

Psychology Department's
44th Annual Prairie
Undergraduate Research
Conference.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

Department of Psychology

Early exposures with lasting impact: How the prenatal environment shapes brain development



Dr. Catherine Lebel

**Professor, Cumming School of
Medicine, University of
Calgary**

Department of Radiology

Image Credits: Dr. Catherine Lebel

**Friday,
April 24th**

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**3C00 (3rd floor of Centennial Hall)
University of Winnipeg,
515 Portage Avenue**

Early brain development is highly sensitive to the prenatal environment, and exposures during pregnancy can have lasting effects on children's brain, cognitive, and behavioural development. Drawing on population-based neuroimaging, and large longitudinal cohort studies, my work examines how prenatal and early-life factors, such as maternal mental health, substance use, and life events, are associated with variations in children's brain structure, learning and behaviour.

The findings show that some prenatal exposures are linked to enduring differences in brain development, while others influence developmental trajectories across childhood, highlighting opportunities for prevention and early intervention.

This lecture is free and open to the public.