



Meeting Program
Speaker and Candidate Information
Business Meeting Agenda



Meeting Program

Discovering Therapeutic Benefits in Perinatal Medicine

September 18-20, 2026 | Banff, Alberta, Canada

Friday, September 18, 2026

4:00 – 7:00 pm	Check-in and Registration Kinnear Centre 1 st Floor Galleria
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Welcome Reception Kinnear Centre 2 nd Floor Galleria
6:00 pm	Welcome Dinner Kinnear Centre 203, 205
6:30 pm	Welcome Sean Limesand, PhD, PRS President
7:00 pm	Mead Johnson Nutrition Speaker Janene Fuerch, MD, FAAP Stanford University <i>From Bedside to Breakthrough: Innovating Medical Devices for the Smallest Patients</i> Moderator: Sean Limesand

Saturday, September 19, 2026

7:00 – 7:45 am	Breakfast Vistas Dining Room
Morning Session	Kinnear Centre 103, 105
8:00 – 9:00 am	Associate Member “Rapid-Fire” Speaker Series Moderators: Jackie Parchem and Sarah Wernimont Danielle Callaway, MD, PhD University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Eileen Chang, PhD University of Colorado Anschutz Robert Dietz, MD, PhD University of Colorado Anschutz Alison Goulding, MD, MSCR Baylor College of Medicine Lauren Gyllenhammer, PhD University of California, Irvine Jacquelyn Lajiness, MD, PhD Indiana University Dorothy K. Sojka, PhD Loyola University Chicago Maria von Chamier, DVM, PhD University of Florida Elizabeth Yen, MD Tufts Medical Center
9:00 – 9:45 am	NIH - NICHD Speaker Janna Morrison, PhD Adelaide University <i>Seeing the Fetus Grow</i> Moderator: Sarah Cilvik
9:45 – 10:00 am	Questions and Answers
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break Kinnear Centre 100 Galleria South
10:30 – 10:50 am	PRS-PSANZ Mont Liggins Early Career Award Claudia Bruno, PhD BSc (Hons) University of Sydney

Every Pregnancy Counts: A Population-Based Approach to Studying Early Pregnancy Outcomes and Medication Safety

Moderator: Tina Findley

10:50 – 10:55 am

Questions and Answers

10:55 – 11:15 am

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator Speaker

Joshua Sheak, MD, PhD | Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Characterization of Lung Microstructural Changes in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Using Hyperpolarized Gas Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Moderator: Lindsay Holzapfel

11:15 – 11:20 am

Questions and Answers

11:30 – 11:50 pm

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator Speaker

Laurie Griffin, MD | University of Utah

From Blood Pressure Management to Placental Multi-omics: Advancing Therapeutic Strategies for Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy

Moderator: April Adams

11:50 – 11:55 pm

Questions and Answers

11:55 – 12:15 pm

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator Speaker

Patrycja Puchalska, PhD | University of Minnesota

Ketones Beyond Fasting: A Vital Mechanism in Early Life

Moderator: Lauren Gyllenhammer

12:15 – 12:20 pm

Questions and Answers

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch Kinnear Centre | 203, 205

1:45 – 3:15 pm

PRS Team Building Activity Kinnear Centre | 103, 105

Afternoon Session

Kinnear Centre | 103, 105

3:15 – 4:00 pm

Refreshments and Networking Kinnear Centre | 100 Galleria South

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Business Meeting for PRS members Kinnear Centre | 103, 105

5:00 – 5:45 pm

Liley Lecture

Frank Bloomfield, ONZM, PhD, FRACP, FRSNZ | University of Auckland

Do We Know How to Feed the Preterm Baby?

