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### Welcome!

Welcome to the Summer 2015 edition of the GAPPS Repository newsletter. This newsletter is designed specifically for mothers and families who participate in the GAPPS Repository to help advance pregnancy research.

The Repository wouldn't exist if it weren't for you, and we want to make sure you are kept up to date on all the exciting things that are happening. We hope this is a helpful and informative newsletter for you, and if you have any questions or recommendations for features in future newsletters, or if you would like to share your own story, please email us at [gappsrepository@seattlechildrens.org](mailto:gappsrepository@seattlechildrens.org).

### Repository Updates

- The Repository recently surpassed 2,100 participants! It has taken more than 5 years to get to this point, but enrollments are steadily increasing and we are growing like never before - thanks to you!
- The Repository has collected more than 81,000 specimens from mothers, babies and family members. A specimen collection of this size allows researchers to study enough specimens that they can conduct very impactful research.

### Research Spotlight

The Multi'Omic Microbiome Study - Pregnancy Initiative (MOMS-PI) at Virginia Commonwealth University studies pregnancy and preterm birth with funding from the National Institutes of Health. MOMS-PI utilizes the GAPPS Repository for specimens and data and analyzes the microorganisms present in mothers and babies to assess their role as a cause of preterm birth.

### Global Harmonization

The GAPPS Repository is serving as a model for other pregnancy collection sites around the world. For example, the Repository's Standard Operating Procedures are being used by researchers to enroll and collect specimens from women and newborns in countries such as Bangladesh and Zambia, helping researchers study preterm birth and stillbirth in many different settings.

### A Mother's Story

*Karly Floyd shares her motivation for participating in the GAPPS Repository*



*Pictured: Everly Floyd, born Feb. 25, 2015.*

My name is Karly Floyd and I am a nurse, mother of three and GAPPS Repository participant. Seven and a half years ago I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy after a complicated pregnancy. Kai was born at 37 weeks gestation but struggled to breathe and went straight to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Luckily he spent only one week there, but the experience was life changing both professionally and personally. I now work in the perinatal field and I do as much educational outreach and fundraising as I can to help advance pregnancy research so babies can be born healthy.

After having Kai, my son Bode was born, full-term and healthy. Then came the losses. I've had three first-trimester miscarriages. When I became pregnant for the sixth time it felt right for me to volunteer to be a part of the GAPPS Repository. It was easy to participate and I liked knowing that I was making a difference by helping researchers learn more about pregnancy. Everly was born full-term and healthy on February 25th, 2015.

I've seen the elation and devastation that comes with pregnancy and childbearing, both in my life and at work, and so much of that is pure mystery. It's wonderful to have programs like GAPPS that are working hard to solve some of those mysteries.