

Voice of the Trainee

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NACHHD Council



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER

My Education and Career in Research

*Join High School Base
Pair Program*

*Graduate High
School*

*BME Degree at GWU
SURE Program each summer*

*Graduate School at
UMMC SGSHS*

*NRSA Predoctoral
Fellowship Funded*

*Started
Postdoctoral
Fellowship*

*NRSA Postdoctoral
Fellowship Funded*

*Instructor
Position*

2012

2015

2015 - 2019

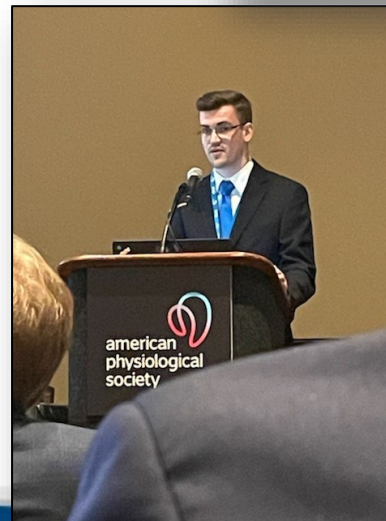
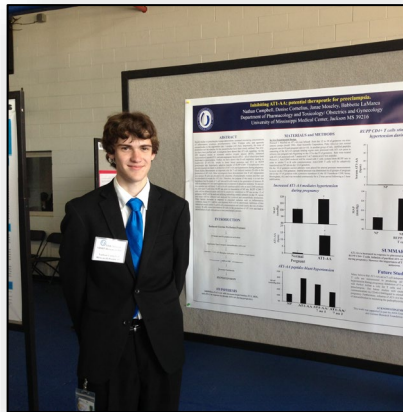
2019-2024

2022

2024

2025

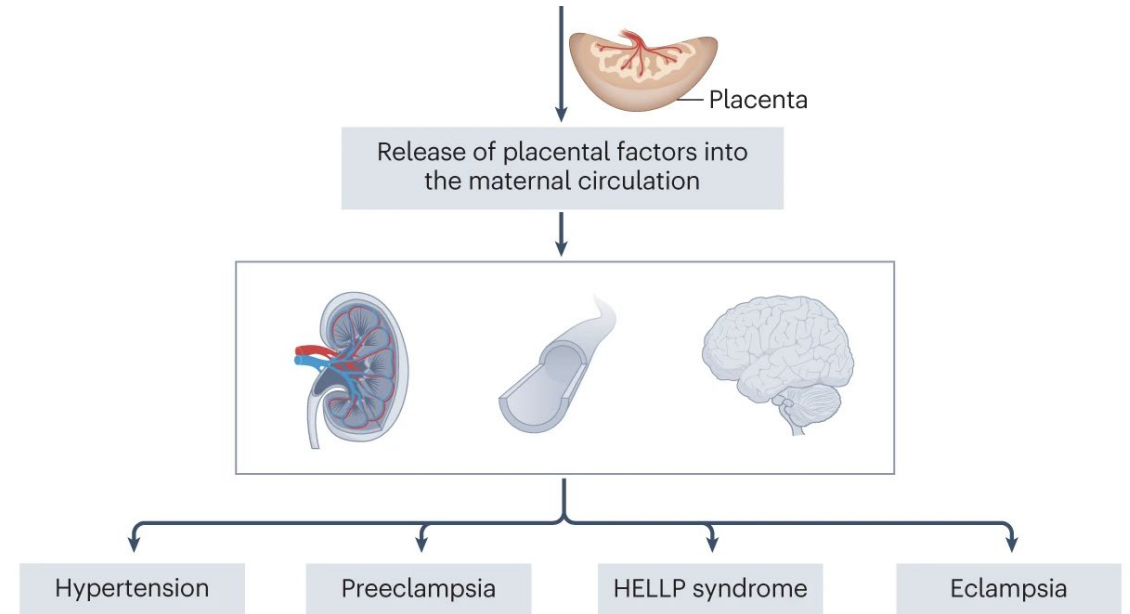
2025



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Why Preeclampsia and Why Mississippi

- Serendipity
- Scope of work
- The people I work with



Importance to My Home State

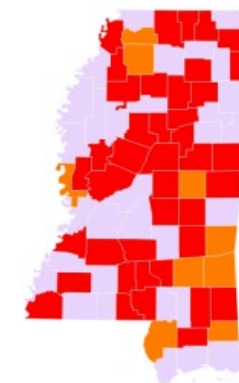


ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE IN MISSISSIPPI

Access to care during pregnancy and around the time of birth is not consistently available across the country. Hospital closures and a shortage of providers are driving changes in maternity care access, especially within rural areas and among Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).³ The level of maternity care access within each county is classified across Mississippi by the availability of birthing facilities, maternity care providers, and the percent of uninsured women (see table). The map shows that in Mississippi, 51.2 percent of counties are defined as maternity care deserts compared to 32.6 percent of counties in the U.S. overall.

