



# DONOR PROSPECTUS

**RECURRENT PREGNANCY LOSS ASSOCIATION (RPLA)**

AWARENESS. ADVOCACY. ANSWERS.

[www.rplassociation.org](http://www.rplassociation.org) | [info@rplassociation.org](mailto:info@rplassociation.org)



# MEET THE RECURRENT PREGNANCY LOSS ASSOCIATION

## BACKGROUND

Pregnancy loss is common, impacting as many as 1 in 5 pregnancies. It is an isolating experience which can leave a significant and lasting impact on the mental and physical health of couples trying to conceive.

Fortunately, most couples go on to have healthy pregnancies after loss. Unfortunately, about 5% of couples experience recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL), defined as the loss of two or more pregnancies before the 20th week. While there are some known causes of RPL, for half of couples the underlying cause remains unknown.

## OUR CHARGE

Founded in 2019 by RPL parents Megan Hanson and Ben Burnham, the Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association (RPLA) continues to be led by and centered on the RPL community. RPLA envisions a future where unexplained RPL is eliminated, and individuals are empowered to make informed family building decisions. Our work is focused on three key areas:

**Awareness:** There is a lack of awareness and understanding of the physical and mental impact of RPL. RPLA supports increased education and training for health care providers on how to safely and compassionately treat patients experiencing pregnancy loss, and offer testing and treatments to help prevent future losses. RPLA also works to increase public awareness of pregnancy loss and provides resources on how to support friends or family who have experienced RPL.

**Research:** One of RPLA's most important priorities is advancing research into pregnancy loss, including underlying causes, risk factors, and treatments. Very little is known or understood about RPL, and half of people experiencing it never get answers as to the cause. Even when RPL does have a known explanation, there are few treatments to prevent it. RPLA is focused on increasing research with the goal of giving people answers, preventing future loss, and ultimately eliminating recurrent pregnancy loss. RPLA provides grants for researchers, and advocates for increased public funding to study pregnancy loss.

**Support:** People going through pregnancy loss need support for the physical and mental aspects of the experience. Patients should have access to the care they need to manage the pregnancy loss safely, as well as testing to try to determine the cause and prevent future losses. Mental and emotional support are also needed, including better mental health coverage and resources, time off from work for physical recovery and bereavement, and increased awareness on how to help those experiencing a loss.

## OUR MISSION

RPLA is dedicated to advancing research into causes and treatments of recurrent pregnancy loss, providing support and resources to those affected, and increasing awareness of the impact that pregnancy loss has on individuals and families.

RPLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 84-3993828



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ben Burnham, Co-Founder, Director of Governance & Compliance.** Ben has 15 years of experience in finance and business operations and is part of the central supply chain team at Amazon Retail. His expertise spans operational strategy, risk management, and organizational governance. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and Economics from Duke University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management.

**Tegan Gelfand, Director of Policy & Advocacy.** Tegan is a government affairs leader with nearly 20 years of experience in health policy and advocacy. She leads federal government affairs for a pharmaceutical company focused on infertility and previously worked on Capitol Hill for key healthcare committees. She holds a Master's in Legislative Affairs from The George Washington University and dual bachelor's degrees from Allegheny College.

**Megan Hanson, Co-Founder, Executive Director.** Megan has a background in healthcare marketing and nonprofit leadership. She began her career with Teach For America and worked in community development before joining Baxter Healthcare. She now leads RPL Association full-time, focusing on strategy, growth, and impact. She holds a BS in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management.

**Julie Langdon, Director of Finance & Sponsorships.** Julie has over 20 years of experience in finance, spanning wealth management and corporate debt investing. She brings deep expertise in financial strategy and donor engagement. A CFA Charterholder, she holds a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the Darden School of Business.

**Ronald Librizzi, DO, Medical Director.** Dr. Librizzi is a retired maternal-fetal medicine specialist known for managing high-risk pregnancies and complex maternal conditions. He previously served as Chief of MFM at Virtua Health System and held faculty appointments at Jefferson Medical College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. His career has been dedicated to advancing care for mothers facing life-threatening complications.

