# 2025 PRS Annual Meeting

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE PLACENTA AND ITS IMPACT ON OFFSPRING HEALTH

**Sept 12-14, 2025 | Colorado Springs, CO**

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## Meeting Program

## Speaker and Candidate Information

## Business Meeting Agenda

## Summary Proposed Bylaw Changes

# 2025 PRS Annual Meeting

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE PLACENTA AND ITS IMPACT ON OFFSPRING HEALTH

**Sept 12-14, 2025 | Colorado Springs, CO**

### Friday, September 12, 2025

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| 4:30 – 7:00 pm | **Check-in and Registration** *Colorado Gallery* |
| 5:00 – 6:30 pm | **Welcome Reception** *Grand Rivers Terrace* |
| 6:30 pm | **Welcome Dinner** *Grand Rivers Ballroom* |
| 7:00 pm | **Welcome Paul Rozance, MD, PRS President** *Grand Rivers Ballroom* |
| 7:30 pm | **Mead Johnson Speaker Julie Baker, PhD**<br>*Understanding Pregnancy Through the Eyes of Evolution*<br>Moderator: Paul Rozance |

### Saturday, September 13, 2025

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| 7:00 – 7:45 am | **Breakfast** *Mountain View Restaurant (Buffet with group seating, use voucher)* |

**Morning Session** *Colorado Ballroom*

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| 8:00 – 9:00 am | ****New**** **Associate Member "Rapid-Fire" Speaker Series**<br>Moderator: Jacqueline Parchem<br>**Ananth Kumar Kammala, PhD**<br>*Biology and Pharmacology of Preterm Birth: Linking Mechanistic Pathways to Therapeutic Targets*<br>**Jane Stremming, MD**<br>*Hormonal Regulation of Fetal Growth and Placental Nutrient Transport*<br>**Stephen McCartney, MD, PhD**<br>*Immunometabolism at the Maternal Fetal Interface*<br>**Amélie Collins, MD, PhD**<br>*Hematopoietic Stem Cells During Ontogeny and Infection*<br>**David Coggin-Carr, MD, PhD**<br>*Novel Applications of Low-Frequency Electroacupuncture in High-Risk Pregnancy*<br>**Stephanie Gilley, MD, PhD**<br>*Growing Fast after Growing Slow: Catch-up Growth after Fetal Growth Restriction*<br>**Catherine Buck, MD**<br>*Early Determinants of Metabolic Risk in Preterm Infants*<br>**Margeaux W. Marbrey, PhD**<br>*Pregnancy Under Pressure: Decoding Biological Mechanisms Through Exposure*<br>**Sarah Wernimont, MD, PhD**<br>*Powering the Placenta: How Mitochondrial Flux Shapes Trophoblast Fate* |

9:00 – 9:45 am **NIH - NICHD Speaker** **Karen Young, MD**
*Disrupted Placenta-Lung Crosstalk: Role in the Development of BPD and PH*
Moderator: Arlin Blood

9:45 – 10:00 am Questions and Answers

10:00 – 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 – 10:50 am **PRS-PSANZ Mont Liggins Early Career Award** **Emily Whalen, MD-PhD Candidate**
*Exploring Sulforaphane as a Potential Therapeutic for Preeclampsia*
Moderator: Stephanie Wesolowski

10:50 – 10:55 am Questions and Answers

10:55 – 11:15 am **NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator** **Rachel Leon, MD, MSCS, PhD**
*Molecular and Functional Placental Signatures in Fetal Congenital Heart Disease*
Moderator: Lisa Joss-Moore

11:15 – 11:20 am Questions and Answers

11:30 – 12:30 pm **Lunch Buffet** *Mountain View Restaurant*

**Afternoon Session** *Colorado Ballroom*

12:30 – 12:50 pm **NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator** **Adam Crosland, MD/MPH, FACOG**
*Impact of Prenatal Substance Use Exposure on Offspring Health: Use of Translational Models of Emerging Substances*
Moderator: Andrea Edlow

12:50 – 12:55 pm Questions and Answers

12:55 – 1:15 pm **NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator** **Mariana Sponchiado, DVM, PhD**
*Swine Models Using Gene Editing for the Study of Reproduction*
Moderator: Andrea Edlow

