



Spann, Marisa

Marisa Spann, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Her research focuses on how prenatal exposures, particularly those activating the maternal immune system, affect early brain and cognitive growth, and confer risk for later childhood psychopathology. Her research combines prenatal psychiatric epidemiology, developmental neuroimaging, and infant cognitive paradigms. She received her PhD in clinical psychology from George Washington University. She completed a clinical-pediatric neuropsychology fellowship and a MPH at Yale University School of Medicine and Public Health where she engaged in developmental neuroimaging research focused on altered development of brain structure and cognitive functions (attention, language, and executive function) in association with early childhood adversities. Marisa went on to a T32 postdoctoral research fellowship in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at CUMC where she expanded her research area to the role of in utero exposures on neonatal brain structure. Marisa was recently awarded a NICHD K23. Specifically, she is studying brain development longitudinally of emotion regulation systems in offspring in relation to maternal immune activation during pregnancy. She recently was awarded a NIMH R01 to continue this area of research and ultimately build a developmental risk model that can lead to early identification of childhood psychopathology.