FINDINGS

- In Mississippi, there was a 5.4% increase in the number of birthing hospitals between 2020 and 2019.
- In Mississippi, there was 8,148 babies born in maternity care deserts, 23.2% of all births.
- 34.7% of babies were born to women who live in rural counties, while 25.2% of maternity care providers practice in rural counties in Mississippi



DEFINITIONS OF MATERNITY CARE DESERT AND LEVEL OF MATERNITY CARE ACCESS

Definitions	Maternity care deserts	Low access	Moderate access	Full access*
Hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care	zero	<2	<2	≥2
Obstetric providers (obstetrician, family physician†, CNM/CM per 10,000 births)	zero	<60	<60	≥60
Proportion of women 18-64 without health insurance	any	≥10%	<10%	any

Maternity care desert **Low access** **Moderate access** **Full access**

Sources: U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Area Health Resources Files, 2022; American Board of Family Medicine, 2017-2020; National Center for Health Statistics, 2021 final natality data.

Note: CNM/CM – certified nurse midwives/certified midwives.

*A county is full access if it meets one or more of the criteria.

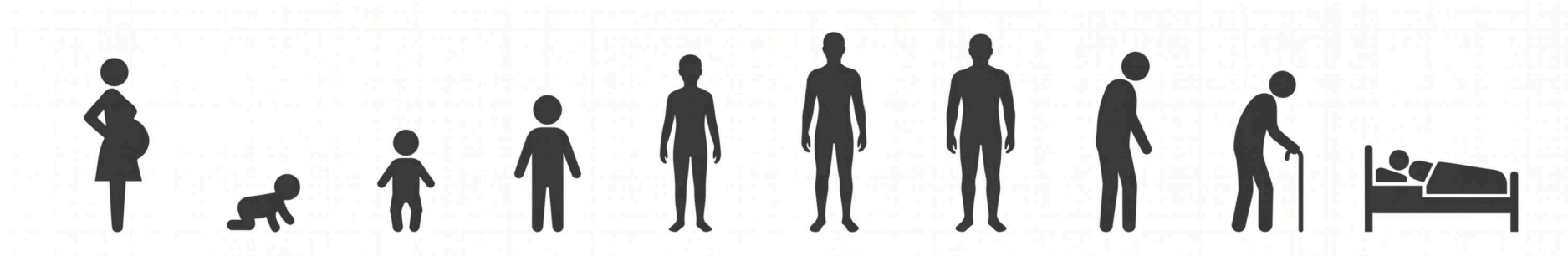
†Includes family physicians who provide obstetric care

