



By pursuing this moonshot for menstruation science, we will accelerate the understanding and treatment of diseases more common in women and girls.

The Fairbairn Menstruation Science Fund

Seeking to revolutionize women's health research, Emily and Malcolm Fairbairn have established the Fairbairn Menstruation Science Fund with a \$10M commitment, issuing a call to action for an additional \$10M in matching support.

The Institute's groundbreaking research on the function of the human uterus – and its role in sex-based differences in human immunology – will advance through the MIT Health and Life Sciences Collaborative (MIT HEALS), a Presidential Strategic Initiative supporting convergence across MIT's life sciences ecosystem, partnering with industry, hospitals, and philanthropists to drive discovery, innovation, and impact for human health.

With research spearheaded by Professor Linda Griffith, the School of Engineering Professor of Teaching Innovation in the departments of Biological Engineering and Mechanical Engineering and director of the MIT Center for Gynecopathology Research (CGR), the Fairbairn Menstruation Science Fund will establish menstruation science as a frontier of scientific discovery and technological innovation, with wide-ranging impacts on the health of women and girls. Griffith founded CGR to transform the understanding and treatment of gynecological diseases such as endometriosis.



You Can Help Unlock Advances in Women's Health

MIT seeks an additional \$10M for the Fairbairn Menstruation Science Fund. Your contribution will help accelerate groundbreaking research and solve critical challenges.

REVOLUTIONIZING WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

Linda Griffith's interdisciplinary team of more than a dozen faculty works closely with clinical and industry collaborators to advance a new paradigm in women's health research, moving beyond animal models to human-based systems recognized by the National Institutes of Health as **New Approach Methodologies**. By closely studying patients and using their own cells to build realistic animal models, researchers can better understand how the bodies of women and girls work, capturing interactions between the immune system and blood vessels that older animal models miss.

Impact

The research supported by the Fairbairn Fund is advancing:

- **New ways to understand** how the uterus functions across the menstrual cycle and as a model of scarless healing
- **Widely accessible tools** that allow scientists to study patient-derived tissue in the lab
- **Greater awareness and improved care** for gynecological conditions through deep collaboration among clinicians, scientists, and technologists

Ambition

The Fairbairn Fund was created to:

- **Accelerate breakthroughs** in diagnostics, treatments, and care delivery
- **Empower interdisciplinary teams** across MIT to tackle complex challenges in the health of women and girls
- **Build a global community** connecting patients, researchers, clinicians, and industry
- **Destigmatize menstruation** in science, medicine, and public discourse

Matching Funds

We seek an additional \$10M in contributions to support the Fairbairn Menstruation Science Fund.

You can contribute at all levels and join a community of research advocates championing the faculty, students, and labs dedicated to breakthrough discoveries that will improve patient care and health outcomes.

Gifts can be made at giving.mit.edu/fairbairn-fund.

MIT HEALS

MIT Health and Life Sciences Collaborative



Linda Griffith, professor of biological and mechanical engineering and director of the MIT Center for Gynecopathology Research, says the Fairbairn Fund will deepen researchers' understanding of sex-based differences in human immunity.

“My mission is to support intellectually honest, open-minded scientists who embrace risk, treat failure as feedback, and remain committed to discovery over dogma. This fund is...designed to fuel research into the biological realities of diseases that remain poorly understood, frequently dismissed, or disproportionately misdiagnosed in women.”

Emily Fairbairn

Unstoppable Spirit Foundation



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heals.mit.edu/fairbairn