



Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness

Annual Report 2025

Director's Message

As we close out another year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous work we've accomplished and acknowledge the growing need to address the health of our communities. Rising costs of living, federal funding reductions and elimination of programs supporting health, wellness and nutrition are continuing to drive inequities and increase chronic disease rates. Now more than ever it is critical to focus on prevention of chronic disease risk through supporting quality nutrition before and during pregnancy and in the first years of life.

The Moore Institute works to translate the science of Developmental Origins of Health & Disease, or DOHaD, into reduced chronic disease rates for this generation and the next through improved nutrition before and during pregnancy and in the first years of life. The Center for Developmental Health (CDH) is comprised of more than 60 scientists from basic and clinical research departments across OHSU. Together these two groups work to make OHSU an international leader in advancing DOHaD education, research, translation and implementation. As part of our work to better align the Moore Institute and the Center for Developmental Health, we are creating a combined annual report for the first time this year. These groups exist as separate entities with unique funding streams; the CDH is part of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute (KCVI) and the Moore Institute is a stand-alone entity within the OHSU School of Medicine. However, we share staff, and I serve as director of both groups. Over the past year we have created and socialized a shared vision and broad joint strategic plan to better move science from the pages of research journals to the streets of our communities.



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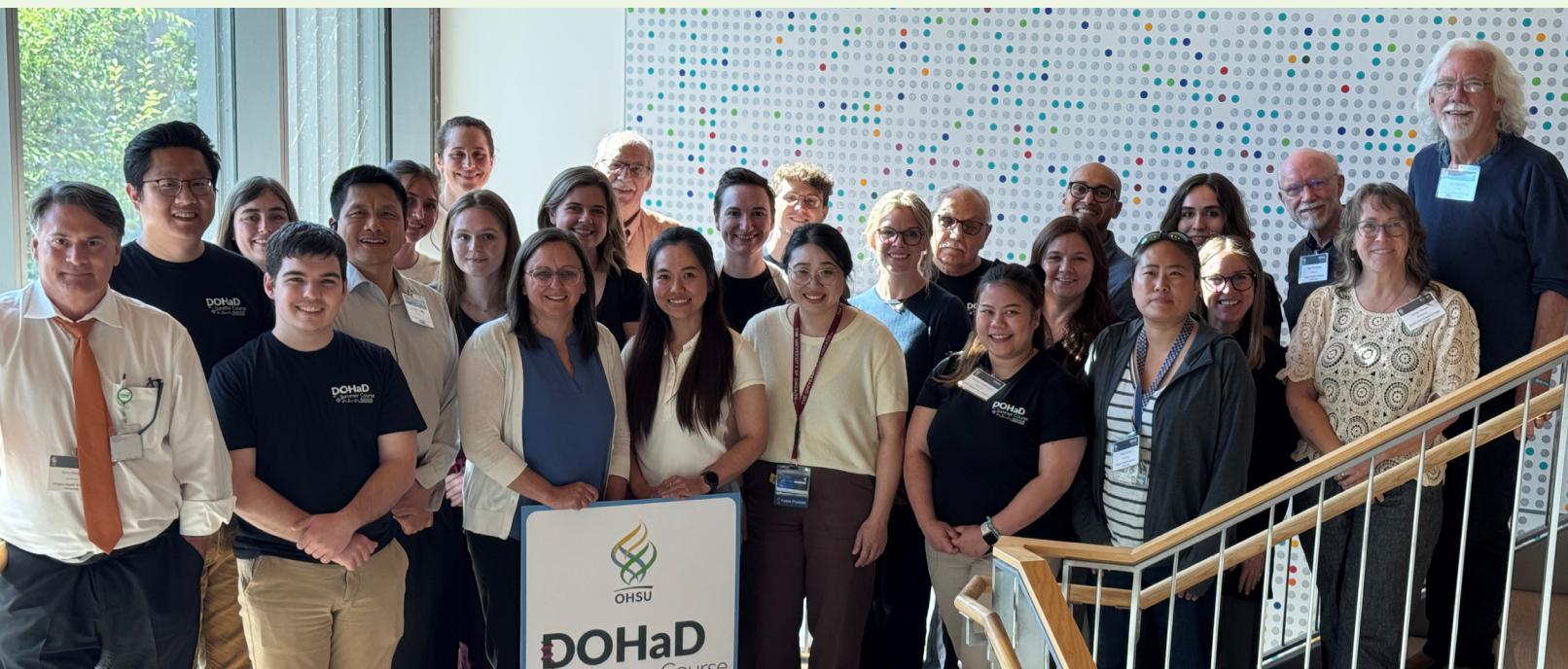
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Looking ahead

