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Dear Supporter,

Welcome to the official start of summer. Here's your June research brief.



Monthly Research Brief

News

March of Dimes Discovery Research Grants are given to seasoned scientists proposing translational projects that will improve care for moms and babies. Today, we announced the three 2024 recipients:

- Dr. James W. Collins, Jr., Medical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, will study the cross generational effect of early-life residence in impoverished urban neighborhoods on adverse birth outcomes in African Americans.
- Dr. Jennifer Gaddy, Associate Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will study how white blood cells in the placenta use zinc to prevent Group B strep (GBS) bacteria from infecting babies in utero.
- Prof. Dafna Ben Bashat, Deputy Director of Tel Aviv's Sagol Brain Institute, will study the placenta's role in determining the growth and health of babies in utero whose moms have sleep apnea during pregnancy.

[Learn more about the 2024 March of Dimes Discovery Research Grants](#)

Grants and awards

With the announcement of this year's Discovery grant winners comes the call for applications for next year's awards. On June 6, we opened the portal for our 2025 Discovery Research Grants. The deadline to apply is September 6, 2024.

[Learn more about the grant and submit your application.](#)

Also, don't forget to nominate an undisputed leader in the field for the March of Dimes Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize. The nomination portal will close September 13.

[Learn more about the Prize and how to apply.](#)

Blog

This month's blog dives into the work of 2024 March of Dimes Discovery Research Grant winner Dr. James W. Collins, Jr., who will pursue an enduring research interest to determine whether African Americans' epigenetic risk for adverse birth outcomes stemming from early-life residence in impoverished urban neighborhoods can be reversed after two generations of upward economic mobility. [Read it here.](#)

Podcast

MODCAST's 12th episode is with Dr. Brice Gaudillière, an investigator at the March of Dimes Prematurity Center at Stanford University. He discusses his team's new breakthrough machine learning (ML) algorithm that makes reliable predictions about labor onset, preterm birth, and preeclampsia—and identifies a shortlist of biological markers supporting those predictions for the first time. [Listen here.](#)

Publications

[Efficacy of supplemental oxygen in reducing the need for laser or intravitreal bevacizumab in preterm infants with stage 2 retinopathy of prematurity](#)

[Computational Approaches for Predicting Preterm Birth and Newborn Outcomes](#)

[The impact of ovarian stimulation on the human endometrial microenvironment](#)

[Recent Advances in Genomic Studies of Gestational Duration and Preterm Birth](#)

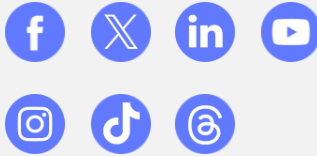
Thanks for reading. See you in July—and happy Independence Day!

Dr. Emre Seli
Chief Scientific Advisor
March of Dimes

**HEALTHY
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BABIES.**



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