Prospective Study of Sex Differences in the Development of PTSD:
Why Women are at Higher Risk

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Abstract: Epidemiological studies illustrate that females are more at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than men. Thus, identifying biological pathways that increase risk for developing PTSD following trauma exposure specifically in women is critical for characterizing novel therapeutic targets. In the current talk, we will discuss findings from our prospective study in a level 1 Emergency Department.

Cardiometabolic Risk in African American Women:
Pregnancy as a Stress Test for Risk

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Abstract: US women, particularly African American women, experience markedly greater maternal mortality and morbidity compared to women of other developed nations. A substantial portion of the excess US maternal mortality and morbidity is attributed to cardiometabolic complications of pregnancy, including hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP, such as preeclampsia, eclampsia, and gestational hypertension) and gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). Existing risk factors and biomarkers cannot adequately identify women who will experience cardiometabolic complications of pregnancy, such that risk-reduction strategies cannot be effectively targeted. Omics technologies offer great promise in identifying early, subclinical variations in risk that may allow for earlier identification and intervention. In this presentation, we will share preliminary findings related to the lipidomics and metabolomics profile in pregnancy and the microbiome profile of postpartum African American women.

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