

The Maternal Brain Project

2025

A subsidiary project of the Ann S. Bowers WBHI

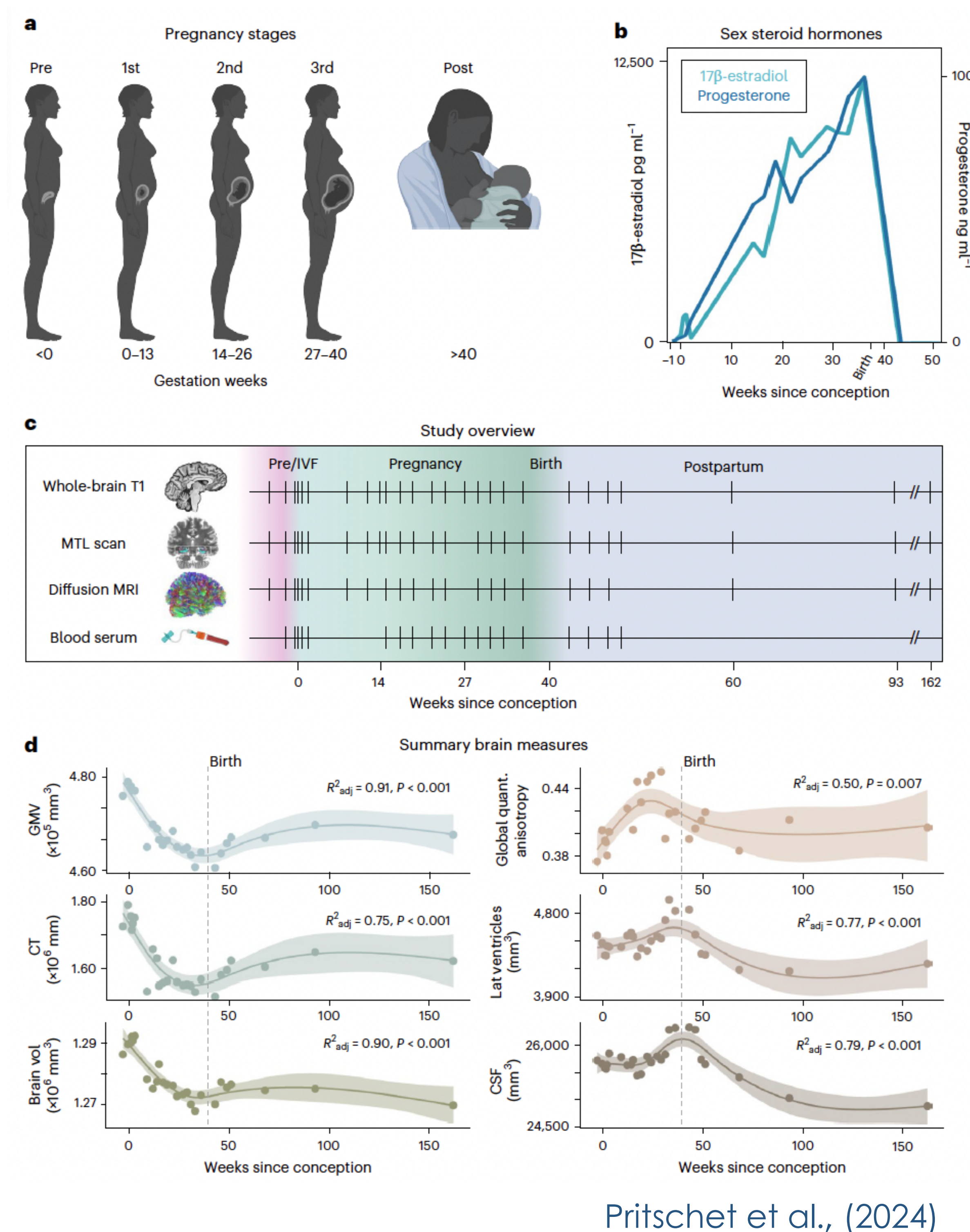
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Project Statement

With the publication of its inaugural, proof-of-concept study, the “**Maternal Brain Project**” is now set to generate brain, biofluid, cognitive, and health data from 1000 first-time pregnant women followed longitudinally at strategic locations worldwide, establishing the largest and most comprehensive maternal neuroimaging database currently available.