Working together, the Moore Institute and the CDH are addressing one of the most urgent but underrecognized challenges facing Americans: the rise of chronic disease and the widening health disparities among communities. As we prepare for another busy year, we hope you will continue to support our work through financial contributions, attendance at events and following along with our work.

Thank you for your continued support,

Leslie Myatt, Ph.D., FRCOG
Director, Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness
Director, Center for Developmental Health



Steering Committee

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Bert Boyer, Ph.D.
Alaska Native Health and Wellness Research Center
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OHSU Moore Institute
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OHSU School of Medicine
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OHSU Graduate Programs in Human Nutrition & Dietetic Internship



Oregon Nutrition Day

Every spring the Moore Institute hosts the Oregon Nutrition Day conference. This event brings together health care, research, public health and community members to showcase research and community-based initiatives that connect the science of DOHaD to local issues. This year's conference focused on food accessibility, and highlighted the challenges we continue to face in a post pandemic world.

Moore Institute co-leads national nutrition in pregnancy network

The Moore Institute is creating momentum around the importance of nutrition during pregnancy for ensuring healthier populations. We hosted three national Nutrition in Pregnancy Conferences and following the third conference in 2022, the Moore Institute joined forces with the Vitamix Foundation, the CDC Foundation and other key partners to launch the **Hunger, Nutrition and Health in Pregnancy Action Network**. This group unites national organizations to leverage their strengths and resources for collaborative action to improve nutrition and health outcomes from preconception through early childhood.

In 2025 the group created a leadership structure and steering committee, developed foundational materials including a website and 1-pager and launched a LinkedIn Group and Listserve. Regular quarterly meetings highlight current issues affecting nutrition for women, children and families and encourage networking. Topics this year included the need for nutrition education for health care providers, the science of DOHaD, and the effect of federal cuts to nutrition and safety net programs. The action network will present a workshop at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) in Washington, D.C. in March 2026.



