

# WHMC NEWSLETTER

NOV  
2024



## About Us!

The Women's Health Multidisciplinary Consortium is a student led organization here at UNC.

Our mission is to create a trainee-focused, unified community of faculty, clinicians, and researchers with a vested interest in women's health research and sex-specific pathologies.

## Upcoming Events

12  
Nov

Supporting Young Mothers in the Community talk 12:15 PM

15  
Nov

Volunteer with us at NC Diaper Bank! 10:30 AM

19  
Nov

Journal Club: Social Medicine 5:00 PM

05  
Dec

Journal Club: Trainee-Led 5:00 PM

See next  
page for  
details!

## Hot Off the Press!

A study reviewing medical charts of 1 million births in 68 hospitals in NJ found **higher rates of unnecessary C-sections in black women.**

Even when matched for similar medical histories and seeing the same doctor, a black parent was 20% more likely than a white parent to have C-section. Overall black women are 25% more likely to be given C-sections; in women with few risk factors the racial gap jumped to 2x more likely. What was surprising were these differences occurred **more often when hospitals had no scheduled C-sections - which suggests non-medical reasoning.** This is especially concerning as C-sections can often lead to more complications - longer recovery, lower odds of successful breastfeeding, and more.

[NYT Article, Paper](#)







*The Women's Health  
Multidisciplinary Consortium &  
The Family Medicine Interest Group  
invite you to a talk about*

# **Supporting Young Mothers in the Community**

**with  
Dr. Karina Olivo-Holzl & the NC Diaper Bank!**

 **12 | NOV  
2024**

 **Roper Hall  
6310**

 **12:15-1:00**

**Snacks provided!**

We will be collecting  
**donations of pads,  
tampons, diapers, and  
adult incontinence wear** at  
The Family Medicine Center  
& Roper Hall!

Volunteer with us at the  
Diaper Bank!  
Fri. Nov 15th | 10:30am-12:30pm  
Scan the QR code to  
sign up!





*Women's Health  
Multidisciplinary Consortium* ✦

**OPEN  
POSITIONS**

Open Positions in these 6 branches for 2025-2026!

1. Hot Topic Seminar Series
2. Journal Club
3. Community Engagement
4. Scholarly Concentration Program (for medical students)
5. Graduate Trainee Program (for PhD and Masters students)
6. Fundraising Team

**Application Extended!  
Apply Here By Nov 4th**

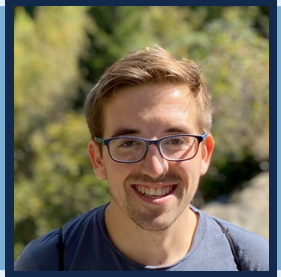


**For all interested parties:**

**Graduate and Medical Students, Undergraduates,  
Residents, Volunteers, & Staff**

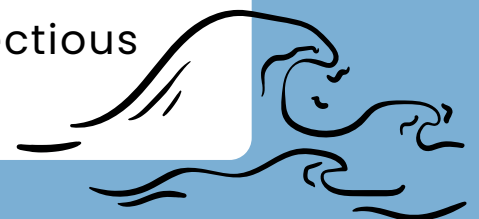
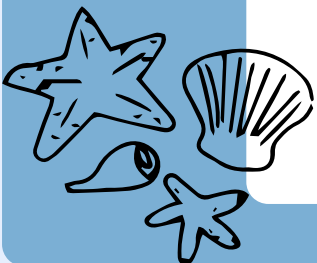


## MEMBER INTERVIEW: SEAN CONNELLY, MD-PHD STUDENT



### **Tell us a little about your background and how it shaped your academic interests:**

Both my interests in academic research and medicine I trace back to growing up in a small tight knit beach town in New Jersey called Long Beach Island (LBI). My mom worked in academic research, moving to the pharmaceutical industry to help bring lifesaving drugs to market. In addition to the emphasis on science, this tight knit town was instilled with small moments of neighborly kindness and care. I wanted to channel this same intention, to care for others as you would want someone to care for you, into my career as a physician. To fuse my passion in science and medicine, I joined the MD-PhD program at UNC, and I am currently working to project that intention of caring for others globally in my research into malaria pathogenesis. Long-term, I hope to perform women's global health research and medicine to decrease maternal morbidity due to infectious disease.





# INTERVIEW, CONTINUED

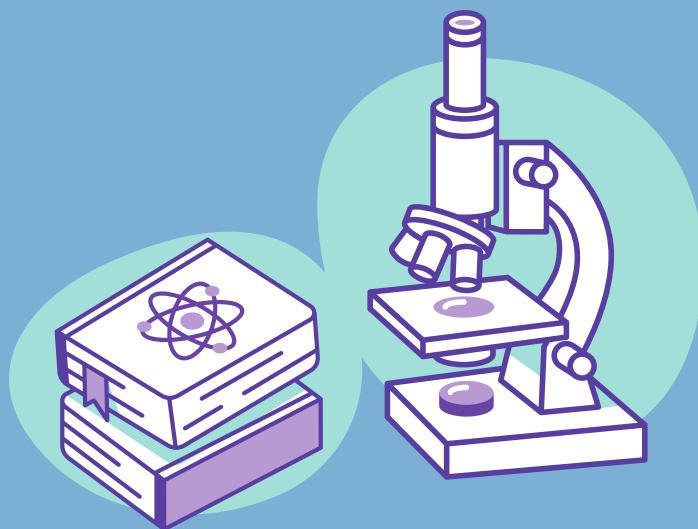
## **What research or other work in women's health are you involved in or would like to get involved in in the future?**

I am currently working with Dr. Neeta Vora on researching genetic determinants of preterm birth. In the future, I would love to focus on preventing malaria in pregnancy, which is the leading infectious cause of low birth weight in Africa, to utilize my skills in genetics and genomics to find ways of preventing malaria infection and pathogenesis in these individuals.



