

FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

*Accelerating Women's Health Research
Through Science, Policy, and Investment*



JUNE 15, 2026

Women's
Health
Research
at Yale



Society for
Women's Health
Research

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS



YALE VENTURES

FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPACT

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Hello! And welcome to today's collaborative symposium, **From Discovery to Impact: Accelerating Women's Health Research Through Science, Policy, and Investment** on Yale University's campus in downtown New Haven, CT.

We are thrilled to welcome you to a day that promises to be full of insightful exchange, thought-provoking panels, and new notions about the power of women's health research.

Together, the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) and Women's Health Research at Yale teams have tirelessly planned an agenda packed with leading experts in women's health across policy, industry, and media, alongside many of Yale's best and brightest researchers who stand on the frontlines of women's health innovation. This room of women's health champions is rounded out with **you** – who we hope will leave inspired and energized about **ways you can play a role in accelerating women's health research from discovery to impact.**

It is particularly exciting that SWHR and Women's Health Research at Yale are joining forces for today's event, as both organizations have long histories rooted in work that aims to close the women's health gap.

In 1990, SWHR was founded to address the lack of women included in federal research. The Society plays a critical role in identifying clinical and research gaps; raising awareness of diseases, conditions, and life stages that differently, disproportionately, or exclusively affect women; and promoting policies that could positively shape health outcomes for women – ensuring that women's health remains in the budget, on the agenda, and top of mind for us all.

In 1998, Women's Health Research at Yale was founded by Dr. Carolyn Mazure, becoming one of the nation's first academic centers focused on researching the health of women. The center serves as an incubator with the goal of catalyzing relevant and groundbreaking scientific and medical discoveries while applying a holistic approach to women's health for the benefit of all and investigates sex-based similarities and differences in health conditions that affect women disproportionately, differently, and distinctly. As we continue to grow and scale the impact of our center, this symposium demonstrates how collaboration helps push the frontiers in women's health research, strengthen our pipeline, and disseminate our discoveries to broader audiences.

We cannot wait to share today with you. Thank you again for joining us as we move from discovery to impact in the name of women's health research!

Best,



*Basmah Safilar, MD, MSc
Director of Women's Health Research at
Yale; Norma Weinberg Spungen and Joan
Lebson Bildner Professor in Women's Health
Research; Professor of Emergency Medicine*



*Kathryn Schubert, MPP, CAE
President and CEO of the
Society for Women's Health Research*

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



9:00 AM

Welcome Remarks

Michael Crair, PhD William Ziegler III Professor of Neuroscience and Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Yale School of Medicine



9:10 AM

Setting the Stage & Ignite Introduction

Basmah Safdar, MD, MSc Director, Women's Health Research at Yale



9:20 AM

Ignite Keynote: Inside the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Nicole Kleinstreuer, PhD

NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives



9:40 AM

Morning Greeting

Kathryn Schubert, MPP, CAE

President and CEO
Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR)



9:50 AM

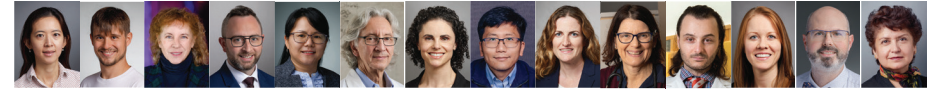
Morning Scientific Spotlights Introduction

Georges El Fakhri, PhD

Elizabeth Mears and House Jameson Professor in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging and of Bioinformatics & Data Science, Yale School of Medicine

Director, Yale Biomedical Imaging Institute

MORNING SCIENTIFIC SPOTLIGHTS



Scientific Spotlight featuring 14 Members of the Women's Health Research at Yale Collaborative

See page 10 for details

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



11:15 AM

Funding Episteme Introduction

James Dziura, MPH, PhD

Professor of Emergency Medicine and of Biostatistics, Yale School of Medicine / Yale School of Public Health

Co-Director, Yale Center for Analytical Sciences (YCAS)

Funding Episteme: Translating Discovery to Impact



Chao Zheng, PhD

Director in CMC Development, Boehringer Ingelheim



Morag Grassie, PhD

Executive Director of the Blavatnik Fund for Innovation, Yale Ventures



Jessica Federer, MPH

Managing Director, The Women's Health Fund



Kathryn Schubert, MPP, CAE

President and CEO, SWHR
Session Moderator



Meet our
Event Speakers

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

11:50 AM **The Power of Women's Health Research at Yale Pilot Project Program & 2026 Grant Announcements**



Carolyn Fredericks, MD
Assistant Professor of Neurology, Yale School of Medicine
Scientific Review Committee Co-Chair, Women's Health Research at Yale



Basmah Safdar, MD, MSc
Director, Women's Health Research at Yale



12:10 PM

Keynote Introduction

Nancy J. Brown, MD

Jean and David W. Wallace Dean of the Yale School of Medicine and C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine



Lunch Keynote: Financing the Future of Women's Health in Connecticut

Sean Scanlon

Connecticut State Comptroller



1:15 PM

Ignite Introduction

Kathryn Schubert, MPP, CAE

President and CEO, Society for Women's Health Research



Ignite Keynote:

Economics of Women's Health Research

Lucy Pérez, PhD

Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



1:35 PM

Federal Fireside, Power of Research Lightning Insights & Policymaker Call to Action

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3)

U.S. House of Representatives

LIGHTNING INSIGHTS



Jeff Gehlhausen, MD, PhD
Dermatology



Jennifer Kwan, MD, PhD
Medicine - Cardiovascular



Lisa Sanders, MD
General Medicine



Rachel Perry, PhD
Cellular & Molecular Physiology



David Stitelman, MD
Surgery



Shantana Hazel
Advocate



Aeka Guru, BS
Women's Health Research at Yale Undergraduate Fellow

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



2:20 PM

Afternoon Scientific Spotlights Introduction

Rajita Sinha, PhD

Foundations Fund Professor of Psychiatry and Professor in the Child Study Center and of Neuroscience, Yale School of Medicine

AFTERNOON SCIENTIFIC SPOTLIGHTS



Scientific Spotlight featuring 10 Members of the Women's Health Research at Yale Collaborative

See page 11 for details



3:10 PM

Session Introduction

Lubna Pal, MD, MSc

Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine

Director, Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Program

Director, Menopause Program



Publishing Science to Change Systems

Miriam Sabin, PhD

North American Senior Executive Editor, *The Lancet*



Meet our Event Speakers

AGENDA & SPEAKERS



3:20 PM

Collective Insight Introduction

Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH

Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine

Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement, Yale Cancer Center

Collective Insight: Scaling Science Through Story



Elizabeth Cooney
Cardiovascular
Disease Reporter
STAT



Betsy McKay
Senior Writer
The Wall Street Journal



Ebong Udoma
Senior Reporter
WSHU



Sara Luciano

Communications Officer
Women's Health Research at Yale
Session Moderator

3:55 PM

The Road Ahead



Basmah Safdar, MD, MSc
Director, Women's Health Research at Yale
Norma Weinberg Spungen and Joan
Lebson Bildner Professor in Women's
Health Research
Professor in Emergency Medicine



Kathryn Schubert, MPP, CAE
President and CEO
Society for Women's Health Research

MORNING SCIENTIFIC SPOTLIGHTS

	Eugenia Chock, MD, MPH <i>Medicine - Rheumatology, Allergy & Immunology</i>	Early Detection of Autoimmune Diseases
	Marc Schneeberger Pané, PhD <i>Cellular & Molecular Physiology</i>	How Diet & Obesity Impact Vision
	Amy Arnsten, PhD <i>Neuroscience</i>	Sex Differences in Stress Response: Depression, PTSD, and Alzheimer's Disease
	Kieran O'Donnell, PhD <i>Child Study Center</i>	Pregnancy & Biological Aging
	Shaoning Jiang, PhD <i>Pathology</i>	Impacts of Pregnancy & Lactation on Metabolic Health
	Jeffrey Bender, MD <i>Medicine - Cardiovascular</i>	Cardiovascular Risk in Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)
	Alicia Little, MD, PhD <i>Dermatology</i>	Immunology of Vulvar Disorders
	Jason Cai, PhD <i>Radiology & Biomedical Imaging</i>	New Imaging Markers for Cancer
	Caroline Johnson, PhD <i>Yale School of Public Health</i>	Sex Differences in Colorectal Cancer
	Lori Bastian, MD, MPH <i>General Medicine and VA Connecticut</i>	Sex Trauma & Cancer Risk
	George Goshua, MD, SM <i>Medicine - Medical Oncology & Hematology</i>	Sex Differences in Iron Deficiency Anemia
	Krysten Bold, PhD <i>Psychiatry</i>	Wearables & Substance Use Disorder Treatment Interventions
	Aaron Lazorwitz, MD, PhD <i>Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences</i>	Building A Better Non-Hormonal Intrauterine Device
	Lubna Pal, MD, MSc <i>Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences</i>	Novel Non-Hormonal Treatments for Menopausal Symptoms

AFTERNOON SCIENTIFIC SPOTLIGHTS

	Garrett Ash, PhD <i>Biomedical Informatics and Data Science</i>	Hormones in Motion: Informed Digital Phenotyping of Exercise Response
	Jordan Galbraith, BA <i>Neurology</i>	Follicle-Stimulating Hormone (FSH), Brain Circuitry, and Alzheimer's Disease
	Shannon Whirledge, PhD, MSc <i>Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences</i>	Identifying Environmental Drivers of Uterine Fibroids
	Jessica Magid-Bernstein, MD, PhD <i>Neurology</i>	The Role Sex Plays in Stroke Outcomes
	Maryam Lustberg, MD, MPH <i>Medicine - Oncology</i>	Menopause Care for Patients with Cancer
	Mary Jane Minkin, MD <i>Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences</i>	Menopause: Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Treatment Algorithms
	Aolan Li, PhD <i>Yale School of Nursing</i>	Sex Differences in Pain, Stress & Omics
	Samah Fodeh-Jarad, PhD, MSc <i>Emergency Medicine</i>	Investigating Patient-Provider Communications Using Artificial Intelligence
	Ellie Proussaloglou, MD <i>Surgery</i>	Protecting Women with Breast Cancer from Financial Toxicity
	Tami Sullivan, PhD <i>Psychiatry</i>	Intimate Partner Violence and Interventions that Promote Resilience and Hope

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH AT YALE PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM AWARDEES!