1:15 – 1:20 pm Questions and Answers

1:30 pm **Early departure to load buses** for PRS Group Outing
*All young investigators, non-members, and guests*

1:30 – 2:30 pm **Member Annual Business Meeting** for all PRS members *Colorado Ballroom*

2:30 pm **Second departure to load buses** for PRS Group Outing

3:00 – 9:00 pm **PRS Team Building Activity and Evening Event** *Cheyenne Mountain Zoo*

**Dinner and March of Dimes Speaker** **Terry Morgan, MD, PhD**
*Why do Spiral Arteries Spiral – Saga of the Faucet and the Hose*
Moderator: Courtney Townsel

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

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7:00 – 7:45 am **Breakfast** *Mountain View Restaurant (Buffet with group seating, use voucher)*

**Morning Session** *Colorado Ballroom*

8:00 – 8:45 am **Liley Lecture** **Theresa Powell, PhD**
*Maternal-Placental-Fetal Cross Communication: How Metabolic Signals, Nutrients and Exosomes Determine Pregnancy Outcomes and Life-long Health for Parent and Child*
Moderator: Paul Rozance

8:45 – 9:00 am Questions and Answers

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| 9:00 – 9:45 am | **PRS Member Speaker Sarah Cilvik, MD, PhD**<br>*Longitudinal In Vivo Assessment of Placental Structure and Function: A Translational Nonhuman Primate Model to Evaluate Pregnancy Health and Developmental Origins of Cardiometabolic Diseases*<br>Moderator: Irina Buhimschi |
| 9:45 – 10:00 am | Questions and Answers |
| 10:00 – 10:30 am | **Break** |
| 10:30 – 11:15 am | **University of Colorado Speaker Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, PhD**<br>*The Placenta: Key Determinant of Offspring and Maternal Metabolic Physiology*<br>Moderator: Sean Limesand |
| 11:15 – 11:30 am | Questions and Answers |
| 11:30 – 12:15 pm | **PRS Member Speaker Teri Hernandez, PhD, RN**<br>*The Carbohydrate Threshold in Pregnancy: Maternal Fuels, Placental Glucose, and Offspring Metabolic Flexibility*<br>Moderator: Kristen Boyle |
| 12:15 – 12:30 pm | Questions and Answers |
| 12:30 pm | **Closing remarks. Adjournment** |

**THANK YOU SPONSORS!!**

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Section of Neonatology
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

MARCH OF DIMES | HEALTHY MOMS. STRONG BABIES.

## Speaker Information

**Theresa Powell, PhD** University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**Liley Lecture** | *Maternal-Placental-Fetal Cross Communication: How Metabolic Signals, Nutrients and Exosomes Determine Pregnancy Outcomes and Life-long Health for Parent and Child*

Dr. Powell is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Reproductive Sciences at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She is Co-Director of the NIH T32 Training Program in Perinatal Medicine and Biology. Dr. Powell is internationally recognized for her work in determining the molecular mechanisms regulating nutrient transport in the human placenta and characterizing changes in placental function associated with important pregnancy complications. Dr. Powell's primary research focus is to better understand how the abnormal maternal metabolic environment of obesity and/or gestational diabetes affects placental function and the long-term health of the next generation. Specifically, Dr. Powell is interested in identifying endocrine signals linking maternal adipose tissue to placental function and fetal growth. Dr. Powell has been continuously funded by NIH since returning to the USA in 2005. She is currently investigating placental lipid metabolism and transport which is critical for normal brain development. She has a strong interest in developing novel intervention paradigms for improving the maternal metabolic environment and pregnancy outcomes that will improve the life long health of the next generation.

**Julie Baker, MD** Stanford University

**Mead Johnson Speaker** | *Understanding Pregnancy Through the Eyes of Evolution*

Dr. Baker is a Professor of Genetics at Stanford University and the Kennedy Grossman Fellow in Human Biology and Tiedtke Family COLLEGE Faculty Fellow. The work in her laboratory focuses on the establishment of specific cell fates using genomics to decipher interactions between chromatin and developmental signaling cascades, between genomes and rapidly evolving cell types, and between genomic copy number variation and gene expression. In recent years her laboratory has focused on the role of endogenous retroviruses in placental evolution and function, including their use as regulatory elements and as viral particles. Dr. Baker is proud to be a teacher of medical students, graduate students and undergraduate students. She has trained 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in her own laboratory, all of which are highly successful in and out of the academic setting. She also teaches the undergraduate courses, "Thinking Matters; living with viruses", "Baby Wars, who should decide?" and '"Identity, Sickness and Eugenics".

