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Dear Supporter,

Spring is just around the corner. As the days slowly grow brighter, we're excited to share your March brief, filled with uplifting updates and inspiring news.

News

It's official: we've selected the 2026 March of Dimes Discovery Grant winners. We reveal the scientists March 24. On that day, check here to be among the first to know this year's recipients of our most impactful research grants.

Awards

The doors are open for applications to our annual March of Dimes Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards. The portal is officially live and taking applications for one of our longest-standing grants, given to early career scientists looking to make translation discoveries for the benefit of moms and babies. Previous winners have gone on to lead the field in their respective areas of study and have been recognized with the Nobel Prize.

Apply now.

Also, mark your calendars for April 20 — that's the opening day of our nomination portal for the March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award in Maternal-Fetal Nutrition.

Learn more here.

Blog

Our latest blog spotlights the work of scientists at our March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center (PRC) at Stanford, who have published a paper on an Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) algorithm that identifies early preterm babies at highest risk for four of the most serious complications of prematurity using the same heel prick routinely given to babies after birth. Focusing on blood metabolites, or signals related to metabolism, the algorithm looks for patterns associated with the four complications and scores babies born between 22 and 29 weeks based on their metabolic risk.

Read the blog now.

Podcast

March of Dimes Database for Preterm Birth Research Co-Director Dr. Tomiko Oskotsky is our latest MODCAST guest, discussing two recent big data wins: first, March of Dimes-supported data being included in a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) AI pilot program, and second, launching the first March of Dimes AI assistant, called ChatPreTermBirth, or ChatPTB.

Listen here or watch here.

Publications

The microbiome: a determinant of reproductive health and fitness?

Early gestational prediction of spontaneous preterm birth using a validated three-protein serum biomarker panel

Systemic immune dysregulation in hypertensive disorders of pregnancy persists years after delivery

Benchmarking large language models for predictive modeling in biomedical research with a focus on reproductive health

That's all for now. See you in April.

Dr. Emre Seli
Chief Scientific Advisor
March of Dimes

HEALTHY MOMS. STRONG BABIES.

MARCH OF DIMES

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March of Dimes
1550 Crystal Dr., Ste. 1300
Arlington, VA 22202
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