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Fall 2024!



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 20th Edition of Fimbria! The Department of OBGYN & RS is proud to celebrate our progress in reproductive science and comprehensive women's care at UC San Diego over the last few years.

Volume 20 of the *Fimbria* spotlights the distinguished lab of physician scientist Louise Laurent, MD, PhD, a professor in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Our clinical spotlight for this edition is our Fundamental Critical Care Support: Obstetrics program led by Scott Harvey, MD, offering a hands-on skilled training approach to care for critically-ill obstetrics patients. Our newest offering, the Center for OB/GYN Research Innovation (CORI) has embarked on novel and innovative research endeavors in team science to improve health in our communities and worldwide. The Culture & Justice Quorum hosted a UC San Diego Health Birth Community Engagement & Symposia and reception that celebrated Midwifery Week with Grand Rounds on midwife integration into the hospital birth setting. Finally, in this edition, we announce our newly matched fellows joining the UCSD family in the 2025 academic year and become further acquainted with our current first-year fellows.

Visit our [website](#) for more information on our divisions, clinical programs, novel research, and varied educational offerings. Please enjoy this issue, and email us with any feedback to Fimbria@ucsd.edu.

Thank you!

Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MS

Samuel SC Yen Endowed Chair

Department Chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences

Professor, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology

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- Department of OBGYN & RS

FUNDING NEWS

Congrats to recent awardees on funding for impactful research and scientific discovery



Marianna Alperin, MD, MS

Sponsor

NIH/National Institute on Aging (NIA)

R01 AG086776 Grant

"Regenerative biomaterial for combating genitourinary syndrome of menopause"

Marianna Alperin, MD, MS

Sponsor

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

5R01HD102184-05 Grant

"Prevention of pelvic floor muscle dysfunction with extracellular matrix hydrogel"

Sara Averbach, MD, MAS

Sponsor

Society of Family Planning

Grant

"Advance practice clinician medication abortion provision: Assessing clinical care, effectiveness & safety study (APC-MAB-ACCESS)"

Lindsey Burnett, MD, PhD

Sponsor

UCSD Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion

Grant

"Exploring Social Factors in Resilience Against Burnout in Birth Trauma"

Dr. Burnett, Reproductive Scientist Development Program (RSDP) Scholar, is the 2nd Urogynecologist to receive this award – 1st was in 2007.

Louise Laurent, MD, PhD

Sponsor

Baylor College of Medicine

3OT2OD030547-01S2 Grant

"Genomic Indexing of Common Fund Datasets"

Irene Su, MD, MSCE

Sponsor

National Cancer Institute

5U54CA285115-02 Grant

"Pilot Project 1: Creating Bridges to Reproductive Health Care for Rural Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Survivors"



Irene Su, MD, MSCE

Sponsor

California Breast Cancer Research Program (CBCRP)

B30PIFP8715 Grant

"Policy priorities for equitable access to fertility preservation by breast cancer patients"

Varykina Thackray, PhD

Sponsor

UC San Diego

NIH R01 HL173772 Grant

"Resistant Starch Treatment of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: Impact on Cardiometabolic Dysfunction and the Gut Microbiome" in collaboration with Anuja Dokras (PI) at U. Penn." (NIH subcontract)

Miles Wilkinson, PhD

Sponsor

NIH/National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

R01: GM119128 Grant

Equipment Supplement

Louise Laurent, MD, PhD

Kathleen Fisch, PhD

Sponsor

NIH/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

U54 HD110347-03S1 Grant

"Pregnant Female Reproductive Tissue Mapping Center"

Louise Laurent, MD, PhD

Marni Jacobs, PhD

Sponsor

CDC

U01 IP001238-01-00 Grant

PREVENT: "Network of Community Cohorts for Monitoring Changes in Respiratory Virus Epidemiology" (multi-entity partnership)

Miles Wilkinson, PhD

Kun Tan, PhD

Sponsor

NIH/National Institute of Mental Health

R01: MH137503 Grant

"An Ancient Neural Enhancer that has Rapidly Evolved in the Human Lineage"

PUBLICATIONS

Recent Publications of Outstanding Work by Department of OBGYN & RS Members

Tara Mangum, **Sanjay K Agarwal**

[A Podcast on Patient and Physician Perspectives on the Management of Endometriosis and Relugolix Combination Therapy](#) | *Advances in Therapy* • OCTOBER 2024

