

April 9, 2025

Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Announces 2025 Awardees, Award Finalists, and Special Lecturers

The following awards and special lectures will be presented at the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention's [65th Annual Meeting](#) taking place June 28–July 2, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. Congratulations to our awardees, award finalists, and special lecturers!

Keynote Lecture

Sarah G. Običan, MD, University of South Florida
Scheduled Presentation: Fetal Therapy Approaches

Josef Warkany Lecture

Sonja A. Rasmussen, MD, MS, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Scheduled Presentation: Identifying Teratogens: Challenges and Opportunities

Robert L. Brent Lecture: Teratogen Update

Vani Vannappagari, MPH, PhD, ViiV Healthcare
Scheduled Presentation: Accelerating Clinical Development for Maternal-Fetal Health: Ensuring Access to Safe and Effective Medicines for All

F. Clarke Fraser New Investigator Award

Bevin E. Blake, PhD, US Environmental Protection Agency
Scheduled Presentation: PFAS, Placenta, and Public Health: An Early Career Perspective on Translating and Communicating Research on Emerging Contaminants

Patricia Rodier Mid-Career Award for Research and Mentoring

Natacha De Genna, PhD, University of Pittsburgh
Scheduled Presentation: High Times: The Effects of Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Next Steps

Agnish Fellowship

Stephen B. Harris, PhD, FRSB, Fellow ATS, Stephen B. Harris Group
Scheduled Presentation: Why I Teach: Inspiring Minds and Shaping Futures

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

Tim A. Bruckner, PhD, University of California, Irvine
Climate Change and Congenital Anomalies: A Population-Based Study of the Effect of Prolonged Extreme Heat Exposure on the Risk of Neural Tube Defects in France. Birth Defects Research, (2024) 116: e2397.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/bdr2.2397>

Edward W. Carney Distinguished Service Award

Christina D. Chambers, PhD, MPH, University of California San Diego

Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Innovator Award Finalists

- **Mengjing Wang, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
Abstract Title: Integrative Proteomic and In Silico Analysis of Perfluorooctanoic Acid Exposures in Primary Human Placental Cytotrophoblasts
- **Ricardo Scheufen Tieghi, BS**, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
Abstract Title: Elucidation of Adverse Outcome Pathways for Compound-Induced Developmental Neurotoxicity Using Knowledge Graphs; and
- **Julia A Gomes, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
Abstract Title: An Integrative In Vitro and Transcriptomic Profiling Approach to Screen Environmental Chemicals for Developmental Neurotoxicity

Edward W. Carney Trainee Awards

- **Megan E. Cull, MSc**, Queen's University
- **Mikayla Watt, BS**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Wilson Presentation Award Finalists

- **Lauren T. L. Brown, BSCh**, Queen's University
- **Lin Li, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
- **Katherine L. Ludorf, BA**, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- **Puck Roos, MSc**, Medicines Evaluation Board; and Utrecht University
- **Parisa Varshosaz, PhD**, Laurentian University
- **Madeline K.M. Vera-Colon, MS**, University of California, Irvine
- **Congying Wang, MS**, Michigan State University
- **Mikayla Watt, BS**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

BDRP Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Awards

- **Oyemwenosa Nosa Avenbuan, BSc., MS**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Lauren T. Brown, BSCh**, Queen's University
- **Juliana Coronado, BS**, Boston Children's Hospital
- **Megan E. Cull, MS**, Queen's University
- **Celeste L.Y. Ewig, MS, PharmD**, University of Florida
- **Mackenzie P. Feltner**, Northern Kentucky University
- **Logan Germain, BSc**, Queen's University
- **Julia A. Gomes, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
- **Jonathan Hebert, BS**, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
- **Nneamaka Iwobi, BS**, University of California, Irvine
- **Lin Li, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
- **Katherine L. Ludorf, BA**, University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health
- **Omobola Oluwafemi, MPH**, UTHealth School of Public Health
- **Ricardo Scheufen Tieghi, BS**, UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy
- **Khush Shah, BS**, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
- **Steven C. Tata, BS**, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- **Parisa Varshosaz, PhD**, Laurentian University
- **Madeline K.M. Vera-Colon, MS**, University of California, Irvine
- **Congying Wang, MS**, Michigan State University
- **Mengjing Wang, PhD**, University of California, San Francisco
- **Yanning Wang, MS**, University of Florida
- **Mikayla Watt, BS**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Wen Wen, MPH**, University of Florida

More Information: <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2025/am-awards.asp>

65th Annual Meeting Website: <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2025/>

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