## **Who inspires you academically or otherwise?**

Dr. Anita Zaidi, the president of the Gates foundation's Gender Equality Division, inspires me for her passion in women's health and gender equality worldwide. Her commitment to improving maternal and child health due to infectious causes in low and middle-income countries is very inspiring.





# DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

By Kylie Hutchison  
Doctoral Student,

WHMC Community Engagement member

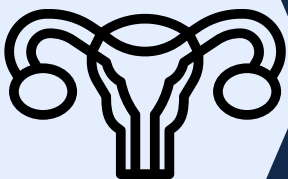
On October 8th, the **Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine** hosted their **Annual Research Symposium** at the NC Botanical Gardens! This year's symposium highlighted the research conducted by the predoctoral students, residents, and postdoctoral/clinical fellows within the department.

The event kicked off with opening remarks from **Dr. Andrew Gladden**, the **Director of Graduate Studies for the Pathobiology and Translational Science Program**. This department houses a variety of women's health research from both the clinical and preclinical side, and both of the spotlight trainee talks focused on different aspects of reproductive health.

The first talk was given by Yuye Wang from the Feng Li lab on the

"Novel roles of low endothelin-1 in superimposed preeclampsia," and the second talk was given by Emily Rabjohns from the Jessica Bowser lab discussing how "CD73 Loss Promotes Cancer Cell Stemness via Metabolic Reprogramming in Endometrial Cancer."

After these talks began the poster sessions with each session showcasing 16 students' current research. Some of the labs represented were Russell Broaddus, Andrew Gladden, Nobuyo Maeda, Matthew Flick, Charles Perou, and more! The posters showcased studies ranging from the immune landscape of triple negative breast cancer to dietary fat impact on endometrial cancer to the genetic variants of ABCA7 transport proteins with regards to Alzheimer's disease.





# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

*Bake sale  
success!*

Thank you to our bakers Sarah,  
Maddy, Katelin, Cherise, Kate,  
Justin, Kylie, and others!



On 10/14, the campus was flooded with cinnamon rolls, toffee cookies, and pumpkin bars! Our bake sale benefitting the Compass Center was a huge success. With over 75 sales we were able to raise \$513 to donate! This money goes towards services such as lock replacements, temporary housing, legal fees, and much more!

On Thursday the 17th we watched a webinar on the newly implemented **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)**.

You can watch the webinar [here](#).



Let us know if you have research  
you would like us to promote!



# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



## **THE SECOND ANNUAL WENDY BREWSTER MEMORIAL SEMINAR**

was a time to bring together colleagues, mentees, and friends of Dr. Brewster to share their research forwarding her dream of improving endometrial cancer and eliminating health disparities, with the aim to carry on her legacy in this important work. Dr. Sam Cykert, Dr. Diane Yamada, and Dr. Nikita Sinha gave fantastic talks on these topics. So many thanks to our speakers and attendees! See the next page for more photos!

## **WENDY R. BREWSTER MD, PHD YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD**

This annual prize honors the legacy of Dr. Wendy R. Brewster and will be given to an individual as a celebration of young investigators demonstrating commitment in the field of gynecologic oncology with a focus on cervical or endometrial cancer research. Individuals from small to medium-sized institutions are highly encouraged to apply.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges Dr. Brewster for all she was and has accomplished as well as all who have supported this award for their generous support.

This is the second year the Foundation is offering this award.

**\$5,000 one-year award**

Nominations and applications due by November 17, 2024

[Apply Here](#)

**Let us know if you have research  
you would like us to promote!**



# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



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you would like us to promote!









# MONTHLY CALENDAR



## NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 WHMC Core Committee Applications Due!!!	5 	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Supporting Young Mother's in the Community Talk	13	14	15 	16
17	18	19 	20 Women in Science CV/Biosketch workshop & headshot session 3-4 pm Marsico 2004	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30



Happy Thanksgiving!





**SOME PEOPLE ASSIGNED  
FEMALE AT BIRTH HAVE A  
RARE ALLERGY TO SEMEN**

**Women's  
Health  
Fun  
Fact**

Sometimes confused as a sperm allergy, this hypersensitivity is actually caused by proteins in the seminal fluid.

The reaction may be systemic or localized, and symptoms include hives, swelling, wheezing, GI symptoms, or anaphylaxis. This can be prevented by condom usage.

Although not a direct cause of infertility, patients may need assistance with conception as the allergy may cause discomfort during unprotected vaginal intercourse.

Treatment includes antihistamines and desensitization. It is diagnosed with skin test, and localized symptoms can resemble yeast infections, STIs and vaginitis.

Shah, A., & Panjabi, C. (2004). Human seminal plasma allergy: a review of a rare phenomenon. *Clinical & Experimental Allergy*, 34(6), 827-838.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<https://forms.gle/rhHNIKqXJoMbVxTJ9>

It's your WHMC  
communication  
engagement team  
here!

We're looking for your submissions! This is a space for a community bulletin – a place to look for research or work positions, fill professional needs, submit shoutouts, and submit photos to be used in future newsletters!

Kate Aberman



Sarah Rebbeor



Kylie Hutchison



Share the WHMC  
listserv with others:



And visit our  
website here