

*Tuesday, February 12, 1:30PM-3:00PM  
Concurrent Breakout Session C*

***Defects of the Ventral Wall: Emerging Risk Factors***

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

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

**Marcia Feldkamp**, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

This session will focus on epidemiologic research findings concerning risk factors for ventral wall defects, with special emphasis on gastroschisis. The presenters will review challenges researchers face (need for deeper understanding of the timing and developmental mechanisms, complexities of maternal age as a confounder, clustering of gastroschisis cases), then examine nutritional risk factors, medications, infections, and maternal behaviors including smoking. The session will conclude with some forward-looking thoughts concerning the epidemiologic research agenda for ventral wall defects.