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Roberto Romero, M.D., D.Med.Sci. has been Chief of the Perinatology Research Branch of the NICHD/NIH for 23 years. He trained in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Yale University, where he was Director of Perinatal Research, before joining NIH.

Dr. Romero's team has made pioneering contributions to understanding the mechanisms responsible for preterm parturition and the role of subclinical infection in preterm birth, and discovered the role of cytokines in parturition. He has a particular interest in the role of the human fetus in the initiation of labor and other pregnancy complications.

Dr. Romero has authored over 975 peer-reviewed publications, edited ten books, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of the United States. He has been honored by national and international professional societies for his medical and scientific contributions, and is the recipient of twelve Doctorate Honoris Causa and Honorary Professorships from Universities worldwide.