First Publication

Flagship paper on the **Maternal Brain Project** published in *Nature Neuroscience*



Go Broad

Build a large-scale maternal health database

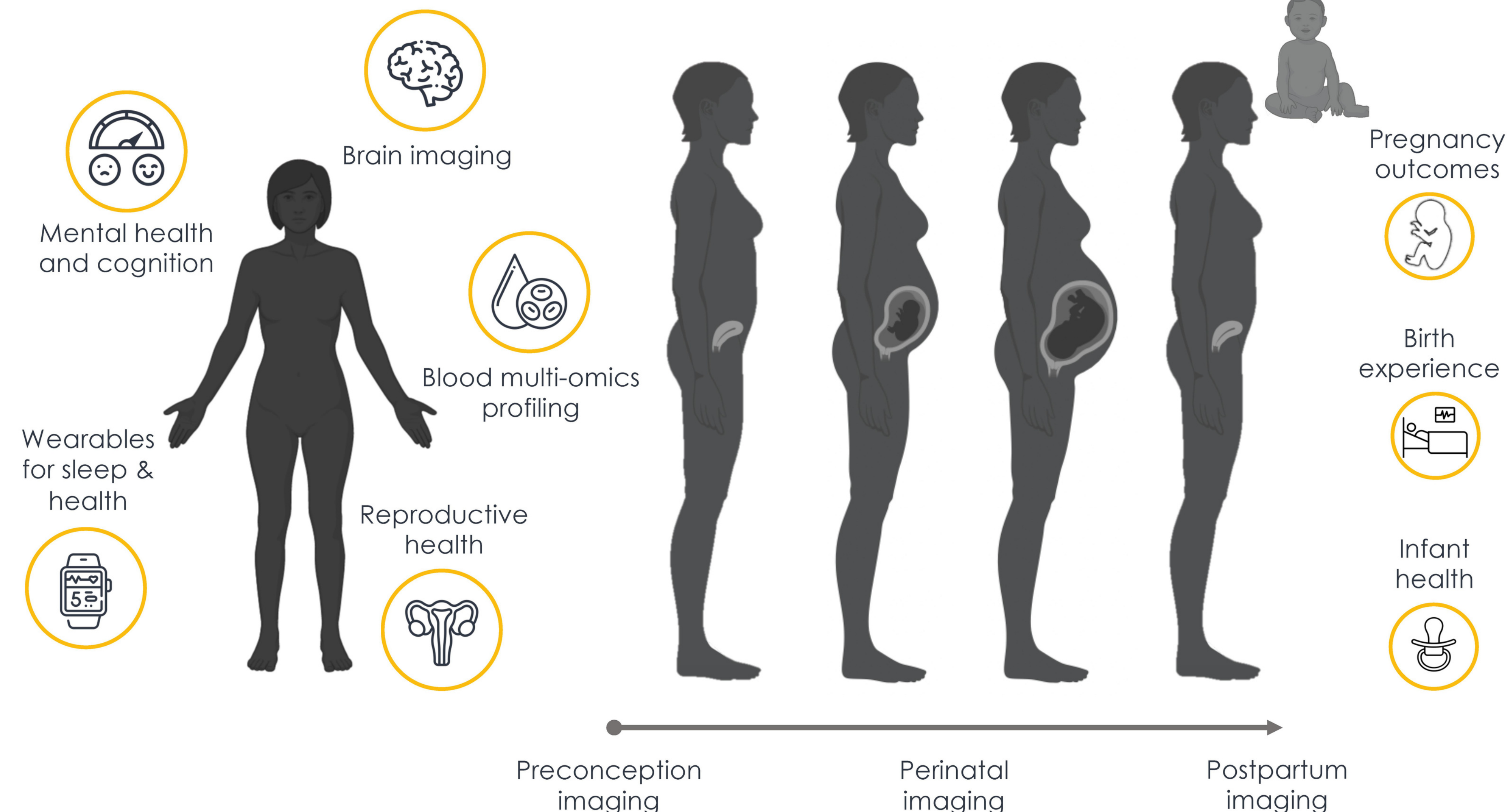
Go Deep

Use novel data modalities and multi-omic profiling

Project Goals

Go Diverse

Include diverse populations from international locations



Challenges

- Build strategic partnerships to support the project's global reach.
- Establish a unified process for data collection and processing.
- Ensure compliance with international data-sharing regulations and GDPR.

Opportunities

- Develop an AI digital twin of the maternal brain.
- Link maternal brain changes to mental health outcomes, with a focus on perinatal depression.
- Investigate the impact of socioeconomic status and family policies on maternal brain health.
- Pave the way for a longer study of women from their childbearing years through perimenopause and old age.

MBP highlights

Funding

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative awards the Women's Brain Health Initiative **\$1M in funding** to launch Phase I of the Maternal Brain Project

Data Collection

MBP data collection is currently underway at foundational sites in **Spain** (Dr. Susana Carmona, IISGM) and **California** (Dr. Emily Jacobs, UCSB), with a target of **200 mothers** across sites. With support, our **Phase II target** is **1,000 mothers**.

Global Expansion

The MBP team is building a **global network** of researchers collecting neuroimaging data on parents, scaling our efforts beyond individual studies. To date, we have identified **25 researchers** across **11 countries** and **5 continents**

