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Tentative Program

PREBIC GLOBAL WORKSHOP 2026, TANGIER, MOROCCO

May 7th – Plenary Session 3.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Chairperson

Elizabeth Bonney, MD

Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Vermont, USA

Houda Moustaide, MD

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Tangier, Gynecology and Obstetrics Department, Faculty of Medicine, Tangier, Morocco

Hadijat Raji, MD

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Ilorin, and Consultant Obstetrician-Gynecologist, University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin, Nigeria.

- 3.00 – 3.10 **Welcome Address**
Houda Moustaide, MD
Organizing Committee Chair, PREBIC Global Work 2026
- 3.10 -3.20 **PREBIC AFRICA – What does it mean?**
Hadijat Raji, MD
Secretary General, PREBIC
- 3.20 – 3.45 **Health outcomes after preterm birth**
Priya Soma-Pillay, MD
Deputy Dean - Health Stakeholder Relations
University of Pretoria, South Africa
Vice President – FIGO
- 3.45- 4.15 **Management of preterm labor and preterm prelabor rupture of the membranes**
Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD,
Professor & Chair Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology
University of California, San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA
- 4.15- 4.45 **Immuno-perinatology: Maternal inflammation and impact on fetal development**
Irina Burd, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
University of Maryland School of Medicine, University of Maryland, Baltimore, US
- 4.45 – 5.15 **Artificial Intelligence in Preterm Birth**
Shady Salem, MD
President of ASFMS, Maternity Hospital of Cairo University, Egypt
- 5.15 – 5.30 COFFEE BREAK**
- 5.30 - 5.50 **Building Research Networks to Advance Preterm Birth Prevention: Lessons from the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Centers**

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Jonathan Cherry

Senior Director, Research Operations, March of Dimes, USA

5.50 - 6.10

The Borne Foundation-Programmes tackling Prematurity

Lucilla Poston, PhD

Professor, Maternal & Fetal Health, School of Life Course & Population Sciences, President of the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, King College, London, UK, Scientific Board of Directors, Borne, UK

6.10 - 6.30

Data, Science and Collaboration to Prevent Preterm Birth

Katerina Ornerová, Ph.D.

CEO, Neoli Foundation, Czech Republic

6.30 – 8.00

Wine & Cheese Reception for PREBIC registrants

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May 8, Day 1

- 8.30 – 10.30** **Chairperson**
Hanns Helmer, MD
Division of Obstetrics and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Dept. Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Medical University of Vienna, Austria
- Nanbert Zhong, MD, PhD**
New York State Institute for Basic Research, Peking University Center of Medical Genetics,
New York, USA
- 8.30 – 8.45** **Executive council report**
- 8.45 – 9.00** **Welcome Address – PREBIC President**
Sam Mesiano, PhD
Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Case Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, USA
- 9.00 – 9.25** **Turning the Tide on Preterm Birth: The Power of Working Together**
Dilly OC Anumba, MBBS, FWACS, FRCOG, MD
Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Sheffield, UK
- 9.25 – 9.50** **Environmental Contributions to Preterm Birth**
Jun Jim Zhang, MD, PhD
Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, PR China
- 9.50 – 10.15** **Disrupted Intracellular pH Homeostasis and Adenosine Transport in Gestational
Diabetes and Preterm Birth**
Luis Sobrevia, MD
Cellular and Molecular Physiology Laboratory, Department of Obstetrics,
Santiago, Chile
- 10.15-10.35** **COFFEE BREAK**
- Chairperson**
Ananth Kumar Kammala, M Pharm, PhD,
Associate Professor, The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, USA.
Shajila Siricila, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee,
USA
Sunhwa Park, MD, PhD
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ewha Womans University College of Medicine
Seoul, Republic of Korea
- 10.35 – 12.45** **Young Investigator Forum**
- 10.35 – 10.45** **Introduction to the PREBIC Young Investigator Forum Activities**
Egle Bytautiene, MD, PhD

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Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA

- 10-45 – 11.00 **Immunometabolism at the maternal-fetal interface**
Stephen McCartney, MD
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
- 11.00 – 11.15 **The air we breathe, the outcomes we bear: Particulate matter and adverse pregnancy risks**
Manuel Vidal, Jr, MD, PhD
College of Medicine, San Beda University, Manila, Philippines
College of Science, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines
- 11.15-11.30 **Idiopathic bleeding in the 2nd trimester - an overlooked pregnancy complication**
Jarmila Trumpešová, MD
The University Hospital Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic
- 11.30-11.45 **Do we properly select patients with a high risk of preterm delivery for antenatal corticosteroid administration?**
Katarzyna Sobczuk, MD
Department of Perinatology, Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland
- 11.45 – 12.00 **Translating clinical experience into research questions: lessons from a preterm birth cohort in Tangier, Morocco (2023–2025)**
Rime Moatadid, MD
Département of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Tangier
University Abdelmalek Essaadi, Tangier
- 12.00 – 12.15 **Ascending infection of *Gardnerella vaginalis* and compartmentalized inflammatory response in fetal-maternal interface organ-on-chip model.**
Mariana, de Castro Silva, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher, Botucatu Medical School – FMB UNESP, Brazil
- 12.15 -12.30 **Beyond fetal origin: Maternal contributions to the placenta and fetal membrane**
María del Pilar, Flores Espinosa, PhD
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Galveston, Texas, USA

