

## Focus Areas

**Prenatal, Infancy, and Childhood Years:** This working group will focus on gaps and developments in research that focus on prenatal care, in utero exposures, genetics, infancy and childhood development, maternal correlates of disease and sex/ gender differences in Infancy and Childhood. Some areas to focus on will be on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of specific diseases and health outcomes relevant to these time periods. Specific areas to discuss included hormonal influences on growth and development, diseases influenced by metabolism, organ-specific diseases such as childhood cancers, genetics, bone development and infectious diseases across these time periods. Specific recommendations will evolve from the work group discussions.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Melissa Kottle**, M.D., M.P.H.: Director, Jane Fonda Center, Emory University

**Louise Wilkins-Haug**, M.D., Ph.D., Division Director for Maternal Fetal  
Medicine and Reproductive Genetics; Brigham and Women's Hospital

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Gilman Grave**, M.D., Acting Director for the Center for Research for Mothers  
and Children, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health  
and Human Development

**Adolescent Years:** This working group will focus on the adolescent years and what research needs to be directed to address gaps in current knowledge and translational research. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment will be addressed in specific areas of infectious diseases including vaccination, pregnancy prevention, and hormonal influences on normal and abnormal development. Metabolism, metabolic causes of disease, organ-specific research (including bone development) and genetics will also be prominent areas for discussion.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Sandra Carson**, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Warren Alpert  
Medical School of Brown University, Director, Division of  
Reproductive Medicine & Infertility, Women & Infants Hospital

**Michelle Berlin**, M.D., Director, Center of Excellence for Women's Health,  
Oregon Health Sciences University

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Christine Bachrach**, Ph.D., Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research  
Acting Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

**Reproductive and Middle Years:** This working group will focus on health issues faced by women in the reproductive to middle years to address gaps in current knowledge at all levels of research. Areas of focus will include: endometriosis, fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome, infertility, sexually transmitted diseases, obesity, disparities in women's health care during the reproductive years, health challenges for women with disabilities. The group will also explore evolving research fields including stem cells and epigenetics. Generic subtopics will include predisposition management in the context of prevention and diagnosis. Exploration of special issues for diverse populations and outcomes will be included. Attendees will define specific recommendations to address research gaps in this area.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Robert Barbieri**, M.D., Kate Macy Ladd Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and  
Reproductive Biology, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and

Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School, Chairman, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Brigham and Women's Hospital

**Cynthia Morton**, Ph.D., William Lambert Richardson Professor, Harvard, Director Brigham Research Institute, Chair, National Library of Medicine Board of Regents

**Valerie Montgomery-Rice**, M.D., Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Meharry School of Medicine

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Alan DeCherney**, M.D., *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Pregnancy:** Pregnancy represents a unique window into multiple broad areas of research from genetics through immunology through oncology. This working group will focus on broad sub topics in the pre pregnancy, pregnancy, and immediate post pregnancy window including interpregnancy care. Sub Topics to be addressed are hormonal/ metabolic mechanisms related to pregnancy, labor (including preterm labor), and peripartum windows; Infectious diseases; Placental, uterine, cervical, cardiac, renal and other organ specific research; and Genetic issues relating to pregnancy. Prevention and management strategies for diseases unique to pregnancy as well as subsequent management for prevention of ongoing disease will be considered. Attendees will define specific recommendations to address research gaps in this area.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Katharine Wenstrom**, M.D., Professor, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Division Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Women & Infants Hospital

**Lucia Larson**, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Ob/Gyn and Medicine, Director, Division of Obstetric Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

**Errol Norwitz**, M.D., Professor, Department of Ob/Gyn, MFM, Yale University

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Don Mattison**, M.D., *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Alicia Armstrong**, M.D., *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

**Menopausal Transition:** This working group will explore the present state of the science and gaps in understanding hormonal and metabolic transitions in this age range. This working group will focus on broad sub topics regarding genetic and molecular oncogenesis and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malignant disease in women. In addition, organ specific issues and prevention and management strategies for diseases more prevalent in this age window will be focuses. Attendees will define research priorities including basic, clinical and translational science, as well as innovative models of care.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Robert Rebar**, M.D., Executive Director, American Society for Reproductive Medicine

**Paul DiSilvestro**, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

**Marcia L. Stefanick**, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Ob/Gyn, Stanford University

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Jacques E. Rossouw**, M.D., National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

**Elderly, Frail Elderly, and Healthy Aging:** This working group will focus on the relevant women's health and gender-based research issues that are involved in healthy aging. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that relate to elderly and frail elderly populations will also be addressed. Topics will include hormonal influences and changes in metabolism that effect health (including osteoporosis, sexual health and memory), genetic influences of diseases prevalent in this era of life and organ-specific diseases including Alzheimer's disease.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Richard Besdine**, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, Brown University

**Stefan Gravenstein**, M.D., Professor, Department of Medicine, Brown University,  
Chair, Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes

**Stacy Tessler Lindau**, M.D.: Associate Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics and  
Gynecology, University of Chicago, Director, Core on Biomeasures in  
Population Based Health and Aging Research

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Susan Resnick**, Ph.D., National Institute on Aging

**Oral Health and Systemic Conditions:** Attendees will explore the state of the science regarding correlates of oral health and systemic disease through the lifespan. Opportunities for further research from basic, clinical and translational levels to address gaps in knowledge and research will be identified. Sub-topic areas for exploration will include genetic and molecular mechanisms of disease and health, sex/ gender differences in oral health and systemic disease, new opportunities for prevention, therapy, and models of care.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Michelle Henshaw**, D.D.S., M.P.H., Professor, Health Policy & Health Services  
Research, Assistant Dean, Community Partnerships and Extramural Affairs,  
Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine

**Raul Garcia**, D.M.D., Professor and Chair, Boston University Goldman School of  
Dental Medicine, Director, Northeast Center for Research to Evaluate  
and Eliminate Dental Disparities; Brenda Heaton, MPH, Clinical  
Instructor, Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Department of Health  
Policy and Health Services Research

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Jane C. Atkinson**, D.D.S., Director, Center for Clinical Research  
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

**Careers in Dentistry, Bioengineering, and Other Non-MD Disciplines:** In order to achieve the nation's goals in women's health research, we must champion the interests and development of women in science, technology, and allied health professions. Attendees will define funding priorities to assure a broad, diverse and robust pipeline of researchers in sex/gender differences and women's

health. They will additionally identify areas to research to ensure that women in these fields can achieve their full potential.

**Co-Chairs:**

**Paula Friedman**, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.P.H., Professor & Director, Geriatric Dentistry Program, Associate Dean for Administration, Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine

**Valerie Wilson**, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate School, Executive Director, Leadership Alliance, Brown University

**NIH Co-Chair:**

**Belinda Seto**, Ph.D., National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and BioEngineering