WHERE YOU LIVE MATTERS: MATERNITY CARE DESERTS AND THE CRISIS OF ACCESS AND EQUITY

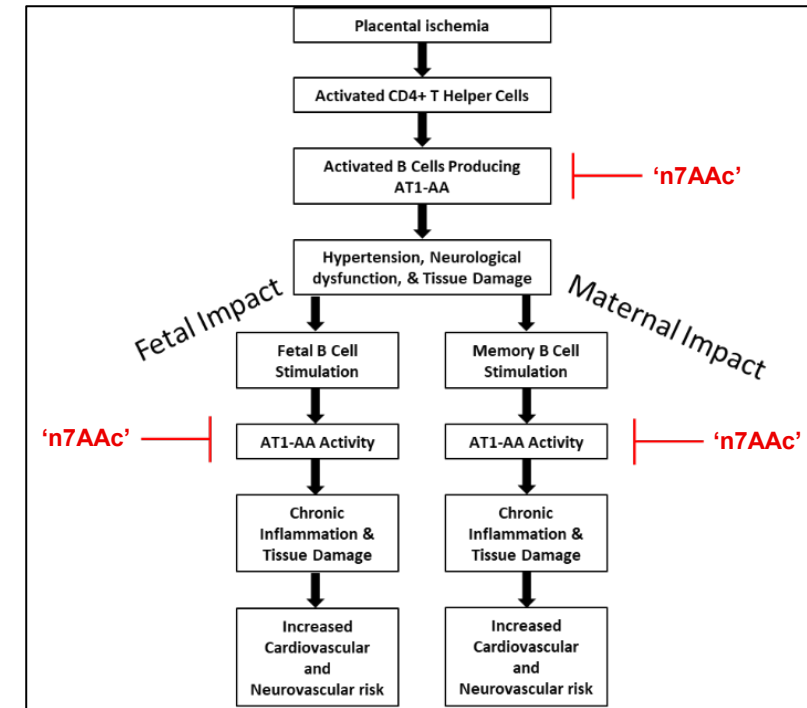
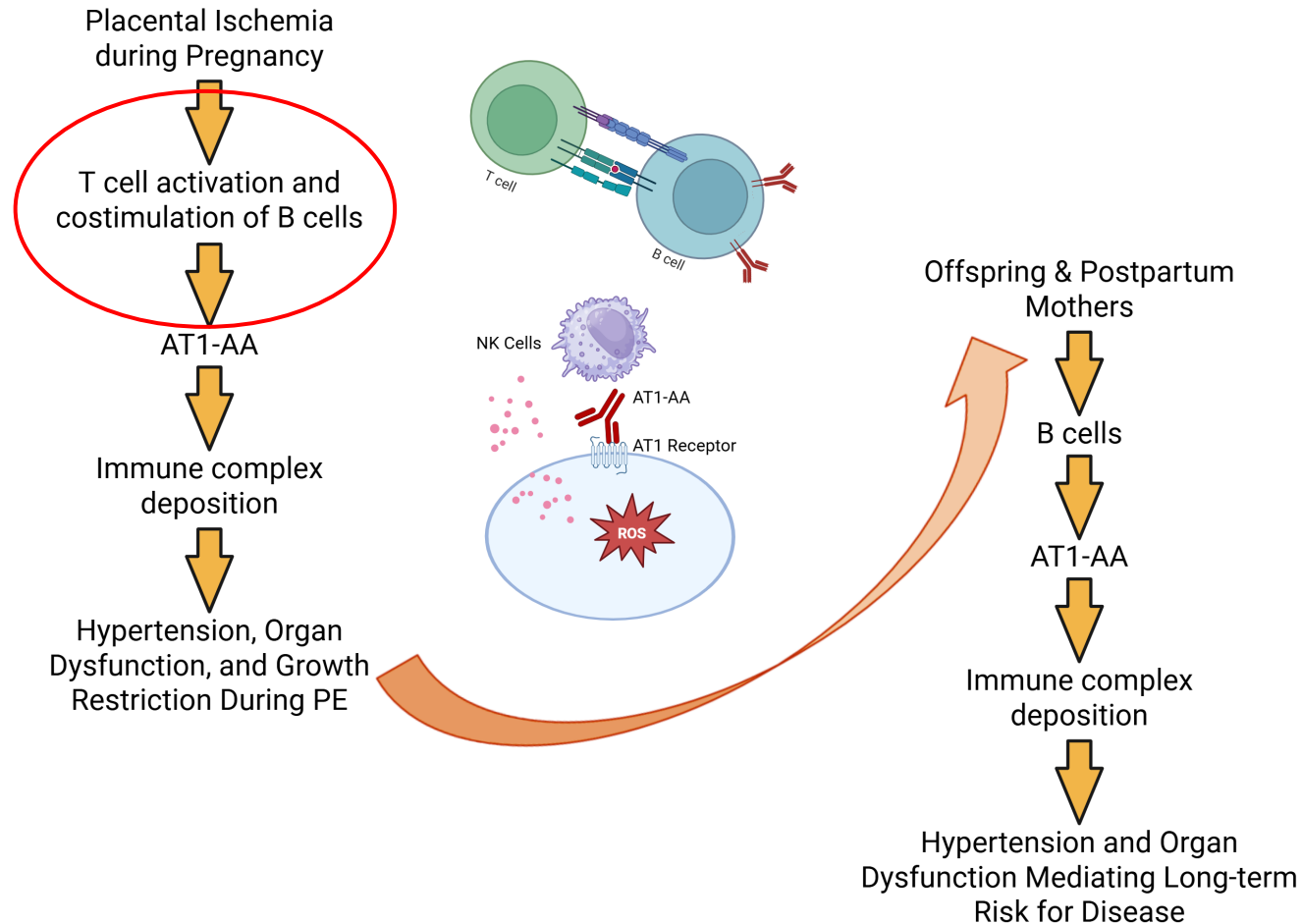
March of Dimes recommends state policy actions that address access to care. See <https://www.marchofdimes.org/factsheets>

Goal of our Research Program

- Currently, there is no cure for Preeclampsia
- Treatments attempt to manage symptoms but the only potential resolution is delivery
- The goal of our research program is to develop therapeutics to improve maternal health without compromising fetal health



Overview of Current Research



How NIH Funding has Influenced My Path

- Getting funding gave me confidence in myself as a trainee, junior investigator, and grant writer.
- Freedom to try different experiments and develop some of my own ideas
- Allowed me to travel to many different conferences and build a strong network



