To view this email as a web page, click here

Dear Supporter,

Spring has sprung, the tulips are up, and we are full steam ahead in the research department. Here's your jam-packed April brief.

News

The secret's out — we've announced our 2026 March of Dimes Discovery Award winners. Here is the trio of exemplary scientists who have been awarded our most impactful research grants:

- Dr. Frank Lee, a Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, who aims to develop novel preeclampsia therapeutics;

- Dr. Chanup Jeung, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management & Behavior at the State University of New York at

Albany, who will investigate the link between state paid sick leave and preterm birth; and

- Dr. Jaime Slaughter-Acey, an Associate Professor at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, who will study the data captured by a common prenatal survey and its use to predict maternal outcomes.

Awards

It's award nomination season.

If you know a trailblazing pregnancy and infant nutrition researcher, educator or clinician, nominate them today for the March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award in Maternal-Fetal Nutrition. Nominations close September 16.

While you're at it, consider putting forth a nomination for our lifetime achievement award, the March of Dimes Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize, recognizing exceptional contributions to the science around prenatal development, pregnancy, and birth. You've got some time; portal opens May 11 and closes October 2. If you're curious about this year's winner, check out our latest MODCAST, below.

Blog

Big blog this month. Scientists at the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Stanford are developing a blood test to predict the risk of spontaneous preterm birth. The test will identify at-risk women by looking for elevation across three crucial pregnancy proteins. When further validated and made clinically available, the test could transform prenatal care and birth outcomes.

Read the latest blog.

Podcast

If you're looking for a mix of science and entertainment, check out our latest MODCAST, featuring 2026 March of Dimes Prize winner Dr. Leonard Zon, who has over the last 30+ years pioneered the use of the 1.5-inch tropical zebrafish as a model for human disease. His research has resulted in the identification of blood development pathways in embryos, the discovery of the iron transporter gene ferroportin, and the detection of a growth factor that exponentially grows stem cell populations for use in gene therapies for children with blood disorders. Plus, Dr. Zon is one heck of a storyteller.

Listen or watch our latest MODCAST.

Publications

T-bet Fate Mapping Reveals Gestational Stage-Specific Transcriptional Adaptation of Decidual NK Cells

CD138 expression in the endometrium associates with endometrial timing and inflammatory status but not microbiota composition

Time-of-Day Impacts Uterine Circadian Rhythms and Response to Oxytocin: Comparison of Uterine Function in Melatonin-Deficient C57BL/6 Versus Melatonin Proficient CBA/B6 Hybrid Mice

Weaning drives microbiome-mediated epigenetic regulation to shape immune memory in mice

FGF1 orchestrates circadian hepatic triglyceride secretion

Maternal Krüppel-like factor 2 (KLF2)+ CD4 T cells promote fertility and fetal tolerance

That's it for April. See you next month.

Dr. Emre Seli
Chief Scientific Advisor
March of Dimes

HEALTHY MOMS. STRONG BABIES.

MARCH OF DIMES

Donate now

March of Dimes
1550 Crystal Dr., Ste. 1300
Arlington, VA 22202
© 2026 March of Dimes, a not-for-profit, section 501c(3)
All Rights Reserved

Terms Privacy & Notices
Manage Your Preferences or Unsubscribe