Session Details

Session #: 301
Title: Epigenetics and Reproductive Justice
Speaker: Lisa Weasel, PhD and Roberta Hunte, PhD
Date: Saturday, October 15
Time: 8:15-9:30am
CE Contact Hours: 1.25
Pharm Hours: 0

Session Description

This presentation will discuss the current “state of the science” of epigenetics as it pertains to maternal and fetal health, and how stressors linked to social and environmental exposures impact pregnancy and birth outcomes, through neurochemistry and epigenetic expression. There will be an emphasis on women’s intersectional identities, as experienced through race, class, gender and sexuality, and the differential potentials for impacts related to current and historical trauma. The session will guide practitioners through the lens of reproductive justice, providing background and guidelines on how clinicians can participate in strengthening patients’ resilience and resistance in the face of socially-derived pregnancy risks. Specific suggestions for bringing a reproductive justice approach to maternal healthcare will be provided. This session will be presented as a dialogue between the two presenters, who will then invite members of the audience to engage in a discussion with them to apply what has been presented.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session, the learner will be able to:

1. Define epigenetics with regard to its impact on maternal and fetal health.
2. Differentiate impacts of stress, diet, and epigenetic factors on the basis of intersectional lived identities including race, gender, class and sexuality.
3. Identify practices, actions, and frameworks in clinical practice that can support reproductive autonomy and maternal and fetal epigenetic health.
4. Translate content presented into practical, real-life clinical settings.

Disclosures

Conflict of Interest for Presenter:

- The presenter(s) of this session declare no conflict of interest. As faculty/presenter for this activity, presenter attests that they will provide the best available evidence for this content and present information fairly and without bias.