General Awards

For research designed to meet a clear need in advancing the health of women.

Predictors of Progression to Diabetes in Young Adult Women and Men



Stephanie Samuels, MD
Assistant Professor, Pediatric
Endocrinology & Diabetes

Linking Obesity to Accelerated Ovarian Aging



Hattie Chung PhD
Assistant Professor of
Medicine (Cardiology) and
Molecular, Cellular, and
Developmental Biology



Ken Loh, PhD
Assistant Professor
in Comparative
Medicine

Women's Health and Cancer Research Award

New in 2026 and co-funded by Yale Cancer Center, this award is for research assessing sex differences in cancer or female-specific cancers involving variations in incidence, mortality, and treatment outcomes, influenced by a combination of biological factors (like sex chromosomes, hormones, immune response, and obesity) and/or lifestyle/environmental factors (like smoking and nutrition).

Imaging Based Biomarkers and Predictive Modeling for Ovarian Cancers



**Katyayani Papatla,
MD, MPH**
Assistant Professor of
Obstetrics, Gynecology,
and Reproductive
Sciences



Sanjay Aneja, MD
Assistant Professor in
Comparative Medicine

Etiology and Outcomes of Early-Onset Breast Cancer: A Novel Study Leveraging a Large Birth Cohort



Xiaomei Ma, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology
(Chronic Diseases), Yale School
of Public Health

The Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award

For highly innovative proof-of-concept research aimed at advancing our understanding of sex-specific or female-specific factors to catalyze discovery or utilization of precision-based diagnostics or therapeutics targeting symptoms or other health outcomes.

X-Linked HMG5 in Female Predisposition to Autoimmunity



Shangqin Guo, PhD
Associate Professor in
Cellular Biology

A Note from Wendy Naratil, Yale '83

In celebration of our 30th Yale Reunion in 2013, my husband Tom and I were pleased to create an endowment at Women's Health Research at Yale to fund an annual Pioneer Award to support innovative, high-impact women's health research that could potentially achieve a breakthrough. Many transformative scientific discoveries begin as small pilot projects that have difficulty attracting funding. We wanted to help Yale researchers generate the data needed to pursue larger grants.

Through Women's Health Research at Yale's thoughtful and strategic disbursement of our gift, Tom and I are fortunate to have helped fund research focused on cancer, neuroscience, cardiovascular disease, metabolism, mental health, and sex differences in disease. This year, we are excited that our Pioneer Award will enable Dr. Shangqin Guo to investigate why women are disproportionately affected by autoimmune diseases. This understanding can fuel earlier detection of susceptibility and the development of therapies to prevent irreversible tissue damage before disease fully manifests.



About the Society for Women's Health Research

The Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) is advancing women's health through science, policy, and education while promoting research on sex differences to optimize women's health. Join us in making women's health mainstream!

SWHR plays a critical role in identifying clinical and research gaps; raising awareness of health conditions, diseases, and life stages that disproportionately, differently, or exclusively affect women; and promoting policies that will positively shape health outcomes for all women. Visit our website at www.swhr.org.

SWHR focuses its efforts in the following women's health areas:

- Autoimmune Diseases
- Eye Health
- Gynecologic Health
- Healthy Aging
- Infectious Diseases
- Liver Health
- Maternal Health
- Pain
- Sleep
- Research and Evidence



Women's Health Research at Yale

About Women's Health Research at Yale

Women's Health Research at Yale improves the lives of women and men through collaborations to achieve scientific discovery, education, translation, and dissemination.



Founded in 1998 as one of the nation's first academic research centers to study sex differences in health in an interdisciplinary manner, Women's Health Research at Yale is leading discovery, translation, and dissemination to close the women's health gap and advance the well-being of men and women alike. Learn more about our work at medicine.yale.edu/whr.

Our signature Pilot Project Program injects crucial funding and incubates research at the earliest stages of discovery into health conditions that differently, disproportionately, and distinctly affect women. From cardiovascular disease to cancer, Alzheimer's disease to stroke, mental health to menopause and more, this work affects the health of at least half the U.S. population and billions more around the world.

Change cannot be achieved alone, and we invite members of the Yale community to join the Women's Health Research at Yale Collaborative. We are more than 250 members strong, representing 10 schools and 35 departments across Yale, all committed to strengthening and enhancing Yale's reputation as a leader in women's health.

Together, through cross-sector collaborations like our inaugural **From Discovery to Impact** symposium, we are able to disseminate discoveries, bringing them back to our patients' bedsides and communities.



Stay up to date on the latest women's health news and resources by subscribing to the SWHR monthly Women's Health Updates newsletter at swhr.org/newsletter.



Join the Women's Health Research at Yale Collaborative

My Women's Health Research Takeaways

ENGAGE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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