forcer. Despite this public health significance, our knowledge base about biological factors contributing to PMADs remains rudimentary. HPA axis activity, neuroendocrine changes, and GABA receptor plasticity may all play a role. There is also growing evidence of a role for the immune system. Immune functioning shifts radically across pregnancy, as the body changes to support implantation, keep foreign pathogens out while protecting the one (the fetus) already inside, and allow parturition. A number of studies show that further immune dysregulation is associated with PMAD symptoms, but lack of consistent measures and goals across studies has made it challenging to understand the exact role of these immune system shifts. This presentation will cover recent data on the psychoneuroimmunology of pregnancy, including new data from Dr. Osborne’s lab, and will point out both opportunities and challenges for future research.

Learning Objectives:
1. Discuss perinatal mood and anxiety disorders: prevalence and effects.
2. Analyze the complexities of immune functioning in pregnancy.
3. Explain pertinent data and information on immune mechanisms linked to perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.
4. Demonstrate a critical reflection on current study designs, assess and discuss areas of improvement and potential pitfalls in current research approaches.

References: