



Dear Attendees,

Welcome to beautiful Salt Lake City (SLC), Utah. We are delighted to welcome you to the first in-person Biennial meeting since 2019 for what promises to be an innovative scientific program and outstanding meeting.

SLC is a geographically and culturally diverse city bordered by the Great Salt Lake and surrounded by the Oquirrh (pronounced “oaker”) and Wasatch Mountain ranges. Host of the 2002 Winter Olympics, it is world-renowned for its powder snow and excellent skiing and snowboarding sites – all in less than an hour’s drive from downtown. SLC is also a great base from which to explore Utah’s breathtakingly natural beauty, with over [20 national parks](#). For basketball fans, check out home games for [The Utah Jazz](#). A little trivia: SLC is the former home of the WNBA’s [The Utah Starzz](#), one of the league’s eight original teams.

Utah is also home to more than [60,000 Native Americans](#) who collectively represent 50+ Tribal Nations. This includes the *Ute Indian Tribe of Uintah and Ouray Reservation* whose ancestral lands lie about 150 miles east of Salt Lake City. The Ouray Reservation is the second-largest reservation in the country, spanning over 4.5 million acres. We hope you will take the opportunity as visitors to learn about the Native Peoples of this land including their traditions, festivals, and lifestyles. Helpful resources include:

- Places to visit and ways to respect their culture and lands: <https://www.visitutah.com/things-to-do/history-culture/tribal-cultures>
- Learn from and about a few of the Tribes: <https://www.visitutah.com/things-to-do/history-culture/tribal-cultures/utah-native-tribes>
- Learn about the land you are on (both Utah and where you come from): <https://native-land.ca>

Given the rich Native American heritage, we are especially excited to formally launch the SRCD Indigenous Caucus at this Biennial Meeting. We invite you to join the Caucus and attend programming organized by its members. Indigenous children’s development is also featured prominently throughout the [invited](#) and submitted programs.

In addition to highlighting Indigenous Children’s development, the invited program prioritizes research, policy, and practices focused on three global injustices – racial and economic injustice, involuntary migration and displacement, and environmental injustice – shown to affect the healthy development of a majority of children around the world. The invited program is designed to showcase scholarly research across these areas and foster discussion about *how we do the science, with whom, and for whose benefit*. Collectively, the invited speakers will engage in intellectually stimulating and rich scholarly conversations across three formats: duo addresses, salons, and symposia. Duo-addresses pair speakers from distinct disciplinary and methodological perspectives to share their scholarship and discuss their approaches and perspectives. Salon sessions are designed to bring together small groups of scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and community partners to engage in conversations about *how we do the science* and how it is taken up. Finally, symposia focus on emergent and innovative empirical research and puts scholars in conversation with each other.



In highlighting impactful work from research, practitioner/activist, and policy perspectives, we have designed an invited program that includes transdisciplinary integration across disciplines, methodologies, topics, and community partners. We also designed an inclusive and diverse invited program: the slate of speakers and moderators are racially and ethnically diverse and more than a third are either mid- or early-career scholars. Nearly half of the invited sessions include a presenter from outside of the United States. Importantly, virtually all of the invited sessions include interdisciplinary representation (e.g., education, public policy, public health, psychiatry, social psychology, and political science). Likewise, the submitted program includes sessions that are similarly diverse both in terms of areas of scientific inquiry and demographics of the presenters and research participants.

As you are populating your Biennial schedule, here are just a few events you will not want to miss:

- Get a head start to the meeting and check out the amazing array of pre-conference meetings and workshops on **Wednesday**.
- To welcome you all and kick off the Biennial on **Thursday morning**, an opening breakfast reception preceding Nancy Hill's Presidential Address.
- Come hear updates from and engage in dialogue with SRCD's Task Force on Publications and Ethical Behavior at the Townhall on **Thursday afternoon**.
- The Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony on **Thursday afternoon**, followed by a Welcome Reception, is a great event to congratulate award winners and catch up with colleagues.
- Buy your tickets and come celebrate the *50th Anniversary of the Black Caucus* on **Friday evening**.
- Attend the *Presidential Salon* - moderated by President Nancy Hill and President-Elect Vonnie McLoyd - on *Paradigms for a Diverse Developmental Science* on **Saturday afternoon**.
- If you are a Student and Early Career Member, sign up for a Breakfast & Lunch with Leaders on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. ***New for this year is an International Scholars Breakfast to be hosted on Friday.***
- Attend a Professional Development Workshop or two to expand and update your methodological, funding, and translational toolkits.

In addition to the invited and submitted programs, the meeting offers exciting content from SRCD's Student and Early Career Council (SECC), SRCD Caucuses, foundations, and federal agencies.

We cannot end this Welcome Letter without acknowledging and expressing our deep gratitude to the many, many individuals who have worked tirelessly and volunteered their time and energy to make this Biennial a reality and a success. We are especially grateful for the hard work and dedication of the SRCD staff, especially Julia Johnson, Natasha Ross, and Saima Hedrick, who brought their wisdom, experience, and good humor to the planning of the Biennial. Thank you to the SRCD Committees and Caucuses for their suggestions for speakers for the invited program and their support, and to members of the Student and Early Career Council for their suggestions and for agreeing to introduce the invited speakers during the Biennial. And finally, we also cannot express enough gratitude and appreciation to the Review Panel Co-Chairs and Reviewers who reviewed the nearly **4,000 submissions** for this Biennial Meeting. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!



We hope the 2023 meeting will be an opportunity for you to connect with and learn alongside your colleagues and enhance your professional development. We hope you will be inspired by new research and invigorated as you leave the meeting to advance the science of child development. Throughout the meeting, follow **@SRCDtweets** and join the conversation on Twitter using **#SRCD23**.

We can't wait to welcome you to Salt Lake City!

SRCD 2023 Program Co-Chairs



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