**Sarah Cilvik, MD, PhD** Wake Forest University

**PRS Member Speaker** | *Longitudinal In Vivo Assessment of Placental Structure and Function: A Translational Nonhuman Primate Model to Evaluate Pregnancy Health and Developmental Origins of Cardiometabolic Diseases*

Sarah Cilvik, MD, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, as well as Assistant Program Director for Research for the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship. She is a physician scientist and clinical neonatologist with a research interest in maternal-fetal physiology and the developmental origins of cardiovascular disease. Dr. Cilvik received her PhD in Developmental Biology, as well as her MD, at Washington University School of Medicine. Through her clinical training, she became very interested in the maternal-fetal interaction, and specifically how adverse pregnancy conditions (undernutrition, pre-eclampsia, diabetes) lead to both short- and long-term complications in offspring. Following residency in pediatrics at the University of Utah, she completed her Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship at the University of Colorado. Currently, her lab uses a non-human primate pregnancy model to investigate the impact of advanced maternal age on maternal cardiovascular adaptation to pregnancy, placental function, fetal growth and well being, and long-term cardiovascular outcomes in offspring using a combination of non-invasive imaging techniques (cardiac MRI, contrast-enhanced ultrasound, standard ultrasound with Doppler, echocardiography) and minimally invasive sample collections (including placenta and amniotic fluid) to follow physiology longitudinally during pregnancy and throughout the lifetime of the offspring.

**Adam Crosland, MD/MPH, FACOG**

**NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator |** *Impact of Prenatal Substance Use Exposure on Offspring Health: Use of Translational Models of Emerging Substances*

Dr. Adam Crosland is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. As an early career physician-scientist, his research investigates the effects of prenatal substance exposure on fetal development and pregnancy outcomes. With the rapid rise in recreational and therapeutic use of psychedelics, his work focuses on understanding the reproductive implications of psilocybin (“magic mushrooms”) using non-human primate models at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. He is currently supported by a K12 Women’s Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Award. Dr. Crosland is committed to advancing translational science to improve perinatal health and guide evidence-based public health policy.

**Teri L. Hernandez, PhD, RN** University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**PRS Member Speaker** | *The Carbohydrate Threshold in Pregnancy: Maternal Fuels, Placental Glucose, and Offspring Metabolic Flexibility*

Dr. Teri Hernandez is the Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship in the College of Nursing and a Professor of Nursing and Medicine at the University of Colorado. Over 20 years at CU, she has conducted controlled clinical studies in pregnancy focused on nutrition, glucose and lipid metabolism, infant growth, and early life exposures. A cardiac nurse by training, and a Pediatric Nurse Scientist at Children's Hospital Colorado, she has a dedicated commitment to understanding insulin resistance as both an adaptation and as pathology. She completed her undergraduate training at Northern Illinois University, and Master's and PhD at the University of Colorado, USA. She is an educator in the Graduate School, is Chair of the Anschutz Medical Campus Perinatal Research Advisory and Facilitation Committee, is an elected member of the Perinatal Research Society, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

**Rachel Leon, MD, MSCS, PhD**

**NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator |** *Molecular and Functional Placental Signatures in Fetal Congenital Heart Disease*

Dr. Leon is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, and the Associate Director of the NeuroNICU Program in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She completed the MD/ PhD program in her home state at West Virginia University studying basic neuroscience. Her translational research focuses on placental influences on brain development in fetuses with congenital heart disease with the overarching goal of improving their neurodevelopmental outcomes. She uses a combination of advanced MRI and multi-omic techniques with an emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration and team science. She is supported by a K23 from NHLBI and foundation grants.

