Diverse Birth Defects Research and the Science of Tomorrow to Be Recognized by the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention

‘Our foundation as a multi-disciplinary society led the way for innovative research that continues to move us toward a healthier future’

RESTON, Va. (PRWEB) June 16, 2020 -- Some of the world’s leading scientists will be recognized for their research on birth defects, including alcohol and cannabinoid exposure on brain development, caffeine exposure during pregnancy, and gene-environmental interactions in autism. The special lectures and awards will be presented at the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention’s (BDRP) first-ever Virtual Annual Meeting June 25, 29 and 30, as well as July 1 and 2, 2020.

At a fraction of the cost of its traditional in-person Annual Meeting, the BDRP virtual presentations will also cover other hot topics such as the latest birth defects research surrounding opioids, gene therapy, and obesity in pregnancy. For the full Virtual Annual Meeting schedule, including opportunities for Continuing Medical Education credits, please visit https://birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2020/.

The Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention 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. Through its 2020 awards, the unique diversity of the birth defects research field is underscored. “Our foundation as a multi-disciplinary society led the way for innovative research that continues to move us toward a healthier future,” said Chris Curran, PhD, BDRP President. “As scientists, we have always recognized the transformative power of diversity in the many disciplines represented in the Society and we hope to inspire more scientists of all backgrounds to get involved in this rewarding research.”

The 2020 Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention award recipients and special lecturers include:

Keynote Lecture
Diana W. Bianchi, MD, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
 Scheduled Presentation: “Prenatal Genomic Medicine: Transforming Obstetric Practice and Delivering New Biological Insights”

Josef Warkany Lecture
Linda S. Birnbaum, PhD, DABT, ATS, Scientist Emeritus and Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program
 Scheduled Presentation: “POPs: A Plethora of Developmental Effects”

Robert L. Brent Lecture: Teratogen Update
Karen W. Gripp, MD, FAAP, FACMG, A.I. duPont Hospital for Children/Nemours
 Scheduled Presentation: “From Dysmorphology to Next-Generation Phenotyping”

F. Clarke Fraser New Investigator Award
Joshua F. Robinson, PhD, University of California, San Francisco
 Scheduled Presentation: “Establishing a Research Program in Developmental Toxicology Utilizing In Vitro Models and Big Data Approaches”
Agnish Fellowship
Elaine M. Faustman, PhD, University of Washington
Scheduled Presentation: “Edu­cat­ing Future Birth Defects Re­search­ers: Op­por­tu­ni­ties in the Era of Per­son­al­ized Med­i­cine, Sys­tems Bio­logy, and CRISPR Tech­no­log­i­es”

Ja­mes G. Win­son Pub­li­ca­tion Award for the best pa­per pub­lished in the jour­nal Birth De­fects Re­search
Kr­i­sten R. Breit, PhD, San Diego State Uni­ver­sity
The ef­fects of al­co­hol and can­na­bi­noi­d ex­posure du­ring the brain growth spurt on behav­ioral de­vel­op­ment in rats; Birth De­fects Re­search 111.12: 760-774 (2019)

So­ci­ety for Birth De­fects Re­search and Pre­ven­tion Inno­va­tor Award Fi­nal­ists
- Myr­to Di­mopou­lou, PhD, To­xys
Title: Repro­Tracker: A Hu­man Stem Cell-Based Bio­mar­ker Assay for In Vitro Asses­sem­ent of De­vel­op­men­tal Tox­i­city.
- Co­lette Miller, PhD, US En­vi­ron­men­tal Pro­tec­tion Ag­ency
- Title: A Tale of Two Livers: The Impact of Sex on Hep­atic Gene Ex­pres­sion in the Ado­les­cent Rat Ex­posed to Ozone Dur­ing Im­plan­ta­tion.
- Lena Smir­nova, PhD, Johns Hop­kins Uni­ver­sity
Title: Stud­ing Gene-En­vi­ron­men­tal In­ter­ac­tions in Au­tism with iPSC-derived BrainSpheres: micro­RNA and Me­tab­o­lic Bio­mark­ers of the Sy­ner­gy.

Ed­ward W. Car­ney Dis­tin­gu­ished Ser­vice Award
Al­an M. Ho­ber­man, PhD, DABT, ATS, Charles River

Marie W. Taub­eneck Award
Be­vin Blake, PhD, NTPL/NIEHS

Ed­ward W. Car­ney Trainee Awards
- Be­vin Blake, PhD, NTPL/NIEHS
- Ha­neesha Moh­an, PhD, To­ro­no­ General Hos­pi­tal Re­search Insti­tute, Uni­ver­sity Health Net­work

FA­SEB How­ard Gar­rison Pub­lic Aff­airs Fel­low­ship
Mona Dai, PhD Stu­dent, Har­vard Uni­ver­sity

Birth De­fects Re­search Dis­tin­gu­ished Schol­ar Awards
- Mar­lene An­derka, ScD, MPH, for re­search as­soci­ated with Med­i­ca­tions used to treat nau­sea and vom­it­ing of preg­nancy and the risk of se­lected birth de­fects; BD­RA, 94.1: 22-30 (2012)
- Ro­bert L. Brent, MD, PhD, for re­search as­soci­ated with Eval­ua­tion of the re­pro­duc­tive and de­vel­op­men­tal risks of ca­fe­ine; BD­RB, 92.2:152-187 (2011)

For a full list of So­ci­ety for Birth De­fects Re­search and Pre­ven­tion awards and re­ci­pi­ents, please vis­it: https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2020/am­awards.asp

About the So­ci­ety for Birth De­fects Re­search and Pre­ven­tion
The So­ci­ety for Birth De­fects Re­search and Pre­ven­tion (BDRP) is made up of near­ly 700 mem­bers world­wide spe­cializ­ing in a var­i­ety of dis­ci­plines, in­clud­ing de­vel­op­men­tal bio­logy and tox­i­col­ogy, re­pro­duc­tion and...
endocrinology, epidemiology, cell and molecular biology, nutritional biochemistry, and genetics as well as the clinical disciplines of prenatal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, neonatology, medical genetics, and teratogen risk counseling. Scientists interested in BDRP membership are encouraged to visit www.BirthDefectsResearch.org.

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