Marla E Scott, **Dani Ashak**, Wilken F Muñoz Orozco, Allison E Axtell, Scott E Lentz

[Extraction Laparotomy for Specimen Retrieval does not Alter Same Day Discharge Plans](#) | *JMIG* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Nicole Rigler, **Sarah Averbach**, Selina Sandoval, Marisa Hildebrand, **Sheila K Mody**

[Barriers and Facilitators of Extended Use of the Contraceptive Implant: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Clinicians](#) | *Women's Health Issues* • OCTOBER 2024

Emma I Zelus, Aaron Panduro, Isha Deshmukh, Jacqueline Grime, **Marianna Alperin**, Andrew M Vahabzadeh-Hagh, Karen L Christman

[Immunomodulatory extracellular matrix hydrogel induces tissue regeneration in a model of partial glossectomy](#) | *Bioactive Materials* • AUGUST 2024

Linda Brubaker, Gregory Curfman, Joseph S Ross, Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo
[Health and the 2024 US Election](#) | *JAMA* • OCTOBER 2024

Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, **Linda Brubaker**, Greg Curfman

[The 2024 Revision to the Declaration of Helsinki: Modern Ethics for Medical Research](#) | *JAMA* • OCTOBER 2024

Linda Brubaker, Harry Horsley, Rajvinder Khasriya, Alan J Wolfe

[Microbiologist in the Clinic: Postmenopausal Woman with Chronic OAB and Positive Urine Culture](#) | *International Urogynecology Journal* • AUGUST 2024

Sonya S Brady, Shayna D Cunningham, **Linda Brubaker**, Chloe Falke, Aimee S James, Kimberly S Kenton, Lisa Kane Low, Alayne D Markland, Gerald Mcgwin, Diane K Newman, Jenna M Norton, Katlin Nuscis, Dulce P Rodriguez-Ponciano, Kyle D Rudser, Abigail R Smith, Ann Stapleton, Siobhan Sutcliffe, Heather A Klusaritz; Prevention of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (PLUS) Research Consortium

[Associations of financial strain and unmet social needs with women's bladder health](#) | *AJOG* • AUGUST 2024

Pamela Duran, Emma Zelus, **Lindsey A Burnett**, Karen L Christman, **Marianna Alperin**

[Repeated birth injuries lead to long-term pelvic floor muscle dysfunction in the preclinical rat model](#) | *AJOG* • AUGUST 2024

Christina M Eckhardt, Haotian Wu, Gabriela Jackson, Marisa H Sobel, Tessa Bloomquist, Adnan Divjan, Hadler da Silva, Lyle G Best, Shelley Cole, Jason Umans, Ying Zhang, **Peter de Hoff, Louise C Laurent**, Matthew S Perzanowski, Ke Cheng, Andrea A Baccarelli, Tiffany R Sanchez

[Extracellular Vesicle-Encapsulated microRNAs and Respiratory Health Among American Indians in the Strong Heart Study](#) | *Chest Journal* • AUGUST 2024

Fernando Hernandez, Hector Chavez, Sophie L. Goemans, Yeva Kirakosyan, **Carolina Diaz Luevano, Dana Canfield, Louise C. Laurent, Marni Jacobs, Doug Woelkers, Maryam Tarsa, Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, Kathleen M. Fisch**

[Aspirin resistance in pregnancy is associated with reduced interleukin-2 \(IL-2\) concentrations in maternal serum: Implications for aspirin prophylaxis for preeclampsia](#) | *Pregnancy Hypertension* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Omonigho Aisagbonhi, Ida Ghlichloo, Duncan S Hong, Andres Roma, Oluwole Fadare, Ramez Eskander, Cheryl Saenz, Kathleen M Fisch, Wei Song

[Comprehensive next-generation sequencing identifies novel putative pathogenic or likely pathogenic germline variants in patients with concurrent tubo-ovarian and endometrial serous and endometrioid carcinomas or precursors](#) | *Gynecologic Oncology* • AUGUST 2024

Eulalia A Coutinho, **Lourdes A Esparza**, Paige H Steffen, Reanna Liaw, Shreyana Bolleddu, **Alexander S Kauffman**

