



gapps

an initiative of Seattle Children's

GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT
PREMATURITY AND STILLBIRTH

Each year, 1 million preterm newborns die and 3 million stillbirths occur.

These crises devastate families in all countries.

We can save lives now with innovative solutions.

Preterm Birth & Stillbirth: The Challenge

Preterm birth is the leading cause of newborn deaths worldwide. Annually, an estimated 13 million babies are born too early. Babies born before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy have increased risks for infections, cerebral palsy, and respiratory, vision, hearing, and developmental problems.

Additionally, a staggering 3.2 million stillbirths occur each year. These losses are not considered in most health policies or goals. The one million occurring during labor and childbirth can be prevented with current interventions. Most stillbirths occur in low- and middle-income countries, and nearly half are linked to maternal deaths.

In the United States, one in eight babies is born too soon. Disparities persist. Rates among blacks are nearly twice as high as whites or Asians.

An even larger disparity exists between costs and research; preterm birth is the 7th leading U.S. health care expenditure (\$26B), yet perinatal health research ranks only 63rd in NIH funding.

What Is Needed

Many causes, solutions, and burdens of preterm birth and stillbirth remain unknown or untold. We urgently need better data and tools, and more champions and resources.

About GAPPS

Seattle Children's launched the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth (GAPPS) to address these challenges. Our mission is to lead a collaborative, global effort to increase awareness and accelerate innovative research and interventions that will improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.



Innovative Global Health Solutions

Our Focus

- Understand the magnitude and impact of preterm birth and stillbirth
- Strengthen research capacity in low- and middle-income countries
- Accelerate diagnostics, treatment, and prevention strategies through discovery science
- Identify and develop cost-effective and evidence-based interventions
- Increase awareness of preterm birth and stillbirth
- Unlock resources necessary to reduce preterm birth and stillbirth

Global Action Agenda

GAPPS convened the 2009 International Conference on Prematurity & Stillbirth with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, March of Dimes, PATH, Save the Children, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. This was a novel, four-day working meeting of nearly 200 interdisciplinary experts from around the world. The Global Action Agenda (GAA) on prematurity and stillbirth—developed at this conference— includes short-, intermediate- and long-term milestones to improve maternal, newborn and child health by 2015. The focus of GAPPS emerges from critical initiatives in the GAA.

Research & Advocacy Efforts

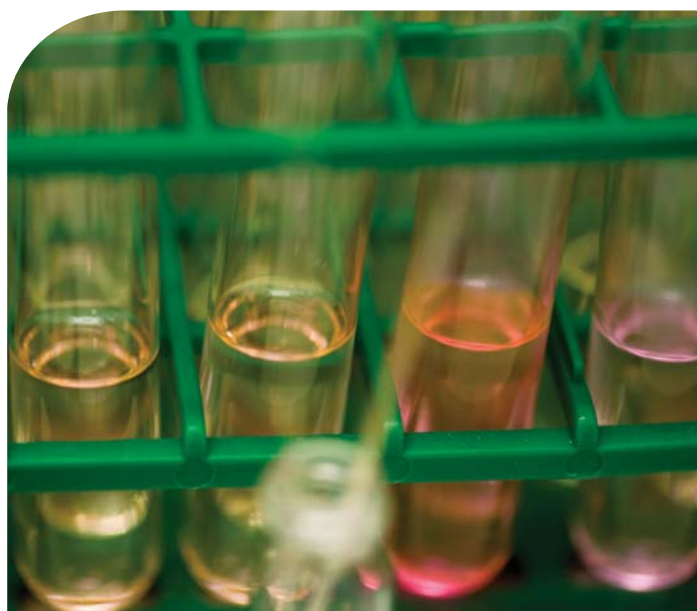
- *Global report on preterm birth & stillbirth: the foundation for innovative solutions and improved outcomes.* (published February 23, 2010)
- Intergrowth 21st: Collaborating with the University of Oxford and the University of Washington on fetal and newborn growth research (ongoing)
- Perinatal Intervention Program: Collaborating with PATH (in progress)
- Research on maternal and newborn infections (in progress)
- Campaign to raise awareness and influence policy (in progress)

The GAPPS Repository

Researchers worldwide have a critical need for diverse high-quality prenatal and postnatal information. GAPPS is building a significant global collection of prospective data and specimens linked to phenotypic data from pregnant women and newborns. This collection will provide a vital resource for international researchers aiming to understand and prevent preterm birth and stillbirth. This information will also be accessible to researchers studying related maternal, newborn and child health issues.

The GAPPS Repository centralizes data management, standardizes collection processes, and provides these data and samples to answer a variety of research questions. Other collections are typically designed to answer a specific research question, and are not accessible or standardized.

The GAPPS Repository is also becoming a model for enhancing research capacities and strengthening research infrastructure globally. GAPPS launched the repository with sites in Washington state.



The GAPPS Team of International Investigators

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