**Terry Morgan, MD, PhD** Oregon Health & Science University

**March of Dimes Speaker** | *Why do Spiral Arteries Spiral – Saga of the Faucet and the Hose*

Dr. Terry K. Morgan, MD, PhD, is a Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics & Gynecology at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). He has worked for the past 30 years in the field of women's health research, publishing 145 peer-reviewed papers and a number of books about placental and gynecologic pathology. He has been an NIH-funded scientist since 2009 and he is the Associate Director for the Center for Developmental Health at OHSU. In 2023 he won the prestigious Career Achievement Award in Placental Sciences from the *International Federation of Placental Associations*. Dr. Morgan is the chair and founder of the *Tree of Life Legacy Society* and has served on the *Preeclampsia Foundation Scientific Advisory Council* since 2018.

**Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri, PhD** University of Cambridge

**University of Colorado Speaker** | *The Placenta: Key Determinant of Offspring and Maternal Metabolic Physiology*

Dr. Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri is a Professor of Fetal and Placental Physiology in the Department of Physiology, Development, and Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge. She completed her PhD at the University of Adelaide in Australia and later established her research group at Cambridge through a series of research fellowships, including those from the Royal Society. Her research explores how genetic, and the environmental factors regulate pregnancy and lifelong health. As a discovery scientist, she uses lab-based models and donated human samples to advance our understanding of pregnancy complications and the early-life origins of poor offspring health in both developed and developing countries. Amanda has published more than 100 scientific papers, is passionate about mentoring, and actively participates in scientific outreach, education and communication.

**Mariana Sponchiado, DVM, PhD**

**NIH-Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator |** *Swine Models Using Gene Editing for the Study of Reproduction*

Dr. Sponchiado is a reproductive biologist with emphasis in the female reproductive tract and training in genetic engineering. She is currently a researcher in the National Swine Resource and Research Center (NSRRC) and the National Swine Testing Center (NSTC) within the University of Missouri. Her research program is aimed to delineate and answer questions concerning embryo-maternal interactions and pregnancy establishment in large animals.

**Emily Whalen, MD-PhD Candidate**

**PRS-PSANZ Mont Liggins Early Career Award** | *Exploring Sulforaphane as Potential Therapeutic for Preeclampsia*

Emily Whalen is a final year MD-PhD student in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. After completing her Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) year in 2023, Emily commenced an accelerated PhD in 2024 and is currently in her final months of candidature. Her research revolves around sulforaphane, a naturally occurring compound in broccoli, and its potential role as a future therapeutic for preeclampsia. Throughout her time as a research student, Emily has presented at multiple conferences and was recently awarded the PRS-PSANZ Mont Liggins Early Career Award by the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) in March 2025. Supervised by Dr Sarah Marshall, Prof Kirsten Palmer and A/Prof Daniel Rolnik, Emily is passionate about advancing women's health. She hopes to pursue a career in Obstetrics & Gynaecology as a clinician-researcher in the future.

**Karen Young, MD** University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

**NIH - NICHD Speaker** | *Disrupted Placenta-Lung Crosstalk: Role in the Development of BPD and PH*


Dr. Karen C. Young is Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Neonatology Fellowship Program and Director of Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Holtz Children's Hospital. Originally from Jamaica, she earned her medical degree at the University of the West Indies and completed her pediatric residency and neonatology fellowship training at University of Miami Miller school of Medicine. Dr. Young's research is focused on understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms that contribute to endothelial dysfunction in preterm infants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and pulmonary hypertension (PH). Dr. Young also performs translational research focused on stem cell-based therapies for BPD and PH. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Institute of Health, American Heart Association, Florida Biomedical Research Program, Batchelor Research Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research and Project Newborn. She serves on several local and national committees including the Neonatal Kidney Collaborative. In addition to her research, Dr. Young is dedicated to improving resident education and training the next generation of physician-scientists. She has mentored/co-mentored more than 40 trainees, including medical students, residents and fellows, several of whom have embarked on successful academic careers. She has received several teaching awards and currently serves on committees focused on mentoring underrepresented minorities and women.

**Candidate Information for PRS Council and President**

**Laura Goetzl, MD, MPH** University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston

**PRS President Nominee | Obstetrics Track**

Dr. Goetzl is a Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Vice Chair for Translational Research at UT Health at Houston. Her laboratory focuses on how maternal pregnancy exposures impact fetal brain development and neurobehavioral outcomes through use of extracellular vesicle based biomarkers. Particular maternal exposures of interest include maternal drug exposures, viral infection, hypoxia and oxidative stress. Dr Goetzl's research is highly translational focusing on collaboration with clinical researchers with high quality human samples. Dr. Goetzl attended her first PRS meeting in 2009 as a young investigator. She went on to serve on the PRS council and as Secretary Treasurer from 2020-24. She would be delighted to serve as PRS president.

