard B. Johnston Jr. Prize. This honors outstanding scientists who profoundly advance our understanding of pregnancy, parturition and prenatal development. The award will be presented at the SRI meeting in Vancouver, March 2024.

To learn more click [here](#). Nominations close October 6, 2023.

MOD RESEARCH BLOG

The data vault behind the recent microbiome DREAM Challenge launched by the UCSF PRC (the challenge is the focus of our second podcast episode) is the subject of our most recent blog.

The MoD Database for Preterm Birth Research is a bank of every piece of molecular data that has come out of a PRC, comprising more than 40,000 experimental samples.

Headed by Dr. Marina Sirota, it is the only public multi-omic data repository for preterm birth, and underscores March of Dimes' commitment to open science - just like the microbiome DREAM Challenge that saw the creation of two predictive models for preterm birth risk.

To read the biorepository blog featuring Dr. Marina Sirota, click [here](#).

Separately, scientists at the March of Dimes PRC at Stanford University have added a new study to the growing body of evidence suggesting maternal stress has an impact on future generations. In this blog, we detail a study by Dr. Jonas Miller, now at the University of Connecticut, who found that the stress a woman experiences before pregnancy affects the way their child's brain functions around three to five years old.

To read the blog featuring Dr. Jonas Miller, click [here](#).

NEWEST PUBLICATIONS

Our scientists have recently published their work, here's a small sample:

A functional mechanism for a non-coding variant near AGTR2 associated with risk for preterm birth

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37455310/> - Ohio Collaborative PRC;

Published July 2023

SARS-CoV-2 niches in human placenta revealed by spatial transcriptomics

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37423216/> - Kjersti Aagaard from Baylor -

Prematurity Research Initiative grantee, class of 2015 epub July 2023

Persistent Bacterial Vaginosis and Risk for Spontaneous Preterm Birth

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37379861/> - Stanford PRC; epub June 2023

Women's Economic Mobility and Small for Gestational Age Rates: The Effect of Paternal Early-Life Socioeconomic Position

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37314672/> - James W. Collins, Social &

Behavioral Sciences Research Grantee, class of 2009; epub June 2023

Neighborhood Walkability as a Risk Factor for Preterm Birth Phenotypes in Two Philadelphia Hospitals from 2013-2016

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37297536/> - Penn PRC; pub May 2023

Explaining the Link Between Paternal Socioeconomic Position and Small for Gestational Age Birth: The Effect of Maternal Unhealthy Behaviors

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37278847/> - James W. Collins, Prematurity

Research Initiative Grantee, class of 2016; epub June 2023

That's it for the August Research Brief. We hope you enjoy.

Emre Seli, MD

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MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.**



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