Dear friends, colleagues, mentors, and supporters:

March of Dimes' Monthly Research Brief is a recurring email about our latest news, podcast, grants, blogs, and publications.

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Here’s the November brief.

**News**

We’re excited to announce our recipients of the 2023 Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards. This year’s grants go to Dr. Elizabeth Ann L. Enninga from the Mayo Clinic and Dr. Mara Murray Horwitz from Boston Medical Center. Dr. Enninga will use her grant to research a mom’s immune response to her baby’s cell free DNA and the relationship to labor onset, while Dr. Horwitz will use her grant to study barriers to heart health and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy (HDP). We’ll have more on these two scientists in a future brief.

**Podcast**
Our fifth MODCAST is on seeing into the future—really. To hear Dr. Nima Aghaeepour discuss ‘Predicting Neonatal Complications with Machine Learning (ML/AI),’ click here.

Blog

Nature improves health, right? That’s certainly the takeaway from this month’s blog on a paper focused on the link between green spaces and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy (HDP). The study, out of our Prematurity Research Center (PRC) at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), found that trees were protective against this family of pregnancy disorders. Read it here.

Separately, researchers at our Prematurity Research Center at Stanford have found using Artificial Intelligence (AI) that reduced sleep and physical activity in early and mid-pregnancy is associated with a significant increase in the risk for preterm birth. Read more here.

Publications

Association of maternal prenatal copper concentration with gestational duration and preterm birth: a multi-country meta-analysis

Meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies of gestational duration and spontaneous preterm birth identifies new maternal risk loci

Genome-wide association study of placental weight identifies distinct and shared genetic influences between placental and fetal growth

That’s it for the November brief. See you next month for the last brief of the year.

Emre Seli, MD
Chief Scientific Officer
March of Dimes