

UCLA College | Life Sciences **Center for Reproductive Science, Health & Education**

Newsletter | Spring 2025

The UCLA Center for Reproductive Science, Health and Education (CRSHE) envisions a future in which reproductive policies and care are based on rigorous science, and access to this care is more equitable.

Director's Message



Spring quarter 2025 capped off a successful third year for CRSHE. I would like to begin by sincerely thanking our supporters who donated during Bruin Giving Day. Your generous gifts will fund 2026 health and science research fellowships to enable early-career scientists to perform research aimed at improving reproductive health and care. Spring quarter at the Center has seen a strategic focus on education and public outreach.

At our spring distinguished speaker event, we hosted New York Times journalist Elizabeth Dias, who expertly walked us through the political, legal and social forces that shaped the decade leading to the fall of Roe and the current societal shifts changing the role of women in American life today.

Our “Let’s Talk Science” event hosted by UCLA Life Sciences Dean Tracy Johnson focused on in vitro fertilization (IVF) and the increasing challenges associated with creating excess embryos. Easing the frozen embryo crisis will require new scientific innovations aimed at improving IVF while minimizing the need to generate surplus embryos during the procedure. Our panel of experts walked us through the clinical, scientific and legal changes required to achieve this goal.

Our May CRSHE podcast hosted by Stephanie Kiesow-Edoh included an informative interview with USC professor Darby Saxbe on paternal mental health during the dynamic transition to parenthood. The overwhelming message is that fathers’ mental wellness before, during and after birth should be included in a comprehensive family care plan to promote healthy families. Please stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will unveil our 2025 reproductive health and science fellowship winners. This is a highlight for me as we usher in the future scientific leaders whose impactful research will undoubtedly make a difference in the world. Wishing you all good health over the coming months.

Warm regards,

Amander Clark, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Reproductive Science, Health and Education
Professor, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
UCLA College of Letters and Science

Spotlight: Recent Virtual Event

Let's Talk Science: The Science of Reproduction and the Future of Reproductive Care

In this phenomenal "Let's Talk Science" panel, we invited four leading UCLA experts to discuss their work in IVF and emerging reproductive technologies. Our panel included Daniel Dumesic, M.D., who is a physician specializing in reproductive endocrinology and infertility; Amander Clark, Ph.D., who is a scientist using donated IVF embryos in her research; Wayne Grody, M.D., Ph.D., a physician-scientist who is an expert in genetic testing; and Melissa Goodman, J.D., a lawyer and expert in reproductive rights, law and policy. Together, the panel discussed the current and future landscape of IVF research, practice and policy. [Watch the talk here.](#)



Event Recap

Spring 2025 Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Elizabeth Dias

We were thrilled to host Elizabeth Dias, New York Times national religion correspondent and bestselling author of "The Fall of Roe: The Rise of A New America," for our most recent Distinguished Speaker Series this spring. To learn more about this fantastic event and discussion, please [read here.](#)



New CRSHE Fact Sheets

We are excited to share three new fact sheets with you! These fact sheets are the final products of our most recent winter 2025 MCDB 188 course where students were mentored closely over 10 weeks to create an evidence-based fact sheet related to reproductive science and health. Interested in reading more? Click the links below!

[Embryo Storage](#) by Isabel Angres



[Wildfires and Breastfeeding](#) by Trisha Mantri



[Pregnancy and Wildfires](#) by Clara Sullivan



To view additional fact sheets created by CRSHE students and volunteers, [click here](#).

New Episode: CRSHE Podcast

Neurobiological Changes in Fathers with Darby Saxbe

Do fathers experience neurobiological changes during the postpartum period similar to that of mothers? Stephanie sits down with Darby Saxbe, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the University of Southern California, to explore this transition to parenthood as a window of neuroplasticity. The two dive into the influence of specific hormones such as prolactin, why fathers have been understudied and the importance of social connection in society today. [Listen here](#).



CRSHE Seminar Series

CRSHE Seminar Series with Gabrielle Rinne

We were thrilled to wrap up our spring quarter seminar series with Gabrielle Rinne! During this talk, Rinne discussed her graduate research findings on the biological, psychological and social factors before, during and after pregnancy that influence maternal and child health outcomes.



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