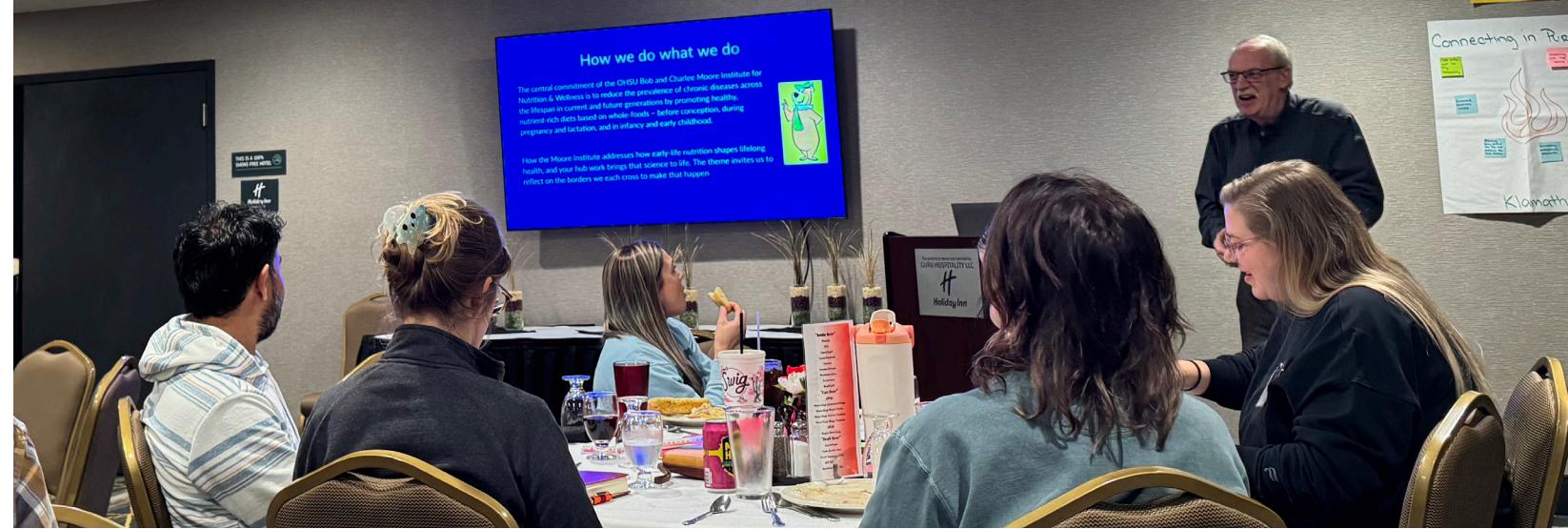


WHAT IS THE NUTRITION OREGON CAMPAIGN?

The Moore Institute, in collaboration with like-minded organizations and communities across the state, developed the Nutrition Oregon Campaign (NOC) to address the underlying systemic conditions that contribute to increased chronic disease risk. No one simple solution exists to reduce rates of chronic disease. The many contributing factors are complex and intertwined. Likewise, no single organization has the perspective, resources, or capacity to address this complexity alone. It requires multiple organizations from public and private sectors working collaboratively toward a shared vision for change.

Engaging community through the NOC

2025 was full of unexpected challenges with federal funding cuts and a government shutdown, and yet the NOC hubs persevered with resilience and innovation. The year began with surveying the existing network, which provided insight into the importance in promoting collaboration to amplifying community impact through the network. Across the state, hubs worked toward individual goals including, initiatives to bring provider education to rural communities, developing a food project focused on creating new streams of food donations for local food banks, continuing to work on efforts to make nutrition accessible for newborns and parents and nearing the conclusion of a multi-year effort to build a Community Food Center in Ontario. Across Oregon, the hubs' commitment, adaptability and creativity continued to strengthen the collective movement toward healthier, more equitable communities.



Third annual retreat held in Eastern Oregon

The NOC conducts a yearly retreat where members from the current hubs convene to discuss the ongoing work of the network. This year's retreat centered on the theme "Connecting Across Borders and Boundaries" and offered participants a space to reflect on their work, deepen relationships, and explore new approaches to DOHaD-informed community action. This year marked the beginning of a new approach for the campaign of collaborating on projects across multiple hubs, with members sharing stories of these collaborations at the retreat.

Expanding the Nutrition Oregon Campaign

In 2025, the Nutrition Oregon Campaign expanded its reach by opening a formal application process for new communities interested in becoming regional hubs. This process invited communities across Oregon to apply to join the statewide network and take on a leadership role in advancing health equity through nutrition, early-life support, and systems change. In 2026, each applicant community will be invited to host a Nutrition Consortium, a day-long event bringing together local groups impacted by nutrition and the Moore Institute leaders to share the science of DOHaD with some of these communities potentially joining the NOC network later in the year.

A Shared Learning Network

The Shared Learning Network focuses on strengthening collaboration, elevating community knowledge, and deepening DOHaD-informed practice across the NOC network. This year it featured sessions on facilitation, systems-change evaluation tools and strategies to address attrition in community-led projects. There were also presentations from Moore Institute Director **Leslie Myatt, Ph.D.**, and two of the Center for Developmental Health members, **Elinor Sullivan, Ph.D.**, and **Scarlett Hopkins, RN, MA**.

Strengthened ties with the Center for Developmental Health adds research focus

The **Center for Developmental Health** (CDH) fosters multidisciplinary collaborations in basic, clinical and translational science to advance developmental research and improve transgenerational health. It is comprised of more than 60 scientists from basic and clinical research departments across OHSU and is one of the largest international research collaborations to focus on DOHaD. While the CDH and the Moore Institute are separate entities, their work is closely connected, and they share staff and leadership. They also share a vision of OHSU as an international leader in advancing DOHaD education, research, translation, and implementation.



