

Lay summary: Investigating the role of the maternal microbiome in fetal neurodevelopment

**Deborah Kurrasch (PI): University of Calgary**

**Kathy McCoy (co-PI): University of Calgary**

During pregnancy, adverse changes to the maternal gut microbiome are associated with deficits in social behaviors in the children later in life, suggesting that the maternal microbiome can influence neurodevelopmental programs. However, the factors linking the maternal microbiome and the developing brain are unknown. Here, using mice models we will change microbiomes during pregnancy and study the effects on fetal neurodevelopment.