[Selective depletion of kisspeptin neurons in the hypothalamic arcuate nucleus in early juvenile life reduces pubertal LH secretion and delays puberty onset in mice](#) | *The FASEB Journal* • OCTOBER 2024

Eulalia A Coutinho, **Lourdes A Esparza**, Julian Rodriguez, Jason Yang, Danielle Schafer, **Alexander S Kauffman**

[Targeted inhibition of kisspeptin neurons reverses hyperandrogenemia and abnormal hyperactive LH secretion in a preclinical mouse model of polycystic ovary syndrome](#) | *Human Reproduction* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Frances W Grimstad, Elizabeth R Boskey, Rachael S Clark, **Cecile A Ferrando**

[Management of breakthrough bleeding in transgender and gender diverse individuals on testosterone](#) | *AJOG* • NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLICATIONS

Recent Publications of Outstanding Work by Department of OBGYN & RS Members

Rachel E Schafer, R'ay Fodor, Riley Marlar, Kate K Jensen, Abigail Meyers, Raymond Isakov, **Cecile Ferrando**, Antonio Rampazzo, Bahar Bassiri Gharb

[Nonbinary and Transgender Male Patient Preferences for Gender-Affirming Top Surgery](#) | *Annals of Plastic Surgery* • NOVEMBER 2024

R'ay Fodor, Abir Kalandar, Antonio Rampazzo, Raymond Isakov, **Cecile Ferrando**, Francis Papay, Bahar Bassiri Gharb

[Determining Chin Dimensions for Feminizing Genioplasty: An Anatomic Study](#) | *The Journal of Craniofacial Surgery* • OCTOBER 2024

Lannah L Lua-Mailland, Amy S Nowacki, Marie Fidela R Paraiso, Amy J Park, Shannon L Wallace, **Cecile A Ferrando**

[Virtual Compared With In-Office Postoperative Visits After Urogynecologic Surgery](#) | *Obstetrics & Gynecology* • OCTOBER 2024

Annika Sinha, Meng Yao, **Cecile A Ferrando**

[Persistent and De Novo Stress Urinary Incontinence After Minimally Invasive Sacrocolpopexy](#) | *Urogynecology* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Cyndi Akesson, Elliott G Richards, Meng Yao, James Ross, Josephine Grima, Lauren May, Gustavo Roversi, **Cecile A Ferrando**

[Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Among Persons With Marfan and Loeys-Dietz Syndrome](#) | *Urogynecology* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Liza Johannesson, Leigh A Humphries, Paige M Porrett, Giuliano Testa, Sophie Anderson, Jessica R Walter, Margaret Rush, **Cecile A Ferrando**, Kathleen O'Neill, Elliott G Richards

[Classification and treatment of vaginal strictures at the donor-recipient anastomosis after uterus transplant](#) | *Fertility and Sterility* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Jensara Clay, **Cecile Ferrando**, Thomas Gallant, Cara R King

[Laparoscopic Vecchietti procedure: pearls for success](#) | *Fertility and Sterility* • AUGUST 2024

Catherine A Matthews, Charles R Rardin, Andrew Sokol, Cheryl Iglesia, Sarah Collins, **Cecile Ferrando**, Harvey Winkler, Kimberly Kenton, Julia Geynisman-Tan, Robert E Gutman

[A randomized trial of retropubic vs single-incision sling among patients undergoing vaginal prolapse repair](#) | *AJOG* • AUGUST 2024

Kathleen M Fisch

[Response to Letter to the Editor: Comment on Article: Aspirin resistance in pregnancy is associated with reduced interleukin-2 concentration in maternal serum](#) | *Pregnancy Hypertension* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Takuya Nakagawa, Jens Luebeck, Kaiyuan Zhu, Joshua T Lange, Roman Sasik, Chad Phillips, Sayed Sadat, Sara Javadzadeh, Qian Yang, Allen Wang, Kersi Pestonjamas, Brin Rosenthal, **Kathleen M Fisch**, Paul Mischel, Vineet Bafna, Joseph A Califano

[Inhibition of novel human-HPV hybrid ecDNA enhancers reduces oncogene expression and tumor growth in oropharyngeal cancer](#) | *Research Square* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Molly Huang, Adam Mark, Jessica Pham, Karina Vera, Amanda M Saravia-Butler, Afshin Beheshti, Qingfei Jiang, **Kathleen M Fisch**

