



gappps

an initiative of Seattle Children's

GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO PREVENT
PREMATURITY AND STILLBIRTH

The GAPPS Repository

- Creates a vital resource for researchers exploring the causes of preterm labor and stillbirth
- Supports research in genetics, proteomics, biology, epidemiology, translational development, pathophysiology, ethics & social justice, and healthcare delivery
- Provides a new global resource to inspire technological innovations for improving maternal and newborn health (e.g., new diagnostics, therapeutics, and prevention)

The Collection System

The GAPPS Repository is a coordinated and standardized system for collecting, processing, banking and sharing data and specimens from diverse populations of pregnant women. This information will drive discovery science research and lead to the development and delivery of innovative solutions in the field of maternal, newborn and child health.

High-quality data and prenatal specimens will be collected throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period. Specimens will be linked to phenotypic data, enabling the study of multiple factors at different points throughout pregnancy—necessary for predicting adverse outcomes and their relation to gestational age. The GAPPS Repository also provides a resource for studies on other related maternal, newborn and child health issues, including those aimed at understanding the fetal origins of acute and chronic adult diseases.

Network of Collection Sites

The GAPPS repository will launch with sites in Washington State and California, providing a standardized prospective collection of prenatal specimens linked to phenotypic data for researchers to study a large, diverse population. The Repository will maintain the highest standards of privacy and confidentiality to protect the rights of donors. These initial sites will serve as a model for scaling up research capacity in regions of the world with the highest rates of prematurity and stillbirth such as South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shared Research Resource

Most other specimen collections are available to answer a specific research question, and have limited value for unrelated or comparative studies. This standardized collection of prenatal specimens and phenotypic data will enable broader research usage. All sites will follow GAPPS's protocols and standard operating procedures during collection and processing. Data and specimens will be made available to researchers worldwide. Once collection processes are refined, GAPPS will help train and strengthen in-country research capacity.