Moderator: Sean Limesand

5:45 – 6:00 pm

Questions and Answers

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Dinner Kinnear Center | 203, 205

Sunday, September 20, 2026

7:00 – 7:45 am

Breakfast Vistas Dining Room

Morning Session

Kinnear Centre | 103, 105

8:00 – 8:45 am

PRS Member Speaker

Emilyn Alejandro, PhD | University of Minnesota

The Placental Clock and Nutrient Sensor: Programming Offspring Metabolic Health

	Moderator: Arlin Blood
8:45 – 9:00 am	Questions and Answers
9:00 – 9:45 am	PRS Member Speaker Chi Zhou, PhD University of Arizona <i>Immune–Endothelial Crosstalk in Placental Insufficiency–Induced Fetal Growth Restriction</i>
	Moderator: Craig Bierle
9:45 – 10:00 am	Questions and Answers
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break Kinnear Centre 100 Galleria South
10:30 – 11:15 am	PRS Member Speaker Helen Jones, PhD University of Florida <i>Placental Gene Targeting to Improve Fetal Outcomes (tentative)</i>
	Moderator: Anna Palatnik
11:15 – 11:30 am	Questions and Answers
11:30 – 12:15 pm	March of Dimes Speaker David Olson, PhD University of Alberta <i>The Journey to Develop a Preterm Birth Therapeutic</i>
	Moderator: Courtney Townsel
12:15 – 12:30 pm	Questions and Answers
12:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Adjournment
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Boxed Lunches Kinnear Centre 100 Galleria South

Thank you to our sponsors



Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute
of Child Health and Human Development



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
**College of Agriculture,
Life & Environmental
Sciences**



**HEALTHY
MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.**

Speaker Information

Janene Fuerch, MD, FAAP Stanford University

Mead Johnson Nutrition Speaker | *From Bedside to Breakthrough: Innovating Medical Devices for the Smallest Patients*

Janene Fuerch, MD is a Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatal and Developmental Medicine, Associate Director of the Biodesign Innovation Fellowship Program at Stanford University, and Director of Impact1 where she mentors and advises entrepreneurs in the pediatric and maternal space through all aspects of medical device development, from identifying clinical needs to commercialization. Her specific areas of investigational interest include the development and commercialization process of neonatal, pediatric and maternal health medical devices. She is a national leader in neonatal resuscitation, ECMO, device development and has been an AHRQ, FDA and NSF funded investigator. But her work extends outside of the academic realm to industry having co-founded EMME (acquired by Simple Health 2022) an award-winning reproductive health company, medical director for Novonate (acquired by Laborie 2023) a neonatal umbilical catheter securement company and Senior Medical Advisor for Vitara (EXTEND - artificial environment to decrease complications of prematurity), Laborie, Ceribell, Novocuff, Owlet and Avanos™. Janene is passionate about improving the health of children and newborns through medical device innovation and research.



Janna Morrison, PhD Adelaide University

NIH - NICHD Speaker | *Seeing the Fetus Grow*

Professor Janna Morrison earned her Master's degree in Physiology from the University of Western Ontario and a PhD in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences from the University of British Columbia. She is Head of the Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group within the Robinson Research Institute at Adelaide University, where she leads a multidisciplinary team investigating how fetal growth and development influence lifelong health outcomes. Professor Morrison has held prestigious fellowships and awards from the Heart Foundation, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and the Australian Research Council (ARC), and currently holds an NHMRC Investigator Leadership Fellowship (2026-2030). She has authored more than 268 peer-reviewed publications, with over 12,600 citations and an h-index of 48. A recognized leader in developmental and cardiovascular physiology, Professor Morrison serves as Deputy Director of Health and Biomedical Innovation and is a Fellow of the Cardiovascular Section of the American Physiological Society. Her contributions have been recognized through numerous national and international awards, and she currently serves as Co-Chief Editor of Reproductive Sciences and Reviewing Editor for the Journal of Physiology.



Claudia Bruno, PhD, BSc (Hons) University of Sydney

PRS-PSANZ Mont Liggins Early Career Award | *Every Pregnancy Counts: A Population-Based Approach to Studying Early Pregnancy Outcomes and Medication Safety*

Dr. Claudia Bruno is a pharmacoepidemiologist and Research Associate at UNSW Sydney, where she uses population-based linked health data to study the safety, effectiveness, and quality use of medicines in real-world settings. Her research focuses on pregnancy, maternal and child health, and other priority populations, with the goal of improving healthcare policy and clinical practice. Dr. Bruno has led and contributed to national and international studies, including collaborations with Nordic researchers and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Through innovative use of large-scale data, she generates evidence to better understand early pregnancy outcomes and medication safety.



