



Bierle, Craig

Craig J. Bierle, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology, at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Bierle received his doctorate in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and completed postdoctoral training at Seattle Children's Research Institute. He heads a research laboratory that studies viral infections of pregnancy, which are a frequent and preventable cause of pregnancy loss, premature birth, and neurologic disabilities in children. Select viruses, including cytomegalovirus and Zika virus, can productively infect and be transmitted across the placenta, infect the fetus, and disrupt normal development. Research in the Bierle lab utilizes a combination of *in vitro*, *ex vivo*, and *in vivo* studies to experimentally model cytomegalovirus pathogenesis at the maternal-fetal interface. This *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development-supported research program aims to identify viral and host determinants of placental and fetal infection.