

Roberta A Ballard is Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, and Emeritus Professor and of Pediatrics and Ob/Gyne at the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Roberta received her MD at the University of Chicago and her residency training in pediatrics at the University of Chicago and Stanford and fellowship in Neonatal Perinatal medicine at George Washington University Hospital and the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) at UCSF.

In 1972 Roberta became Chief of the NICU at Mt. Zion Hospital San Francisco and later became Chief of the Pediatric program and pediatric residency and developed a neonatal fellowship training program in collaboration with UCSF and the CVRI over the next 19 years. Subsequently she, along with her husband Phil Ballard MD PhD led the neonatology program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years as Chief and Director of Research, respectively. They were jointly awarded the PAS Maureen Andrew Mentoring award in 2013 in recognition of mentoring activities over their careers.

Roberta has been involved in developing and directing all aspects of NIH-funded multicenter clinical trials in the neonate over more than 25 years and has been funded for multicenter randomized clinical trials (RCTs) for the prevention of the Chronic Lung Disease of prematurity (Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia, BPD) since 1991. She was PI of the NICHD-funded antenatal TRH trial which demonstrated that the addition of TRH to antenatal glucocorticoid does not improve respiratory outcome, ending use of that combination in perinatal practice. Subsequently she was PI of the NHLBI-funded NO CLD trial, which demonstrated a dosing approach for inhaled Nitric Oxide (iNO) therapy that is safe and effective in improving survival without BPD in some high risk ventilated infants and improving their pulmonary outcome through 1 year of age. She was PI of a NHLBI funded multicenter trial (25 sites) examining the combination of iNO with late doses of surfactant (TOLSURF) and assessing pulmonary and neurodevelopmental outcome through age 2. She is currently involved in a pilot dose escalation study of budesonide in surfactant to prevent BPD. Her research has been done as "bench to bedside" work with her collaborator of more than 40 years – Dr. Philip L. Ballard.