

Dorothy Warburton, Ph.D.

Bio Sketch

Dorothy Warburton received her Ph.D. in Human Genetics from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, in 1961, and joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University in New York in 1964 as a Research Associate. She remained at Columbia and is now Professor of Clinical Genetics and Development (in Pediatrics). In 1968, she started one of the first clinical cytogenetics laboratories in the United States at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and has just recently retired as Director of this laboratory. Her research interests began with a Ph.D. thesis on the “Genetic Aspects of Spontaneous Abortion”, and became centered on cytogenetic abnormalities when it became clear that this was one of the principal causes of miscarriage. Her research has focused on the epidemiological aspects of chromosome abnormalities and pregnancy loss, with particular attention to the association of aneuploidy with maternal age. Dr. Warburton was also involved in early gene mapping efforts, and more recently in the Human Genome Project. Together with her colleague Dr. Jennie Kline, she has carried out several studies examining predictions of the “limited oocyte pool” hypothesis that ties the maternal age-related increase in meiotic error to the decreasing size of the oocyte pool. Her current research efforts concern the association of X-inactivation skewing with spontaneous abortion and trisomy, and the use of high-resolution microarray analyses to search for small copy number changes in patients with congenital heart disease.