The Vanderbilt Pre³ Initiative
ViA Award, Cycle 2015

What We Do:
- The Vanderbilt Pre³ Initiative fosters interdisciplinary research aimed at improving reproductive health, with a particular focus on pregnancy and maternal-child wellbeing.
- The Pre³ Initiative seeks to catalyze interactions between faculty and learners with a shared interest in improving pregnancy outcomes through discovery, education, innovation and implementation.
- The Pre³ Initiative seeks to improve reproductive health by enhancing partnerships between Vanderbilt University and local, regional and national leaders in maternal-child health.

Why We Do It:
- Preterm birth complicates 15 million pregnancies per year, worldwide and is the leading cause of death in newborns and children under 5 years of age (even in the United States).
- Maternal mortality (death during pregnancy or as a complication of delivery) is increasing in the United States.
- Almost every major adverse pregnancy outcome is more common in the southeastern United States versus other regions of our country.
- The preconception health of parents and the wellbeing of mothers during pregnancy directly impact the risk for many health problems in offspring throughout their lives, all the way into adulthood, including the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, lung disease and neurocognitive disorders.

Who’s Involved?
School of Medicine
David M. Aronoff (PI), Director, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine
Muktar Aliyu, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health
Katherine Hartmann, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Medicine
Jeffrey Reese, Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Cell and Developmental Biology

Pebby College
Sharon Shields, Department of Human & Organizational Development
Carol Nixon, Department of Human & Organizational Development

School of Engineering
Rick Haselton, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

College of Arts & Science
JuLeigh Petty, Center for Medicine, Health & Society