Preterm infants are at increased risk for neurodevelopmental deficits. There is an inverse relationship between gestational age and sequelae: the younger the gestational age, the greater the probability of deficits. Developmental plasticity can help the child compensate to some degree via evolving experience-dependent circuits directed toward the areas of delay or deficit. Generally, the earlier, the better, making early identification of delays or deficits critical to qualify the child for early intervention services. The Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-4 will be described. It is an innovative test that meets this need by employing 3-point (vs. dichotomous) scoring, use of caregiver report, and having a neuro-environmental synthesis theoretic framework. These features allow for more accurate diagnoses. Cognitive, Language, Motor, Adaptive and Social-Emotional scales are incorporated in this testing instrument. Comparison to extant tests and clinical groups are described and support the validity of this new reference standard which is being adopted internationally.

The presentation is co-sponsored by Sigma Xi, the MBMB seminar series, SIU School of Medicine Pediatrics, SIU School of Medicine Psychiatry, and SIU School of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences.

For details, email Matt Young, matthew.young@siu.edu