**Amy Palatnik, MD** Medical College of Wisconsin

**PRS Council Nominee | Obstetrics Track**

Dr. Palatnik is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. She received her Doctor of Medicine degree from Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel. She completed residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Northwestern University. Dr. Palatnik is an Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology and a clinician-scientist. Her research focuses on optimizing management of gestational diabetes and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and reducing maternal health disparities. She runs a large clinical research division in the MCW OBGYN department, and is the primary investigator for several NIH funded clinical trials involving birthing people. Dr. Palatnik published over 120 peer-reviewed publications in clinical obstetrics and patient-centered outcomes research. She is very passionate about mentoring and training the next generation of clinicians-researchers and close to half of her publications have a mentee or trainee as a first author.

Perinatal Research Society (PRS) has been my favorite professional meeting and one I look forward to each year. About eight years ago, I was fortunate to be selected for the PRS Young Investigator Program, an experience that was truly pivotal in shaping my academic career. This program not only strengthened my skills in grant writing and application, but also provided invaluable opportunities to connect with mentors, leading investigators, and NIH officials. I am deeply honored to be nominated for the OB Council. As a mid-career clinician-investigator, I am committed to contributing to the continued success of PRS by serving as a mentor for early-stage investigators, participating in the pre-conference workshop, and actively promoting the meeting within my professional community. I believe strongly in the mission of PRS and am eager to give back by supporting the next generation of investigators while advancing the society's visibility and impact.

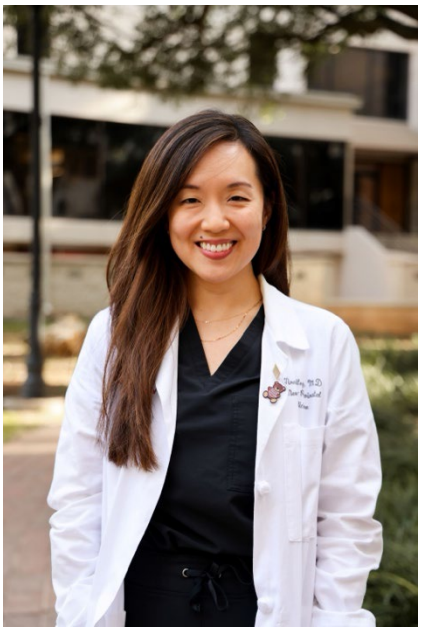
**Amy Valent, MD** Oregon Health & Science University

**PRS Council Nominee | Obstetrics Track**

Amy M. Valent is an Associate Professor in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Valent is the co-director of American College of Obstetricians (ACOG) and Gynecologists Nutrition Expert Working Group, Vice Chair of the ACOG Obstetric Clinical Consensus Committee, Chair Elect for the American Diabetes Association Pregnancy & Reproductive Health Interest Group, and Program Director of the MFM / Medical Genetics & Genomics fellowship & medical co-director of the Diabetes and Pregnancy Program at OHSU. Dr. Valent is currently funded to understand the role of continuous glucose monitors in pregnancy, inhaled insulin delivery in pregnancy, nutritional influences on perinatal outcomes and offspring health among the Alaska Native population, metformin's effects on placental trophoblasts, and epigenetic differences in placentas from pregnancies complicated by gestational diabetes. She is passionate about advancing diabetes technology in pregnancy and understanding the role of lifestyle behaviors, experiences and nutritional status prior to conceiving and throughout pregnancy that shape the health and vulnerability to chronic disease of our offspring and future generations. Dr. Valent is an alumni of the Young Investigator Grant Writing Workshop and looks forward to continue bridging translational collaborations among pediatricians, obstetricians, and basic scientists to advance care and health.