Joshua Sheak, MD, PhD University of Cincinnati

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator | *Characterization of Lung Microstructural Changes in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Using Hyperpolarized Gas Magnetic Resonance Imaging*

Joshua Sheak is an attending neonatologist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and an assistant professor in pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Sheak completed an MD/PhD training program at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, where he completed a productive graduate degree investigating mechanisms underlying enhanced pulmonary vasoreactivity in neonatal pulmonary hypertension. After completing his MD/PhD training, Dr. Sheak completed pediatrics residency and a neonatology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. As a clinical trainee, Dr. Sheak worked closely with William Zacharias, MD/PhD, investigating mechanisms contributing to inflammatory injury in the developing lung alveolar progenitor niche. Dr. Sheak adapted those insights as an early career faculty member to a clinical research pathway and works closely with Jason Woods, PhD to use hyperpolarized gas MRI to characterize lung microstructural injury in patients with chronic lung disease of prematurity. Dr. Sheak's long-term hope is that improved characterization of microstructural lung injury may offer insight into patients at highest risk of developing pulmonary hypertension as a sequela of their underlying chronic lung disease of prematurity.



Laurie Griffin, PhD University of Utah

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator | *From Blood Pressure Management to Placental Multi-omics: Advancing Therapeutic Strategies for Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy*

Dr. Griffin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of OB/GYN at the University of Utah. She received her medical degree and PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital/Brown University. Her research focuses on the pathophysiology and treatment of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.



Patrycja Puchalska, PhD University of Alberta

NIH and Mead Johnson Nutrition PRS Young Investigator | *Ketones Beyond Fasting: A Vital Mechanism in Early Life*

Patrycja Puchalska is an analytical chemist and biomedical researcher passionate about understanding metabolism at the molecular level. Her research focuses on ketone body metabolism, metabolomics, lipidomics, and mass spectrometry - combining rigorous analytical chemistry with translational biomedical science. As a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, she leads her research program investigating how ketone bodies act as both metabolic fuels and signaling molecules in health and disease - with implications for brain development, liver disease, and metabolic health.



Frank Bloomfield, ONZM, PhD, FRACP, FRSNZ University of Auckland

Liley Lecture | *Do We Know How to Feed the Preterm Baby?*

Professor Frank Bloomfield is the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for the University of Auckland. Previously, he was Director of the University's Liggins Institute, 2015-2023 and is also a Professor in Neonatology. Dr. Bloomfield is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, held the office of President of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ), 2014-2016 and in 2010-2014 he was the President of the Perinatal Society of New Zealand. His current research focuses on clinical research and clinical trials in neonatal nutrition, including optimizing protein intake, addressing nutritional impact on growth and development, as well as developmental outcome studies.



Emilyn Alejandro, PhD University of Minnesota

PRS Member Speaker | *The Placental Clock and Nutrient Sensor: Programming Offspring Metabolic Health*

Dr. Emilyn Alejandro is a Professor and Marvin and Hadassah Bacaner Chair in Cardiovascular Physiology in the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She earned her B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Washington, Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of British Columbia, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan. Since establishing her laboratory at UMN in 2015, her research has focused on nutrient-sensing pathways, including mTOR and O-GlcNAc Transferase, and their roles in pancreatic beta-cell and placental function and the developmental origins of cardiometabolic disease. Her work investigates how maternal-fetal nutrition influences the risk of diabetes, obesity, and insulin resistance in offspring. She is an internationally recognized scientist, mentor, and leader in diabetes and cardiometabolic research.



Chi Zhou, PhD University of Arizona

PRS Member Speaker | *Immune–Endothelial Crosstalk in Placental Insufficiency–Induced Fetal Growth Restriction*

Chi Zhou, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the University of Arizona. Her research program investigates how adverse maternal and placental environments shape fetal vascular development and long-term cardiometabolic health. Using human tissues and primary cells alongside clinically relevant in vivo models, her work integrates single-cell sequencing, spatial transcriptomics, and functional genomics outputs with physiological outcomes and cellular responses. She is particularly interested in how immune–vascular crosstalk regulates fetal vascular development and endothelial function in healthy and complicated pregnancies. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.