**Hannah Palac, MS, Director of the RPL Community Registry.** Hannah is a biostatistician with over a decade of experience in clinical research across academia and industry. Her expertise includes clinical trial design, data integration, and statistical analysis. She holds an MS in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from Northwestern University and is an active member of leading professional research organizations.

**Kimberly Skellington, MS, CGC.** Kim is a board-certified genetic counselor with experience in prenatal care and preimplantation genetic testing. She has worked in both clinical and laboratory settings and is the founder of Modern Reproduction, an organization focused on improving access to clear, unbiased reproductive genetics education.

**Ashlee Van Schyndel, MPH, Director of Community Health.** Ashlee is a PhD candidate in Maternal and Child Health at the University of Illinois Chicago. Her research focuses on health policy and employment as determinants of reproductive health. She has a background in advocacy across contraception, Title X, LGBTQ+ health, and sexual violence. She holds an MPH from the University of Louisville.

**Micaela Stevenson Wyszewianski, MD, Director of Patient & Provider Education.** Dr. Stevenson Wyszewianski is an OB/GYN resident at the Medical College of Wisconsin and incoming REI fellow at UNC Fertility. Her work spans clinical care, research in recurrent pregnancy loss, and advocacy to expand access to reproductive healthcare. She brings experience in nonprofit and community-based initiatives.



## MEDICAL ADVISORS

### **Robert H. Debbs, DO, MHCI, FACOOG, Dist.**

Dr. Debbs is Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned a Master of Health Care Innovation. For nearly three decades, he has led the UPENN Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network's Centers for Reproductive Success. A maternal-fetal medicine specialist, Dr. Debbs is dedicated to supporting individuals and families experiencing recurrent pregnancy loss through a deeply patient-centered and comprehensive approach. His clinical and research work has focused on structural causes of pregnancy loss involving the uterus and cervix, including surgical correction when indicated. Grounded in an osteopathic philosophy, he integrates evidence-based care with a holistic focus on physical, emotional, and personal well-being, partnering closely with patients to provide clarity, resilience, and hope.

### **Ruth Lathi, MD.**

Dr. Lathi is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Stanford University, where she serves as Director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Research and Program Director of the REI Fellowship. She also directs Stanford's multidisciplinary recurrent pregnancy loss program. Her research focuses on improving outcomes in RPL, including the role of genetic testing, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, and long-term fertility outcomes. She is the principal investigator of the NIH-funded HOPE Project, a national study using advanced genomic and molecular techniques to better understand pregnancy loss and predict future outcomes. Through this work, she is helping translate complex genetic insights into more personalized, evidence-based care for patients. Dr. Lathi trained at MIT, UCSF, Baylor College of Medicine, and Stanford University.

### **Charles J. Lockwood, MD, MHCM.**

Dr. Lockwood is the Executive Vice President (EVP) of USF Health, where he leads the Morsani College of Medicine (MCOM), the Taneja College of Pharmacy, the colleges of Nursing and Public Health as well as the schools of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences and Graduate Biomedical Sciences. He also oversees the USF Health faculty practice group, one of the largest multispecialty practices in Florida. Dr. Lockwood serves as the MCOM Dean and professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology and holds a secondary appointment as a professor in the College of Public Health. A nationally recognized leader in academic medicine, he previously served as Dean at The Ohio State University and chaired Ob/Gyn departments at Yale and NYU. His NIH-funded research spans more than three decades, including seminal contributions to understanding preterm birth, such as the discovery of fetal fibronectin as a predictive biomarker. Dr. Lockwood has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications and served as Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary OB/GYN for 20 years. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a recipient of multiple national honors recognizing his enduring contributions to women's health.



## MEDICAL ADVISORS

### **Winifred Mak, MD, PhD.**

Dr. Mak is a reproductive endocrinology and infertility specialist and physician-scientist with a clinical and research focus on recurrent pregnancy loss. She practices at UT Health San Antonio and in Austin, providing specialized care for individuals and couples experiencing RPL. Her research program explores novel causes of pregnancy loss, including an NIH-funded study on the role of sperm in RPL, with the goal of advancing more precise and effective treatments. With training across the United Kingdom and United States, her work bridges basic science and clinical application. Dr. Mak is also known for her public education efforts through her “MiscarriageMD” platform and has been an active contributor to RPLA since its founding, helping guide its growth and impact.