**Tina Findley, MD** The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

**PRS Council Nominee | Pediatrics Track**

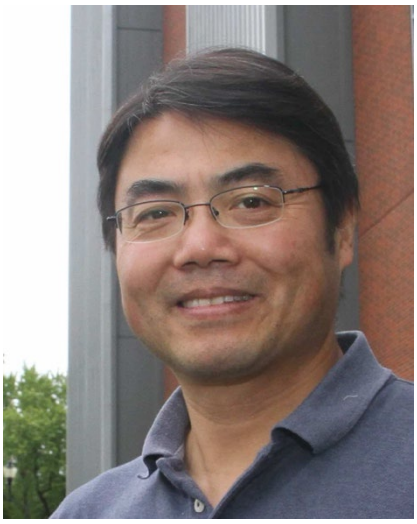


Dr. Tina Findley is a physician-scientist and Associate Professor in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Influenced by her clinical work in a Level IV NICU and interest in translational research, she established the Mother-Baby Biobank in 2020. With over a thousand NICU patients, including hundreds with congenital heart disease, this biobank has formed the basis for her research, which aims to improve survival and outcomes in infants with congenital heart disease. She has led studies investigating genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying congenital heart defects, including projects supported by a KL2 award. Her work integrates genomic, transcriptomic, and metabolomic approaches to better understand the intersection of cardiac metabolism and postnatal development. Dr. Findley's engagement with PRS began in 2022 when she attended the Young Investigator Workshop. That formative experience provided not only skills in grantsmanship, but also lasting professional relationships within the physician-scientist community. She has since participated in every annual PRS meeting, valuing the society's unique environment where clinical and basic science perspectives come together to advance maternal and perinatal health. PRS represents both a rigorous scientific forum and a supportive network that fosters mentorship, collaboration, and innovation across disciplines. She is committed to advancing this mission and would be honored to serve on the PRS Council, bringing her perspective as an early-stage investigator to help engage and support younger investigators during a critical stage in their

career, thereby strengthening and expanding the community that has been pivotal role in her own career development.

**Min Du, PhD** Washington State University

**PRS Council Nominee | Basic Sciences Track**



Dr. Du earned his B.S. in Nutrition from Zhejiang University (1990) and his M.S. from China Agricultural University (1993), followed by a Ph.D. in Muscle Biology from Iowa State University (2001). After completing postdoctoral training in Biochemistry at the University of Alberta's School of Medicine, he joined the University of Wyoming as an Assistant Professor in 2003. In 2011, he moved to Washington State University (WSU) as Professor and Endowed Chair in Nutrigenomics and Growth Biology, and was promoted to Regents Professor in 2023—an exclusive distinction. His research examines the effects of maternal obesity and exercise on embryonic and fetal development, and its long-term impacts on offspring metabolic health. He is particularly interested in cell lineage commitment during early skeletal muscle and adipose tissue development, as well as the associated mitochondrial biogenesis and metabolic regulation. His research program has been continuously funded by NIH and USDA. Dr. Du has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers (Google Scholar H-index: 83) and trained over 80 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and visiting scholars. His honors include the Growth and Development Award (2017) and the Physiology and Endocrinology Award (2019) from the American Society of Animal Science, as well as WSU's Research Excellence Award (2018). He was elected to the Washington State Academy of Sciences in 2023 and has served as a Fulbright Specialist, contributing to research and education initiatives of various countries.

**Teri L. Hernandez, PhD, RN** University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**PRS Council Nominee | Basic Sciences Track**

Dr. Teri Hernandez is the Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship in the College of Nursing and a Professor of Nursing and Medicine at the University of Colorado. Over 20 years at CU, she has conducted controlled clinical studies in pregnancy focused on nutrition, glucose and lipid metabolism, infant growth, and early life exposures. A cardiac nurse by training, and a Pediatric Nurse Scientist at Children's Hospital Colorado, she has a dedicated commitment to understanding insulin resistance as both an adaptation and as pathology. She completed her undergraduate training at Northern Illinois University, and Master's and PhD at the University of Colorado, USA. She is an educator in the Graduate School, is Chair of the Anschutz Medical Campus Perinatal Research Advisory and Facilitation Committee, is an elected member of the Perinatal Research Society, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