Helen Jones, PhD University of Florida

PRS Member Speaker | *Placental Gene Targeting to Improve Fetal Outcomes*

Helen Jones Ph.D. is Professor of Physiology at the University of Florida in addition to being the Co-director of the Center for Research in Perinatal Outcomes and has had continuous NIH funding since 2011. Her primary research interests lie in understanding the involvement, and treatment of the placenta and the maternal-fetal interface in complicated pregnancies, congenital diseases, and the impact on lifelong health. Dr Jones' lab studies placental physiology/pathophysiology, endocrinology, placental therapeutics and the impact of these on the lifelong health of both the mother and offspring using human samples, in vitro human and animal models. Her work integrates in vivo models and clinical samples with detailed tissue-level phenotyping to define how systemic signals influence developmental outcomes.



David Olson, PhD University of Alberta

March of Dimes Speaker | *The Journey to Develop a Preterm Birth Therapeutic*

David M. Olson, Ph.D., D.Sc. (*Honoris causa*), FRCOG (*ad eundem*), FCAHS, is a University of Alberta Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Physiology. He studies the physiology of pregnancy and newborn health and pregnant women's vulnerability to stress. He commercializes laboratory discoveries to products that predict and treat preterm birth and fetal/newborn inflammation. He directed the Perinatal Research Centre, was an officer in scientific societies, and founded the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting. He was awarded the University of Alberta Cup for overall excellence in 2024, and in 2026 he received BioAlberta's Achievement Award for Technology and Innovation.



Associate Member Rapid Fire Speakers

Danielle Callaway, MD, PhD University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Illuminating Cell-Specific Mechanisms of Ventilator-Induced Lung Injury in Murine Neonates

Dr. Danielle Callaway is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She received her MD and PhD from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where she studied redox biology and aging. Following residency training in Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and fellowship training in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, she completed postdoctoral research in the laboratory of Dr. Edward Morrisey, investigating the role of TGF- β signaling in alveolar epithelial cells during lung development. Supported by a K08 award and a Parker B. Francis Fellowship, Dr. Callaway's research focuses on mechanisms of ventilator-induced lung injury and bronchopulmonary dysplasia using innovative neonatal mouse models.



Eileen I. Chang, PhD, MCR University of Colorado Anschutz

Cardiac Immaturity in Fetal Growth Restriction: Deficits in Growth, Metabolism, and Mitochondrial Development

Dr. Eileen Chang is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Neonatology and Director of the Surgical Innovation and Training Program at the Perinatal Research Center, University of Colorado Anschutz. A fetal physiologist specializing in cardiovascular development and striated muscle metabolism, her research investigates cardiomyocyte growth, maturation, contractility, and mitochondrial metabolism in growth-restricted fetuses using a sheep model of placental insufficiency. Her work seeks to identify mechanisms underlying cardiovascular adaptation to fetal stress and growth restriction and to develop prenatal therapies that improve heart development and reduce lifelong cardiovascular risk. Dr. Chang earned her PhD from the University of Florida College of Medicine and completed postdoctoral training at Oregon Health & Science University and the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine.



Robert Dietz, MD, PhD University of Colorado Anschutz

The Oxygen Paradox: Protecting the Developing Brain

Dr. Robert Dietz is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Neonatology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and a neonatologist at Children's Hospital Colorado. His research focuses on understanding how oxygen exposure and global cerebral ischemia affect the developing brain, with particular emphasis on hippocampal function, synaptic plasticity, neuroinflammation, and long-term cognitive outcomes. As a Boettcher Investigator in the Neuronal Injury Program and Perinatal Research Center, Dr. Dietz uses translational neonatal and juvenile models to investigate mechanisms of brain dysfunction that may occur even in the absence of overt neuronal loss. His long-term goal is to develop therapies that preserve brain function and improve outcomes following perinatal brain injury.



Alison N. Goulding, MD, MSCR Baylor College of Medicine

Improving Maternal Mental Health by Adapting Evidence-Based Interventions to Meet the Unique Needs of Perinatal Populations

Dr. Alison Goulding is a high-risk obstetrician and physician-scientist in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. After receiving her medical degree from the University of Michigan, she completed residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of North Carolina and a Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. She joined the Baylor faculty in 2023 as an Assistant Professor and Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Scholar supported by an NICHD K12 career development award. Her research focuses on improving maternal mental health through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, using mixed qualitative and quantitative methods to assess patient needs and adapt behavioral health programs for perinatal populations. Clinically, she cares for high-risk obstetric patients within the Harris Health System in Houston, one of the nation's largest safety-net healthcare systems.



