

# IOM Recommendations

## Measurement

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- Improve perinatal data collection
  - Record GA by early ultrasound
  - Record use and type of infertility treatment
  - Develop scheme to categorize PTB
- Better measurement of GA
  - Encourage routine early ultrasound
  - Develop new prenatal and postnatal measures of fetal maturity
  - Assess racial disparities in GA measurement/reporting

# IOM Recommendations

## Etiologic Research

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- Recognize heterogeneity of PTB
  - Phenotype-specific research
  - Combine biology, epidemiology, sociology
  - More emphasis on physical and social (e.g., neighborhood) environment
  - Genes and gene-environment interactions
- Increased focus on understanding disparities
- Consequences of infertility treatments

# IOM Recommendations

## Research Agenda

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- Multidisciplinary research centers
  - “De-silo” epidemiologic research
  - Ample and sustained funding
- Build research capacity
  - Multidisciplinary training environments
  - Incentives for clinician-scientists
- Study impact of health care system
- Study effects of public programs/policies

# Epidemiologic Research

## Work Group Tasks

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- Review IOM report recommendations
- Supplement IOM recommendations
  - Incorporate new findings
  - Benefit from collective expertise of WG
- What are most promising/urgent next steps?
  - Feasibility (time, capacity, money)
  - Rationale: Why are these the most promising?
- Timing: short vs longer-term

# Improved Surveillance

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- Collecting more/better data is not sufficient
  - Resources needed to analyze, interpret, and report the data to decision makers and researchers
  - Need for more money and more people
- Track rise in late preterm birth
  - Increase in obstetric intervention
  - Role of patient/provider decision-making
  - Contribution of ART
- Contribution of birth defects

# Racial Disparities in PTB

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- Track trends by subtypes and GA
- Research to understand *causes* of disparities
  - Physical environment
  - Social environment (neighborhood, community)
  - Access to and quality of prenatal and other health care
  - Clinical management
  - Gene-environment interactions

# Translational Research

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- Basic to clinical/epidemiologic research (T1)
  - Genomic/proteomic biomarkers
  - Inflammatory, stress, and vascular pathways
  - Placental function
- Clinical evidence to health care delivery (T2)
  - 17-OHP: evaluate barriers to uptake (licensure, insurance, provider education, patient acceptance)
  - ART: RCTs, population-based cohort studies of single-embryo transfer