DOHaD Summer Course collaborates with U.S. DOHaD Society

The CDH hosts an annual DOHaD Summer Course for early career scientists. This year it was held in collaboration with the U.S. DOHaD Society annual meeting. This regional society explores fetal origins and early life programming of health and disease and encourages scientists to build careers in DOHaD research. This year's course included career development workshops and a tour of the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC).

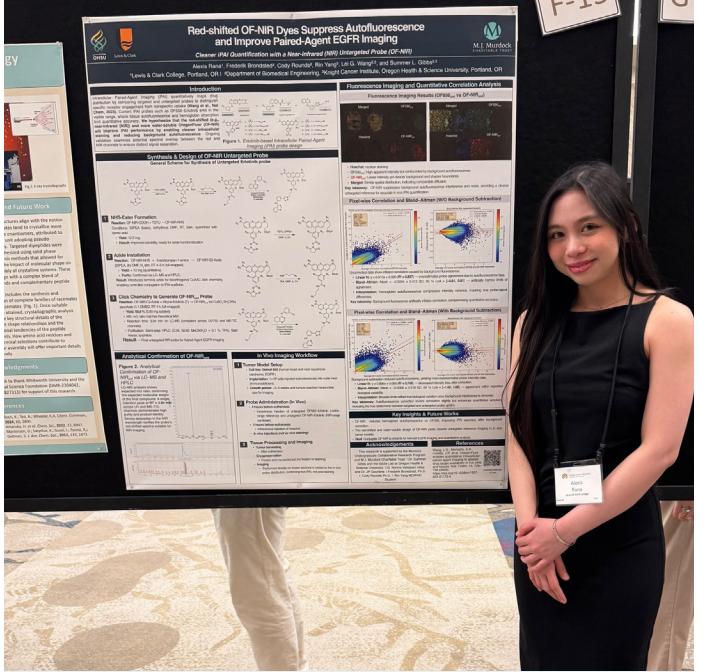
Promoting scientific careers for the next generation

The CDH hosts Oregon undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in biomedical research. Students are paired with a mentor and participate in a fully paid 10-week summer laboratory intensive, followed by an additional ten months of part-time work, culminating in a thesis. The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust renewed the program for three years through a \$120,000 award and OHSU School of Medicine and OHSU Research and Innovation provided matching funds. This will be the program's 32nd year.

Seed funding to jumpstart research careers

The CDH supports innovative research ideas that may lead to larger funding opportunities through its annual Seed Pilot Project Award. The 2025 award winner, **Leena Kadam, Ph.D.**, will use her award to look at the short and long-term impacts of placental regulation of maternal beta cell function in gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). Her goal is to better understand how GDM affects mothers long after pregnancy - and to find new ways to prevent the long-term health problems currently associated with it.

The 2024 winner, **Lisa Vrooman, Ph.D.**, built her seed award into a larger NIH grant and recently published a paper based on her research.



Key research from the CDH

CDH researchers publish an average of **300 papers per year**. Here are some of the headlines from the past year:

- NIH launches consortium to reduce risk of stillbirth in the U.S.
- Gestational diabetes kept in check better with real-time monitoring
- ONPRC scientists part of first detailed mapping of ovarian reserve
- CDH members among authors of review on nonhuman primates as critical models to study male reproductive health
- OHSU study confirms link between maternal diet, risk to infant behavioral health
- THC use during pregnancy could affect fetal lung development, future respiratory health

Focus on future generations

So much of the science of DOHaD is grounded in early prevention – improving nutrition and environmental exposures before and during pregnancy and in the earliest years of life to reduce chronic disease risks for subsequent generations. Every one of us stands on the shoulders of our ancestors - the decisions they made, the programs and policies they enacted, the foods they consumed and the toxic exposures they faced – all of this shaped the world we were born into. As humans we have difficulty thinking long-term. We make decisions for the current moment, for the need directly in front of us. However, we owe it to future generations to dream expansive, inclusive, healthy and joyful futures for us and all our future descendants. The Moore Institute has been working to pivot our language to include the concept of future generations. We will continue weaving ideas of future generations into our work going forward. Here are a few examples of how we have put this into action.