Jacquelyn Lajiness, MD, PhD Indiana University School of Medicine

The Role of IL-9 Signaling in Immune-Mediated Preterm Birth

Dr. Jacquelyn Lajiness is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine. She completed her undergraduate education at Hope College before earning her combined MD/PhD at Indiana University, where her doctoral research focused on developmental biology. She remained at Indiana University for Pediatrics residency and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship training and was supported by the Pediatric Scientist Development Program during her fellowship. As a neonatologist at Riley Hospital for Children, Dr. Lajiness provides care in the high-risk delivery center and neonatal intensive care unit. Her research program focuses on understanding the mechanisms of immune-mediated preterm birth and the impact of prenatal inflammation on the developing neonatal immune system. Through translational and mechanistic studies, her work aims to identify pathways that contribute to adverse pregnancy and neonatal outcomes and inform new approaches to improve maternal and infant health.



Dorothy K. Sojka, PhD Loyola University Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine, Health Science Campus

Uterine NK Cells: Orchestrators of Maternal Adaptation and Sterile Inflammation

Dr. Dorothy K. Sojka is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and a cellular immunologist specializing in reproductive immunology and maternal–fetal health. Her research investigates how uterine-resident natural killer (NK) cells regulate maternal adaptation to pregnancy and how their dysregulation contributes to pregnancy complications. Her work examines how hormonal, cytokine, and cellular signals shape NK cell function in immune regulation, tissue remodeling, vascular adaptation, and sterile inflammation during pregnancy and postpartum. Using innovative mouse models, spatial transcriptomics, and human tissue studies, her research seeks to uncover mechanisms underlying pregnancy complications, including preeclampsia and preterm birth.



Maria von Chamier, DVM, DACLAM, PhD University of Florida

Comparative Characterization of Amniotic Epithelial Cell Immune Function

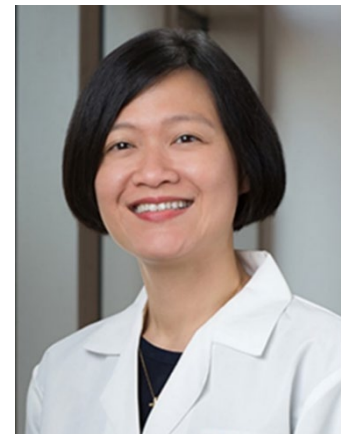
Dr. Maria von Chamier is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine and a co-investigator in the Mycoplasma Diagnostic Laboratory. Board-certified in laboratory animal medicine, her research focuses on comparative characterization of animal models of intrauterine inflammation and the complex fetal-placental-maternal host-pathogen interface. Her work investigates interactions between host tissues and *Mycoplasma* and *Ureaplasma* species and their contributions to preterm birth, neonatal morbidity, and long-term health outcomes. Dr. von Chamier is also interested in improving the translational relevance of novel alternative methodologies and animal models to ensure their appropriate application in biomedical research. Through these efforts, she aims to advance understanding of pregnancy complications and support the development of effective strategies to improve maternal and neonatal health.



Elizabeth Yen, MD, MA Tufts University School of Medicine

Developmental Programming Effects of Prenatal Opioid Exposure

Dr. Elizabeth Yen is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine, Associate Director of the Woman, Mother + Baby (WoMB) Research Institute at Tufts Medical Center, and a practicing neonatologist. Her research focuses on understanding the impact of maternal opioid use on infant health, growth, neurodevelopment, and long-term outcomes. Motivated by clinical observations of feeding dysregulation among opioid-exposed infants, she leads interdisciplinary studies using noninvasive approaches, including salivary biomarkers, brain MRI, and body composition assessment, to investigate mechanisms underlying altered infant development. Through translational and clinical research, Dr. Yen seeks to improve understanding of prenatal opioid exposure and identify opportunities to optimize outcomes for affected infants and families. She is deeply committed to advancing collaborative research and advocating for the patients and families she serves.



