To view this email as a web page, click here

Dear Supporter,

It’s almost officially summer. Here’s your June brief.

Awards

Just a few days ago, we opened the application portal for our March of Dimes Discovery Grants, awarded to scientists proposing translational research in the field of maternal-fetal health. You have until September 8 to apply.

We’re also in the middle of accepting nominations for our two career achievement awards. You’ve got until September 16 to nominate a leading pregnancy and infant nutrition researcher, educator, or clinician for our March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award in Maternal-Fetal Nutrition. And we close nominations for our career achievement award, the March of Dimes Richard B. Johnston, Jr., MD Prize, on October 2.

Blog

Our latest blog is a mouthful. Well, sort of. Scientists at our March of Dimes Ohio Collaborative Prematurity Research Center have conducted research linking mouthwash use in pregnancy to significantly improved outcomes. The data, which was presented last month at the annual meeting of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) in Washington, D.C., showed that giving an over-the-counter, non-alcoholic mouthwash for free to pregnant women with low socioeconomic status at risk of having oral health disorders greatly improved their pregnancy and birth outcomes. Taking mouthwash throughout pregnancy was linked with a 25% reduction in preeclampsia rates, a 35% reduction in neonatal intensive care unit admission rates, a reduction in chorioamnionitis rates by over 40%, and an average increase of two days in gestational age at delivery.

Read more here.

Podcast

A fascinating MODCAST this month on the research of 2026 Discovery Grant winner Dr. Frank Lee. A Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Dr. Lee is working to test whether suppressing a gene called HIF-2 could slow or eliminate preeclampsia once the disease has begun. His work stems from observations of Tibetan women, who exhibit low rates of preeclampsia and reduced HIF-2 expression. Scientists believe this trait emerged as an evolutionary adaptation to high-altitude, low-oxygen environments. Should his research confirm that HIF-2 gene suppression can slow preeclampsia progression, the next phase of his grant work will focus on identifying different drugs capable of inhibiting HIF-2 expression, with the goal of developing a viable preeclampsia treatment.

Listen to or watch our latest MODCAST.

Publications

[Association Between Racial Segregation of Labor and Delivery Services and Utilization of Trial of Labor and Vaginal Birth After Cesarean]

[Rebalancing prostanoids: How differential COX-1 and COX-2 inhibition explains the success and limitations of low-dose aspirin in pregnancy]

[African American Food Environments and Anti-Inflammatory Intake in Pregnancy]

[Prepregnancy obesity, gestational weight gain, and their relationship with maternal lipid levels at delivery across racial and ethnic populations]

That's all for June. See you in July.

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