



National Institutes of Health
Office of Research on Women's Health



Women's Health Research Roundtable: The Vaginal Microbiome and Implications for Women's Health

Thursday, July 17, 2025, 3-4 p.m. EDT



To participate in this webinar, please register at

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d6b58e21-cf24-46e8-b101-c277cd214ff4@14b77578-9773-42d5-8507-251ca2dc2b06>

FEATURING:



Mary Kimmel, M.D., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Washington University in St. Louis with expertise in the microbiome and reproductive psychiatry. Dr. Kimmel will discuss the microbiome's influence on the HPA and HPO axes and explore future directions to support maternal mental health through microbiome-informed strategies. She will share findings from a study of pregnant individuals in North Carolina and Sweden, examining how gut microbiome diversity and function relate to depression and anxiety during pregnancy and the postpartum period. The study highlights complex patterns in alpha-diversity and identifies microbial functions, such as cortisol degradation and short-chain fatty acid synthesis, linked to mood symptoms and stress response.



Anuja Dokras, M.D., MHCI, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Women's Health Center for Clinical Innovation (WHCCI) and the Founder's Professor of Women's Health in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. She is also the Director of the PENN Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Center, a multi-disciplinary center providing care to adolescents and people with PCOS across the lifespan. Dr. Dokras brings to this role her extensive research experience in translational medicine and clinical trials with a focus on understanding cardiometabolic risk and mental health co-morbidities associated with PCOS. Dr. Dokras will discuss the vaginal microbiome in polycystic ovary syndrome.

Sign language interpreting services are available upon request. Individuals who need interpreting services and/or other reasonable accommodations to participate in this event should contact Liz Schott at elizabeth.schott@nih.gov. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.

