

*Wednesday, February 7, 11:00AM-12:00PM  
Plenary Session*

***Preterm Birth and Birth Defects: Overlapping Outcomes with Implications for Applied Genomic Research and Prevention***

Moderator: Russell Kirby, School of Public Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Siobhan Dolan, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women's Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY

The relationship between birth defects and prematurity is complex, with both increasingly appreciated to result from the interaction of genetic and environmental factors. Addressing prematurity and birth defects simultaneously provides the impetus to help reduce underlying, shared risk factors. It sheds new light on familiar issues of fostering healthy pregnancies by providing high-quality preconception, prenatal and interconception care. At the same time, further research into the genetic factors that contribute to both birth defects and prematurity is needed and recent findings regarding shared genetic susceptibility will be presented.