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**Tentative Program**

**PREBIC GLOBAL WORKSHOP 2026, TANGIER, MOROCCO**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> – 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 **Artificial Intelligence in Preterm Birth**  
**Shady Salem, MD**  
President of ASFMS, Maternity Hospital of Cairo University, Egypt
- 4.45 – 5.15 **Intra-amniotic inflammation in spontaneous preterm birth- diagnosis and therapy.**  
**Marian Kacerovsky, MD, PhD**  
Professor & Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
University Hospital Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic
- 5.15 – 5.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

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- 5.30 - 5.50 **Building Research Networks to Advance Preterm Birth Prevention: Lessons from the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Centers**  
**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 **Neoli Foundation: 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**  
**Bo Jacobsson, MD, PhD**  
Professor & Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The University of Gothenburg,  
Gothenburg, Sweden
- 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**

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- 10.35 – 10.45 **Introduction to the PREBIC Young Investigator Forum Activities**  
**Egle Bytautiene, MD, PhD**  
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 Trumpesova, 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

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2. **Epidemiology of preterm birth:** Environment and social determinants of preterm birth risk
  - a. Cohorts and biobanks (from last year's working group # 1)
  - 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
5. **Innovation and Translation**

**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

**Jarek Kalinka, MD, PhD**

Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Perinatology, Central Clinical Hospital of the Medical University of Łódź, Poland

**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, Texas, USA

**Claire Kendal-Wright, PhD**

Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Hawaii, USA

**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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