Candidate Information for PRS President

Lina Chalak, M.D., M.S.C.S University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

PRS President Nominee | Pediatrics Track

Dr. Lina Chalak is a tenured Professor Chief of neonatology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Children's health in Dallas where she holds the Buchanan endowed chair in Pediatrics. She is a physician-scientist with twenty years of sustained NIH Funding specializing in developmental neuroscience. Dr. Chalak's research program spans the full spectrum of translational science, from preclinical studies investigating the mechanisms of neonatal brain injury to clinical trials aimed at optimizing neuroprotective strategies and developing novel physiologic biomarkers of brain health. She is recognized for her contributions to newborn brain health as an active PI in major federally funded research initiatives, including programs supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the Neonatal Research Network (NRN), and PCORI. At UT Southwestern, Dr. Chalak established the Neurological Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NeuroNICU) in 2018 and founded the Fetal and Neonatal Neurology Fellowship Program in 2019, helping to advance specialized clinical care and training in neonatal neurology. She has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and is widely recognized for excellence in mentoring emerging clinician-scientists. A leader in academic medicine, Dr. Chalak has served in many national leadership roles with the Society for Pediatric Research, the Newborn Brain Society, and Pediatric Academic Societies. She is an Associate Editor for *Pediatric Research*, an alumna of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program and is deeply committed to inspiring the next generation of researchers.



Krithika Lingappan, MD, PhD University of Colorado Anschutz

PRS President Nominee | Pediatrics Track

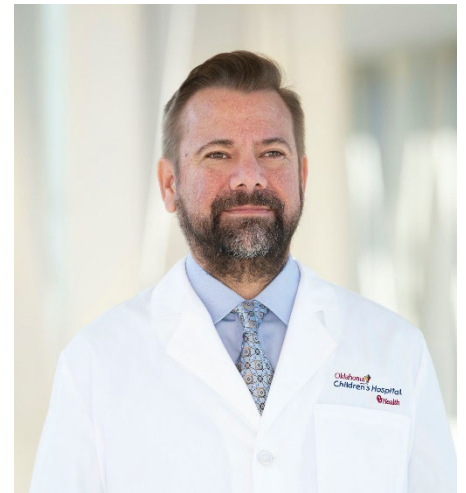
Dr. Lingappan is the Section Head of Neonatology, Children's Hospital Colorado and Visiting Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz. Krithika's research addresses a question that neonatologists have long observed but never explained: why premature boys consistently fare worse than girls in the NICU. Her lab was the first to demonstrate that hyperoxic lung injury produces sexually dimorphic outcomes in the neonatal lung and then used the four-core genotype mouse model to show that chromosomal sex, not gonadal hormone exposure, drives female-specific protection. Combining single-cell transcriptomics with genetic and cellular models, she has since defined the lung innate immune niche, including sex-specific macrophage and endothelial populations, as a key mediator of this dimorphism, and developed the first patient-derived lung organoid model from bronchoalveolar lavage samples of premature infants, creating a human platform for testing sex-specific cellular therapies for bronchopulmonary dysplasia. She recently led a national group of investigators in authoring an American Thoracic Society research statement on sex as a biological variable in preclinical lung disease models. She has served on multiple NIH study sections and held leadership roles at the PRS (membership chair), AAP, ATS, and American Pediatric Society. She has also led initiatives to strengthen the pipeline of pediatric research scientists at the institutional and national levels.



Trent Tipple, MD The University of Oklahoma Health Campus

PRS President Nominee | Pediatrics Track

Dr. Trent Tipple is Professor and Chief of the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, where he holds the CMRI Reba McEntire Endowed Chair in Neonatology. He also serves as Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Nutritional Sciences, Biochemistry, and Physiology. In addition, Dr. Tipple is the Neonatology Service Chief at Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health. Trent is a pulmonary redox biologist who graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed pediatric residency and neonatology fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where he served as an Assistant Professor until 2014. He then transitioned his research program to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he rose to the rank of Tenured Associate Professor. For the past 7 years, Dr. Tipple has served as a Tenured Professor and Chief of the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Tipple first attended PRS in 2013 as a Young Investigator Workshop and meeting participant and received the Cassady Presidential Young Investigator Award. He has been a PRS member since 2014, served on PRS council from 2016-2018, and was the Ferring Sponsored Member Speaker in 2019. He has supported PRS workshop and meeting attendance for multiple mentees and junior faculty.



Candidate Information for Council – Pediatrics Track

Amélie Collins, MD, PhD University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

PRS Council Nominee | Pediatrics Track

Amélie Collins, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where she serves as an attending neonatologist and physician-scientist. Dr. Collins completed her MD and PhD in immunology at New York University and advanced clinical and research training in neonatology and hematopoietic stem cell biology at Columbia University. Her research focuses on developmental hematopoiesis, neonatal immunity, and the mechanisms underlying susceptibility to infection in early life. As Principal Investigator of NIH R01 and foundation-funded studies, she investigates how perinatal inflammation shapes hematopoietic stem cell function and lifelong immune outcomes. Dr. Collins has been a member of the Perinatal Research Society since 2019, when she was selected for the Young Investigator Workshop and received the Young Investigator Cassady Presidential Award. Her work was further recognized with the 2024 PRS Outstanding Paper by an Associate Member Award. Dr. Collins is eager to deepen her engagement with the Society by serving on the Council and contributing to its mission of fostering innovative research, mentorship, and collaboration in perinatal science.



Amy Hair, MD Baylor College of Medicine

PRS Council Nominee | Pediatrics Track

Dr. Amy Hair is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neonatologist at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, where she serves as Program Director of Neonatal Nutrition. She completed her medical degree at the Medical College of Georgia, followed by pediatric residency at the University of Virginia and fellowships in neonatal-perinatal medicine and nutrition at Baylor College of Medicine. An internationally recognized expert in neonatal nutrition and human milk, Dr. Hair's research focuses on optimizing growth and outcomes for preterm infants. She is also deeply committed to mentoring trainees and early-career investigators, fostering the next generation of clinician-scientists.



Candidate Information for Council – Obstetrics Track

Antonina Frolova, MD, PhD

PRS Council Nominee | Obstetrics Track

I am an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis and a physician-scientist within the Center of Reproductive Health Sciences. I have a basic and translational research program focused on labor dystocia and mechanisms of abnormal uterine contractility. These clinical complications contribute to the high incidence of cesarean delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, chorioamnionitis, fetal hypoxia, and the associated maternal and neonatal morbidity. My research mentorship extends to both Maternal Fetal Medicine and Neonatology fellows, as well as graduate students, residents, and medical students. I first attended the PRS meeting in 2019 after being selected as a Perinatal Research Society OB Scholar Award Winner, and I found the meeting to be especially well suited for building new collaborations as a new investigator. I then participated in the Perinatal Research Society's Young Investigator Program and Grant Writing Workshop in 2020, which was instrumental in helping me further my grantsmanship and submit my first R01. I was then excited to become an Associate Member of the society and was elected to serve as the Associate Member Representative PRS council member. I would be honored to further my involvement in the society as an Obstetric Council member.



Stephen McCartney, MD, PhD University of Washington

PRS Council Nominee | Obstetrics Track

Stephen McCartney, MD, PhD, is a Maternal Fetal Medicine physician-scientist and faculty member at the University of Washington. His research investigates immune regulation at the maternal-fetal interface, with a focus on placental and decidual immunometabolism and its role in pregnancy complications including preeclampsia, preterm birth, and stillbirth. Dr. McCartney is also dedicated to mentoring the next generation of reproductive scientists and serves as Assistant Director of the UW R38 Residency Research Program as well as leading an undergraduate research program. He is actively involved in national and international reproductive research societies.



Candidate Information for Council – Basic Sciences Track

Ellen Francis, PhD Rutgers School of Public Health, Rutgers University

PRS Council Nominee | **Basic Sciences Track**

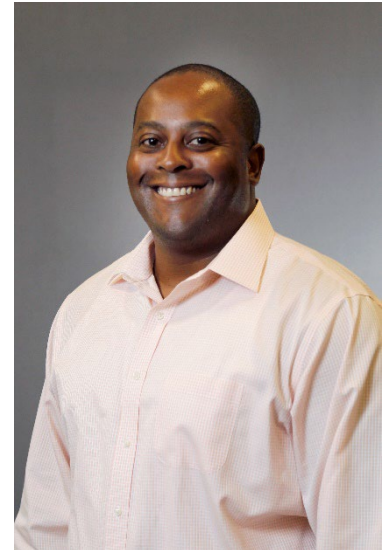
Ellen C. Francis, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Molecular-Perinatal Epidemiology in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Rutgers School of Public Health. She completed predoctoral training at NICHD and postdoctoral training as a Perinatal Biology and Reproductive T32 Fellow at the University of Colorado. Dr. Francis's NIH-funded research integrates metabolomics, placental molecular data, and detailed clinical phenotyping to understand metabolic adaptation during pregnancy and the biological pathways linking the intrauterine environment with maternal and offspring health. Her work bridges population-based perinatal research with mechanistic biology, using human pregnancy cohorts to investigate molecular pathways involved in placental function, metabolic health, and the developmental origins of cardiometabolic disease. Her interdisciplinary program seeks to strengthen connections between basic, computational, and population sciences in perinatal research