### **Gil Mor, MD, PhD.**

Dr. Mor is the John M. Malone Jr. Endowed Chair of Women’s Health Research and Scientific Director of the C.S. Mott Center for Human Growth and Development at Wayne State University, where he is also Professor and Vice Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology. An internationally recognized leader in reproductive immunology, his research focuses on the immune mechanisms of pregnancy, placentation, and inflammation in reproductive health and disease. He has authored more than 350 peer-reviewed publications and previously served as Editor-in-Chief of both the American Journal of Reproductive Immunology and Placenta. A past president of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, Dr. Mor is widely recognized for advancing understanding of the maternal immune environment and its role in pregnancy outcomes.

### **Gregory Piazza, MD, MS.**

Dr. Piazza is Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a faculty member in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Mass General Brigham, where he directs the Vascular Medicine Section. His clinical and research work focuses on the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of arterial and venous thromboembolism, including thrombophilia-related pregnancy complications. He has also contributed to advancing computerized decision support tools to improve cardiovascular outcomes and patient safety. Dr. Piazza completed his training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, including a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute–sponsored fellowship in vascular medicine, and is recognized for bridging cardiovascular and reproductive health.

### **Anthony Sciscione, DO.**

Dr. Sciscione is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a maternal-fetal medicine specialist at ChristianaCare, where he serves as Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Vice Chair of Education, and OB/GYN Residency Program Director. A past President of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, he is nationally recognized for his work in labor management, outpatient cervical ripening, and evidence-based obstetrics. His research and numerous peer-reviewed publications have contributed to shaping modern obstetric practice and improving maternal and perinatal outcomes. In addition to his clinical and research work, Dr. Sciscione is a dedicated educator and mentor, helping train the next generation of obstetricians and advancing standards of care nationwide.



# OUR PROGRAMS

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS

RPLA's community consists of RPL patients (past and present), their spouses/ partners, friends and family members, practitioners, and researchers who support finding answers for unexplained recurrent pregnancy loss.

## OUR PROGRAMS & EVENTS

RPLA is a national organization that operates mostly virtually. We are active on social media (primarily Instagram but also Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube), send a monthly newsletter to more than 850 subscribers and maintain a virtual "storefront" via our website.

RPLA runs several ongoing and annual events throughout the year to advance science, engage with and support families, and raise awareness for our community.

- **RPLA-ASRM RPL Research Award:** Our largest dollar program given annually to a US researcher studying RPL. Since our inception, we have directed more than \$170,000 to RPL research.
- **Hope in Every Step:** A virtual walk/run in late August to raise awareness about the impact of RPL. Our inaugural year (2025) had nearly 100 participants from across the US and Canada.
- **RPL Support Groups:** We host three (3) monthly peer-to-peer support groups which are regularly promoted in the monthly newsletter and social media.
- **"Ask the Expert":** An educational series of live interviews with healthcare experts on topics relevant to the RPL community. The conversations are posted on YouTube for public viewing.
- **Pregnancy Loss Awareness Month:** A campaign for pregnancy and infant loss (PAIL) awareness month each October. We post daily facts, encouragements, etc. on our social media accounts.
- **RPL Community Registry:** A new initiative launching this summer. The registry will collect standardized data on the lived experience of RPL with the intent of advancing patient-centered research.
- **Exhibition/ Speaking Engagements:** Educational presentations at conferences and other events for the provider community in order to raise awareness and improve care for RPL families.

## OUR BUDGET

RPLA's annual operating budget is around \$80,000. Between 60-70% are program expenses. The rest are operational and administrative costs. The organization is currently volunteer lead with no paid staff. It does not employ or hire any professional fundraisers.

RPLA has grown each year since its founding in 2019. To sustain and expand this momentum, we are focused on increasing revenue to support the transition from an all-volunteer model to dedicated, paid staff.