12.30 – 2.00 LUNCH BREAK

Working group: Theme - Born on Time: Marching Towards Being Born Healthy

1. **Mechanisms of preterm birth:** Biology of parturition/Maternal – Fetal Interface
 - a. Maternal – Fetal Interface
 - b. Uterine physiology and tissue-level inflammation/Hormonal (endocrine/paracrine) control
2. **Epidemiology of preterm birth:** Environment and social determinants of preterm birth risk
 - a. Cohorts and biobanks (from last year's working group # 1)

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- b. Mechanism of action of environment and social determinants
- 3. Prediction of preterm birth risk**
 - a. Definition of preterm birth: beyond time phenotype.
 - b. Reliability and accuracy of *a priori* clinical markers/Development of acute biomarkers
- 4. Prevention of preterm birth: therapeutic objectives and challenges**
 - a. Strategies
 - b. Impact of guidelines

2.00 – 3.30 Working groups meet (Working groups)

Moderators of all working groups – **Elizabeth Bonney, MD, Scott Williams, PhD**

3.30 – 4.00 COFFEE BREAK

4.00 – 5.30 Working groups meet

Dinner on your own

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May 9, Day 2

Chairperson

Stephen Lye, PhD

Professor, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Physiology and Medicine at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Márcia Guimarães da Silva, PhD

Professor, Botucatu Medical School, São Paulo State University, Botucatu, Brazil

9.00 – 10.30 Mid-Career Investigator Forum

9.00 – 9.10 **Introduction to a career in preterm birth research – Steve Lye**

9.10-9.30 **Prokineticin-1 and preterm birth: from clinical observation to theragnostic applications**

Nadia Alfaidy, Msc, MPhil, PhD

Director of Research, French Institute of Health and Medical Research, Grenoble University, Grenoble, France.

9.30 – 9.50 **Managing preterm birth in a high-volume tertiary care center in China: Clinical experiences and challenges**

Lin Zhang, MD

International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University, PR China

9.50-10.10 **Preterm birth rates, risk factors, and neonatal outcomes in women delivering in a tertiary care center in South India**

Ashwini Vishalakshi, MD

Associate Professor

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Pondicherry, India.

10.10-10.30 **Systemic immunopathobiology preceding and predicting spontaneous preterm birth**

Ina Stelzer, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California, San Diego, California, USA

10.30-11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.40 Forum for Basic & Translational Science

Chairperson

Surendra Sharma, MD, PhD

Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, TX, USA

Bo Jacobsson, MD, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

11.00 – 11.20 **Pregnancy and Birth, and the microbiome in the female reproductive tract**

Young Ju, Kim, MD, PhD

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea

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- 11.20 – 11.40 **Paradigm-Shifting discoveries at the feto-maternal interfaces**
Lauren Richardson, PhD
Associate Professor, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas, USA.
- 11.40 – 12.00 The Role of the Platelet Immunoreceptor TLT-1 in Modulating the Maternal-Fetal Inflammatory Environment
Valance Washington, PhD
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences
Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, USA
- 12.00 – 12.20 **Using a genomics approach to investigate the mechanisms that underpin labour onset**
Jennifer Mitchell, PhD
Professor and Chair, Department of Cell and Systems Biology
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 12.20 – 12.40 **Using OMICS to predict preterm birth – machine learning strategies**
Scott Williams, PhD
Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

1.00- 2.00 LUNCH BREAK

2.00 – 3.30 Working Groups meet

3.30 – 4.00 COFFEE BREAK

4.00 – 6.00 How to address Preterm Birth research in AFRICA

“Preterm Birth Research in Africa: From Challenges to Solutions”

Moderated roundtable discussion that allows participants to build on each other’s experiences and identify practical pathways forward.

4.00 – 4.10 Opening session- Introduction by the chairpersons outlining the goals of the session and setting expectations for short, focused contributions.

- Hadijat Raji, MD
- Dilly Anumba, MD
- Houda Moustaide, MD

4.10 – 4.50 Roundtable Segment 1 – Current Challenges Selected African participants

- **Brief perspectives (2–3 minutes each) – by African Delegates**
- **Key barriers to preterm birth research**
- Infrastructure limitations
- Funding challenges
- Cohort development
- Ethics processes
- Training gaps
- Collaboration issues.

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4.50-5.20 Guided Open Discussion

An interactive discussion led by the chairs to allow ideas to evolve naturally and identify common themes across regions.

5.20-5.50 Roundtable Segment 2 – From Challenges to Solutions (30 minutes)

Focused conversation on actionable strategies:

- Building cohorts
- Mentorship networks
- Collaborative models
- Data sharing
- Capacity building

5.50 – 6.00 Summary and Key Takeaways

Chairs summarize main points and identify priority actions, creating a natural transition into the subsequent expert panel discussion.

7.30- 10.00 PREBIC DINNER (Sponsored by Neoli Foundation)

Location and transportation to the location will be announced during the meeting

May 10, Day 3

Chairpersons Elizabeth Bonney, MD, Scott Williams, PhD

8.30 – 11.00 PREBIC Meeting

8.30 – 8.45 **PREBIC 2027 – Planning – Venue and Dates – South America Branch Event**

Luis Sobrevia/Márcia Guimarães da Silva

PREBIC 2028

Manuel Vidal, MD, PhD - proposal

8.45 – 10.30 Working group updates (15 mins each)

10.30 – 11.00 PREBIC Business Meeting

11.00 Adjourn

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