



May 4, 2021

## **From Innovation to Application, Cutting-Edge Birth Defects Research to Be Recognized**

*Researcher of Epidemic Vaccine Development and Deployment during Pregnancy Among Featured Speakers*

RESTON, VIRGINIA—From utilizing machine learning for streamlining public health emergency response, to the ethical debate of including pregnant people in scientific research, some of the world's leading scientists will come together and be recognized for their breakthrough birth defects-related research. The special lectures and award presentations will be highlighted during the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention's 61st Annual Meeting being held virtually June 24–July 1, 2021.

The virtual presentations will also cover other hot topics such as the latest birth defects research surrounding assessing reproductive risks from fracking and mountaintop mining, cannabis use in pregnancy, and the effects of water fluoridation on neurodevelopment. For the full virtual meeting schedule, including opportunities for continuing education, please visit [www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021](http://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021).

The Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention (BDRP) is an international and multidisciplinary group of scientists including researchers, clinicians, epidemiologists, and public health professionals from academia, government, and industry who study birth defects, reproduction, and disorders of developmental origin. Despite the challenges of the current pandemic and social distancing, 2021 virtual meeting attendees will have invaluable career opportunities. "Networking is a cornerstone of our annual meeting, and this year attendees will have more opportunities to partake in interactive and engaging experiences through a dynamic virtual platform, all while connecting from the comfort and safety of your home or office," said Elise Madison Lewis, PhD, BDRP President. "In addition, our trainees and early career professionals will have an opportunity to learn more about our Society through mentorship."

**The 2021 Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention award recipients and special lecturers include:**

*Keynote Lecture*

**Carleigh Krubiner, PhD**, Center for Global Development and Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics  
*Scheduled Presentation:* Pregnancy and the Perils of Precaution: The Ethical Imperative to Protect Pregnant People through Research

*Josef Warkany Lecture*

**Peter Wells, PharmD**, University of Toronto

*Scheduled Presentation:* Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) and DNA Damage/Repair in Developmental Disorders

*Robert L. Brent Lecture: Teratogen Update*

**Sonja A. Rasmussen, MD, MS**, University of Florida College of Medicine

*Scheduled Presentation:* Identifying New Human Teratogens: Revisiting Shepard's Criteria

*F. Clarke Fraser New Investigator Award*

**Vijaya Kancharla, PhD**, Emory University

*Scheduled Presentation:* Consequentialist Epidemiology of Birth Defects: Early Career Experiences and Key Findings from National and Global Research

*Patricia Rodier Mid-Career Award for Research and Mentoring*

**Michael T. Williams, PhD**, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation

*Scheduled Presentation:* Manganese Overexposure during Development: Environmental and Genetic Effects

*Agnish Fellowship*

**Ronald Hood, PhD, ATS**, The University of Alabama

*Scheduled Presentation:* Education, Service, and Career Paths in the Multidisciplinary Science of Birth Defects Causation and Prevention

*James G. Wilson Publication Award for the best paper published in the journal Birth Defects Research*

**Richard Lusk**, Deloitte Consulting, LLP, **John Zimmerman**, Deloitte Consulting, LLP, and **Nicole M. Roth**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Exploratory analysis of machine learning approaches for surveillance of Zika-associated birth defects](#). *Birth Defects Research*, 112.18:1450–1460 (2020)

*Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Innovator Award Finalists*

- **Hao H. Chen, PhD**, University of California San Francisco  
Title: *Transcriptomic and proteomic profiling of alternative flame retardant exposures in human embryonic stem cell neural derivatives*
- **Georgia G. Pitsava, MD**, NIH Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
Title: *Exome sequencing findings in 115 children with annular pancreas*
- **Philip J. Lupo, PhD**, Baylor College of Medicine  
Title: *Newborn Screening Analytes and Structural Birth Defects: Evaluating Novel Associations using a Phenotypic Spectrum Analysis*

*Wilson Presentation Award Finalists*

Graduate Students

**Kian Afsharian**, University of Toronto

**Daniel Valladares**, University of Florida

**Lama Iskandarani**, McGill University

**Danielle Drake**, University of Toronto

Postdoctoral Fellows

**Sanaz Momben Abolfath, PhD**, US Food and Drug Administration  
**Corrine Ruktanonchai, PhD**, Virginia Tech  
**Karen E. Boschen, PhD**, University of North Carolina  
**Gavin Knight, PhD**, University of Wisconsin

*Edward W. Carney Distinguished Service Award*

**John M. Rogers, PhD**, US Environmental Protection Agency and ToxStrategies, Inc.

*Birth Defects Research Distinguished Scholar Awards*

- **De-Kun Li, MD, PhD**, for research associated with A Systematic Review to Calculate Background Miscarriage Rates using Life Table Analysis; *BDRA*, 94.6: 417-423 (2012) and In Utero Exposure to Bisphenol-A and Anogenital Distance of Male Offspring, *Birth Defects Research–Part A*, 91.10: 867–872 (2011)
- **Marilyn H. Silva, PhD, DABT**, and **Lauren Zeise, PhD**, for research associated with A Comparison of ToxCast Test Results with In Vivo and Other In Vitro Endpoints for Neuro, Endocrine, and Developmental Toxicities: A Case Study Using Endosulfan and Methidathion; *Birth Defects Research–Part B*, 104.2:71–89 (2015)

**For a full list of Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention awards and recipients, please visit:** [www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021](http://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021). Follow #BDRP2021 on social media to get BDRP Virtual Annual Meeting-related news.

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