Rodney Britt Jr., PhD, ATSF Nationwide Children's Hospital

PRS Council Nominee | **Basic Sciences Track**

Rodney D. Britt Jr., PhD, ATSF is a Principal Investigator at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University. His lab studies novel mechanisms in airway structural and immune cells in severe asthma pathophysiology using primary human cells and chronic allergen mouse models. Additional research projects include understanding the impact of neonatal hyperoxia on development of recurrent wheeze and asthma in children born prematurely and defining immune mechanisms that mediate acute exacerbation in pediatric asthma.



Candidate Information for Council – Associate Member Representative

Jessica Bradshaw, PhD University of North Texas Health Science Center

PRS Council Nominee | Associate Member Representative

Jessica Bradshaw, PhD, is an emerging independent investigator at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas, examining how pregnancy-associated exposures, aging, and biological sex shape maternal and offspring cardiovascular and brain health across the lifespan. Her research integrates neuroimmune, cardiovascular, and behavioral approaches to identify mechanisms driving long-term neurovascular vulnerability. Supported by an NICHD K99/R00 award, her current work examines how gestational hypoxia contributes to maternal brain and cardiovascular dysfunction. An active member of the Perinatal Research Society, Jessica is a Young Cassady Presidential Award recipient, scientific session moderator, and committed to advancing perinatal science through collaboration, mentorship, and dedicated service to PRS.



Margeaux Marbrey, PhD Duke University School of Medicine

PRS Council Nominee | Associate Member Representative

Dr. Marbrey is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Reproductive Sciences, Department of OB/GYN, at Duke University School of Medicine. As a K99/R00 recipient, her research focuses on how exposures such as environmental toxins and tobacco products affect pregnancy and fetal health. She was the first to report that electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) delay gestation and recently published adverse effects on the placenta and fetal growth. Her research has garnered regional, national, and international media attention. As an active PRS Associate Member, she received the Young Investigator Grant Writing Workshop Award in 2023 and the Associate Member Speaker Award in 2025.



Amelia Tanner, PhD University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

PRS Council Nominee | Associate Member Representative

Dr. Amelia Tanner is an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics | Neonatology at the University of Colorado Anschutz within the Perinatal Research Center, where she studies fetal-placental signaling and how fetal glucagon regulates placental metabolism and function. She earned her B.S. from Texas A&M University, M.S. from North Dakota State University, and Ph.D. from Colorado State University, where she investigated placental lactogen physiology using in vivo RNAi and maternal-fetal instrumentation. Her postdoctoral training was supported by NICHD through T32 and F32 fellowships. Dr. Tanner has attended PRS since graduate school and was selected for the 2024 PRS Young Investigator Grant Writing Workshop.



Business Meeting Agenda

September 18-20, 2026 | Banff, Alberta, Canada

Sean Limesand | **President**
Stephanie Wesolowski | **Secretary Treasurer**

Annual Member Business Meeting - Order of Business

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of the last annual Member meeting
3. In Memoriam
4. President's Report and Announcements
5. Secretary-Treasurer's Report
6. Reports of Committees
 - a. Membership
 - b. Representation and Engagement Lead
 - c. Associate Member Representative
 - d. PR and Publicity Committee
7. Other Business
 - a. Publishing - Seminars in Perinatology
 - b. Publishing – Peds Research
 - c. AAP Amicus Brief
 - d. SRI Symposium Sponsorship
 - e. Fundraising
8. New Business?
9. Election of Officers and Councilors
10. Transfer of Presidency
11. Adjourn