**Craig Bierle, PhD** University of Minnesota

**PRS Council Nominee | Basic Sciences Track**

Dr. Bierle is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota (UMN) where he leads a NICHD-funded laboratory that studies viral infection during pregnancy. With expertise in molecular virology, reproductive immunology, and placental biology, he aims to illuminate how diverse viruses infect the placenta, reveal mechanisms that underlie placental dysfunction and fetal injury, and develop vaccines and therapeutics to improve pregnancy outcomes. As a first-generation college student from rural South Dakota, Dr. Bierle is committed to training the next generation of biomedical scientists and serves as a member of the Council on Graduate Studies for the UMN Microbiology, Immunology, and Cancer Biology (MICaB) graduate program and is a preceptor for four UMN T32 programs. Dr. Bierle serves as a member of the UMN Medical School Research Council, is a council member for the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, and regularly serves as an ad hoc member of NIH study sections. A member of PRS since 2021, Dr. Bierle is an alumnus of the NIH – Mead Johnson Nutrition Young Investigator Grant Writing Workshop and is a member of the PRS partner Society for Reproductive Investigation.

# 2025 PRS Annual Meeting

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO THE PLACENTA AND ITS IMPACT ON OFFSPRING HEALTH

**Sept 12-14, 2025 | Colorado Springs, CO**

Paul Rozance | President
Stephanie Wesolowski | Secretary Treasurer

**Annual Member Business Meeting - Order of Business**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of the last annual Council and Member meetings
3. In Memoriam
4. President's Report and Announcements
5. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
6. Reports of committees
    a. Membership
    b. Diversity and Inclusion Representative
    c. Associate Member Representative
    d. PR and Publicity Committee
    e. Membership Category Committee
7. Proposed Bylaw changes
8. Other Business
    a. Meeting sponsorship
    b. Fundraising
    c. Seminars in Perinatology
9. Election of officers and councilors
10. Transfer of Presidency
11. Adjourn

**Summary or Proposed Bylaw Changes**

Council presents the following Bylaw changes to the PRS Membership. A detailed view of the changes was emailed to members before the meeting. A summary of the proposed changes to the Bylaw text is shown in red below, with significant changes highlighted in yellow.

1. Rename Diversity and Inclusion Representative to Representation and Engagement Lead.

   **Article IV, section 1:** Replace Diversity and Inclusion Representative with Representation and Engagement Lead

2. Extend the duration of time that members can remain in the Full Regular membership category to allow Regular members at least 5 years in this category before moving to Senior membership at age 55. The ***intent*** of this change is to allow Full Regular members at least 5 years to run for an elected position, regardless of the age at which they join. Currently, the only distinction between Full Regular and Full Senior members is their eligibility to run for an elected position.

   **Article III, section 1a:** Full Membership: All Full members must pay annual dues and may vote. Within the Full Membership category, there are Regular and Senior Member sub-categories. Members remain in the Regular category until the calendar year in which they turn age 55 or for at least 5 years before, whichever comes later. Only Regular members may be elected to office. Members must attend one out of every three annual meetings of the membership to maintain their membership.

3. For clarity, revisions are proposed to the text to define Full Regular, Full Senior, and Associate membership once (in Article III), followed by subsequent reference to these membership categories as defined. The ***intent*** of these changes is essentially "housekeeping" so that references to a specific member category do not need to be followed by the criteria that define membership within that category.

   These proposed changes would be in: **Article III, section 2a-b, Article III, section 4, Article IV, section, Article V, section 1, 4, and Article VI, section 1**

4. Formally add the Associate Member Category. The Bylaws already state that the Council is comprised of an Associate Member representative; however, Associate Membership is not defined in the Bylaws. This will not change any existing criteria, roles, or responsibilities of Associate Members.

   Add **Article III, section 1b:**

   Associate Membership: Associate Members must pay annual dues and attend one out of every three annual meetings of the membership to maintain their membership. Associate Members may not vote. Associate Members are expected to apply for Full Membership within 5 years.

   Add **Article III, section 3:**

   (3) New Associate Membership:
   - a. Any otherwise qualified person who demonstrates a commitment to research in reproductive sciences but does not yet meet the criteria for Full Membership may be proposed for Associate Membership via the same application and review process outlined for New Full Membership.
   - b. The membership of elected Associate Members shall commence on the first day of the calendar year immediately following their election.
   - c. There are no limits on the number of Associate Members allowed.