Moore Institute director and former director featured in all-OHSU town hall

Les Myatt, Ph.D., FRCOG, current Moore Institute director and **Kent Thornburg, Ph.D.**, founding Moore Institute director joined the president of the OHSU Foundation, **Kate Azizi** during an OHSU virtual town hall with interim OHSU president, **Steve Stadum, J.D.**, for the inaugural Future Generations Day. They discussed the upcoming documentary, the innovative history of DOHaD research at OHSU and the importance of prevention in health care.

Inaugural National Future Generations Day celebrated, covered by local media

While we have many days to commemorate the past, we rarely take time to think about our collective responsibility to future generations. As part of our work with the upcoming DOHaD documentary, the Moore Institute helped create National Future Generations Day. Held annually on the third Friday in March, the day is meant to consider how decisions, policies and programs large and small made today impact not only us, but the health of future generations as well. For the very first National Future Generations Day, **Kent Thornburg, Ph.D.**, the Moore Institute's founding director was a guest on KOIN AM Extra with documentary producer **Bill Stuart** to promote the day, talk about the science of DOHaD and how we can build a healthier future.

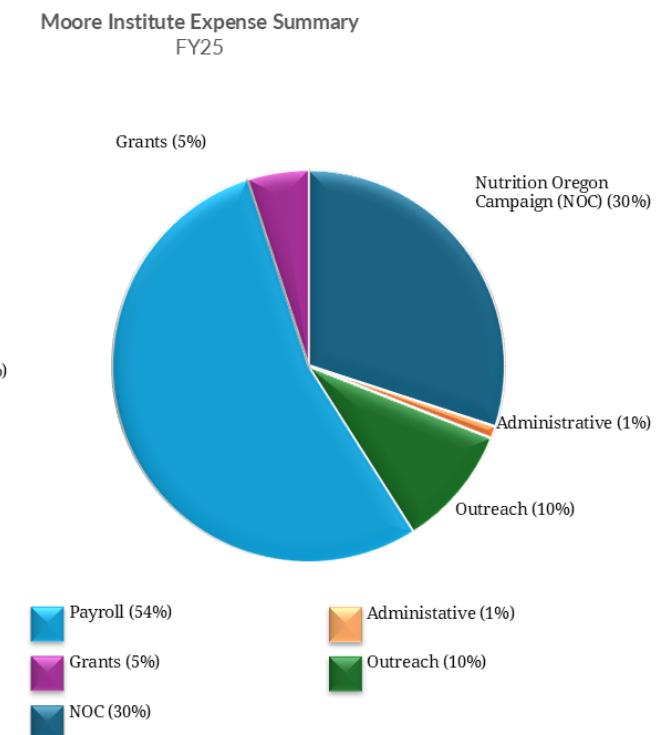
DOHaD documentary focuses on future generation health impacts

The Moore Institute has been working with a local director and production company to develop a documentary about the science of DOHaD. We wrapped filming and post-production this year and are actively in search of a development deal. The film heavily features the work of **Kent Thornburg, Ph.D.**, Moore Institute founding director. It also features work from the Nutrition Oregon Campaign Klamath Hub. Much of the storyline ties back to the importance of considering the health of future generations now, including a focus on **Tessa Roseboom, Ph.D.**, a Dutch researcher and long-time Moore Institute collaborator and her work as Future Generations Commissioner at Amsterdam UMC, the work of the United Nations to pass the U.N. Declaration on Future Generations and a group of teens in the U.K. working to eliminate junk food marketing aimed at kids.

Documentary premiere

The long-awaited premiere of “The 100 Year Effect” documentary will take place this spring in coordination with the second annual Future Generations Day. The Moore Institute will host a screening, panel discussion and reception. An impact campaign will accompany the documentary to encourage engagement with the research and the Moore Institute.

Moore Institute Annual Expenses FY 25



About Us

The OHSU Bob and Charlee Moore Institute aims to reduce the prevalence of chronic diseases across the lifespan in current and future generations by promoting healthy, nutrient-rich diets based on wholesome foods during pregnancy and lactation, and in infancy and early childhood.

The scientific cornerstone of the Moore Institute is the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, a discipline in which OHSU has been internationally recognized for decades. DOHaD illustrates the important relationships between paternal and maternal diet, fetal health and adult onset disease.

Read about our mission and find us online at www.ohsu.edu/mooreinstitute.

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