

*Tuesday, February 12, 8:00AM-9:50AM  
Plenary Session*

***Defects of the Ventral Wall and Related Complexes***

Moderator: Angela Lin, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

**Omphalocele and Gastroschisis – Clinical and Epidemiological Perspectives**

**Cynthia Moore**, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Of the major ventral abdominal wall defects, omphalocele and gastroschisis are the most common. These defects, grouped together as similar under a common ICD-9-CM code, have been shown to be clinically and epidemiologically distinct in numerous studies. In addition to the obvious anatomic differences such as position of the defect in the abdominal wall and presence or absence of a membranous covering, differences in associated anomalies, genetic abnormalities, maternal characteristics, and trends over time have been described. Clear differentiation between omphalocele and gastroschisis is needed for surveillance and research activities in order that additional risk factors can be identified.