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AT1-AA Infusion during Pregnancy Impairs CBF Autoregulation Postpartum

Nathan Campbell^{1,7}, Luke Strong¹, Xing Fang¹, Jane J Border¹, Owen Herrock¹, Ty Turner¹, Evangeline Deer¹, Lorena Amaral¹, Ralf Dechend³, Richard J Roman¹, Babbette LaMarca^{1,2,*}

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AT1-AA induced hypertension during pregnancy contributes to developmental programming of hypertension in female offspring

Nathan Campbell^a, James P. Lemon^a, Melissa Helmich^b, Dylan Solise^b, Alexandra Demesa^a, Ella Goolsby^a, Evan LaMarca^a, Evangeline Deer^a, Denise C. Cornelius^a, Ty Turner^a, Lorena M. Amaral^a, Baoying Zheng^a, Babbette LaMarca^{a,b,*}

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Journal of the American Heart Association



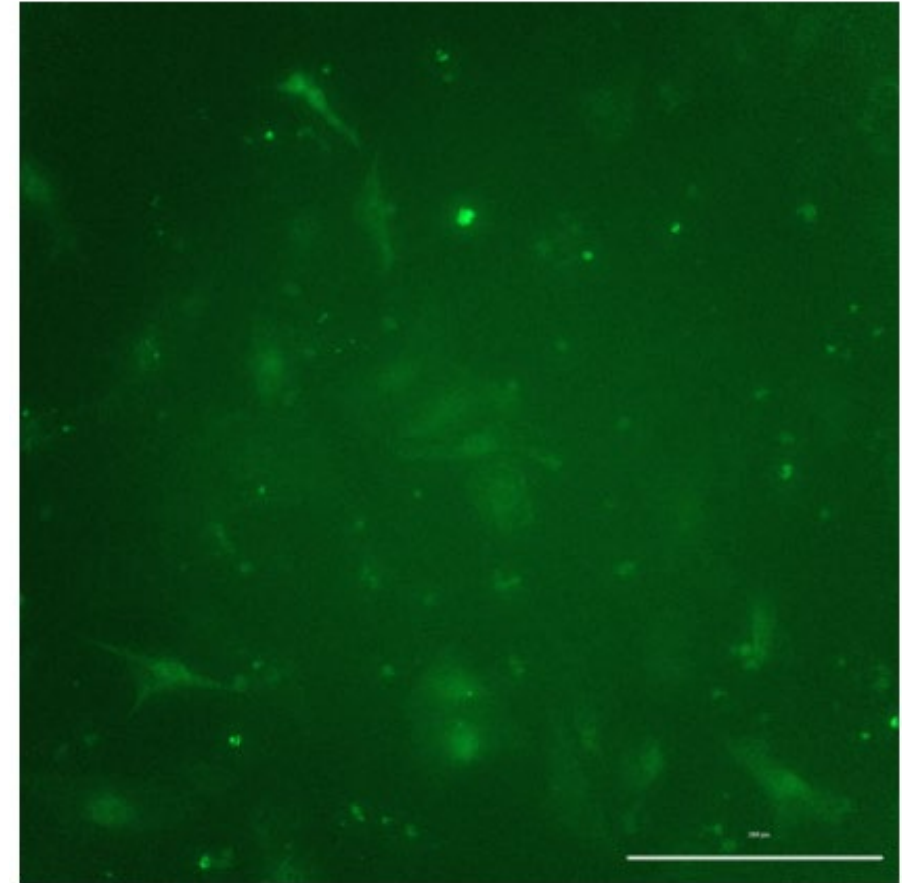
ORIGINAL RESEARCH

AT1-AA Is Produced in Offspring in Response to Placental Ischemia and Is Lowered by B-Cell Depletion Without Compromising Overall Offspring Health

Nathan Campbell^a, BS; Evangeline Deer^a, PhD; Dylan Solise, MD; Denise C. Cornelius^a, PhD; Ty Turner^a, AS; Lorena M. Amaral, PhD; Owen Herrock, PhD; Ariel Jordan, AS; Shivani Shukla^a; Tarek Ibrahim, MS; Babbette LaMarca^a, PhD

Importance of NIH Funding for My State

- Provided support for me as a graduate student that led to the development of an assay to measure AT1-AA
- Only lab in the country that measures this autoantibody.
- Measuring this postpartum in patient populations can help provide information to patients as to what type of medication may be the most effective in treating hypertension after preeclampsia



My Next Steps

- Publish data from current grants
- Apply for and obtain career development/transition to independence grant (K99/R00)
- Start lab investigating immune mediated consequences of PE on children long term with goal of identifying therapeutics that can reduce adult risks for disease

Thank you!

Questions?