# INDIVIDUAL GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to maximize the impact of your personal donation? Put your dollars to work for a cause that receives little public funding and relies on private charitable giving to uncover answers.

While miscarriage is considered common and RPL affects 5% of couples, the individual causes of recurrent pregnancy loss are disparate and often classified as rare. As a result, RPL causes receive minimal public research funding. Patient advocacy is similarly a niche focus, with RPLA a leading voice in improving patient experience.

As an individual donor, your donation has a meaningful impact on advancing research and advocacy for the RPL community. We would love to partner with you in our quest to eliminate recurrent pregnancy loss.



## VISIONARY | \$5,000

Your gift at this level helps moves us towards a future where recurrent pregnancy loss is fully explained, and no family is left without answers. It supports:

- Research grant to doctors and scientists working to explore the causes and treatments of RPL
- Launch of the RPL Community Registry which will turn patients lived experiences into data that can facilitate RPL research



## CHAMPION | \$2,500

Your gift at this level helps bring trusted information to families as they navigate the journey of recurrent pregnancy loss. It supports:

- “Ask the Expert” series that allows families to learn from leading clinicians and providers
- Creation and distribution of trusted, evidence-based information electronically via our website and social media platforms, and in person at conferences and other educational events



## HERO | \$1,000

Your gift at this level creates connection during one of life’s most isolating experiences. You help turn individual grief into shared strength. It supports:

- Free, virtual peer support groups for individuals and families navigating loss
- Story-sharing initiatives that reduce isolation and stigma



## ADVOCATE | \$500

Your gift at this level says, “Your loss matters and you are not alone.” It supports:

- The virtual memorial garden, honoring babies lost too soon
- Compassionate resources that validate grief and provide comfort to families

*If you are interested in, or have questions about becoming a supporter of RPLA, please reach out to: Julie Langdon, Director of Finance & Sponsorships at 703-282-5579 or [info@rplassociation.org](mailto:info@rplassociation.org)*



## WAYS TO GIVE

Your support makes it possible to advance research, expand education, and provide meaningful resources for individuals and families experiencing recurrent pregnancy loss. Every gift, no matter the size, helps drive progress toward answers, improved care, and hope for the future.

We offer a variety of convenient and tax-efficient ways to support our mission:

### **ONLINE**

Make a secure one-time, or recurring gift by credit card through our website ([www.rplassociation.org](http://www.rplassociation.org)).

### **DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS (DAFS)**

Recommend a grant through your donor-advised fund provider (e.g., Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or Vanguard Charitable). To initiate a gift, search for our organization by name or EIN: 84-3993828.

### **STOCKS & SECURITIES**

Gifts of appreciated securities can provide tax advantages while maximizing your impact. We partner with StockDonator to make the process simple and secure. Visit our StockDonator page via our website to initiate a transfer. Enter the stock and number of shares you wish to donate, and StockDonator does the rest. Upon donation, shares are immediately liquidated and donated to RPLA.

### **EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS**

Many companies match charitable contributions made by employees—doubling or even tripling your gift. Check your employer to see if they will match donations. RPLA is already set up in Benevity, CyberGrants and several other employee giving platforms. If your employer uses a different system, we are happy to provide the necessary information to register our cause.

### **PLANNED GIVING**

Include RPLA in your estate plans through a bequest or other legacy gift.

### **CHECK**

Gifts by check can be mailed to our mailing address:

Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Association  
2819 S Dawson St  
Seattle, WA 98108


### **GIVE YOUR OWN WAY**


If you want to give a different way, or help raise money for RPLA, and have an idea about how, we would love to work with you to make it happen. Please reach out by email to [info@rplassociation.org](mailto:info@rplassociation.org).

*If you are interested in, or have questions about becoming a supporter of RPLA, please reach out to: Julie Langdon, Director of Finance & Sponsorships at 703-282-5579 or [info@rplassociation.org](mailto:info@rplassociation.org)*




# LET'S CONNECT

 847-308-4554

 [info@rplassociation.org](mailto:info@rplassociation.org)

 @rplassociation (IG)

 [www.rplassociation.org](http://www.rplassociation.org)