[RNA editing regulates host immune response and T cell homeostasis in SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) | *PLOS ONE* • AUGUST 2024

Mark A Clapp, Siguo Li, Jessica L Cohen, **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Amy B Knudsen, Scott A Lorch, Tanayott Thaweethai, Jason D Wright, Anjali J Kaimal, Alexander Melamed

[Betamethasone Exposure and Neonatal Respiratory Morbidity Among Late Preterm Births by Planned Mode of Delivery and Gestational Age](#) | *Obstetrics & Gynecology* • OCTOBER 2024

Mark A Clapp, Jessica L Cohen, **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Anjali J Kaimal, Scott A Lorch, Jason D Wright, Alexander Melamed

[Sociodemographic factors associated with antenatal steroid use among late preterm births](#) | *AJOG MFM* • AUGUST 2024

Srijani Basu, Sarah G Običan, Enrico Bertaggia, Hannah Staab, M Concepcion Izquierdo, **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Rebecca A Haeusler

[Unresolved alterations in bile acid composition and dyslipidemia in maternal and cord blood after ursodeoxycholic acid treatment for intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy](#) | *MedRxiv* • AUGUST 2024

Marwan Ma'ayeh, Jessica A de Voest, Brenna L Hughes, William A Grobman, George R Saade, Tracy A Manuck, Monica Longo, Hyagriv N Simhan, Dwight J Rouse, Hector Mendez-Figueroa, **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Jennifer L Bailit, Maged M Costantine, Harish M Sehdev, Alan T N Tita, Torri D Metz; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network

[Association Between Influenza Vaccination and SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#) | *American Journal of Reproductive Immunology* • JULY 2024

Samantha Hietalati, Donna Pham, Harneet Arora, Marina Mochizuki, Giselle Santiago, Jordan Vaught, Erika T Lin, Karen K Mestan, Mana Parast, **Marni B Jacobs**

[Placental pathology and fetal growth outcomes in pregnancies complicated by maternal obesity](#) | *International Journal of Obesity* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Rashmi Dhital, **Marni Jacobs**, Chelsey J F Smith, Mana M Parast

[Placental lesions in systemic lupus erythematosus pregnancies associated with small for gestational age infant](#) | *Rheumatology* • AUGUST 2024

Alexander S Kauffman

[Androgen Inhibition of Reproductive Neuroendocrine Function in Females and Transgender Males](#) | *Endocrinology* • OCTOBER 2024

Deepa R Camenga, Sonya S Brady, Andrea Bilger, Heather Klusaritz, Terri H Lipman, Elise C Levin, Oluwateniola Brown, Shayna Cunningham, **D Yvette LaCoursiere**, Aimee S James, Sheila Gahagan, Jeni Hebert-Beirne, Lisa Kane Low

[Bladder Health Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs among US Adolescent Women](#) | *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* • OCTOBER 2024

Mahdieh Danesh Yazdi, Allison Sonntag, Anna Kosheleva, Feiby L Nassan, Cuicui Wang, Zongli Xu, Haotian Wu, **Louise C Laurent**, **Peter DeHoff**, Nicole T Comfort, Pantel Vokonas, Robert Wright, Marc Weisskopf, Andrea A Baccarelli, Joel D Schwartz

[The association between toenail metals and extracellular MicroRNAs \(ex-miRNAs\) among the participants of the Normative Aging study \(NAS\)](#) | *Environmental Research* • NOVEMBER 2024

PUBLICATIONS

Recent Publications of Outstanding Work by Department of OBGYN & RS Members

Xinye Qiu, Mahdieh Danesh Yazdi, Cuicui Wang, Anna Kosheleva, Haotian Wu, Pantel S Vokonas, Avron Spiro, **Louise C Laurent**, **Peter DeHoff**, Laura D Kubzansky, Marc G Weisskopf, Andrea A Baccarelli, Joel D Schwartz

[Extracellular microRNAs associated with psychiatric symptoms in the Normative Aging Study](#) | *Journal of Psychiatric Research* • OCTOBER 2024

Danielle Pham, Angel Lomeli, Nicole H Goldhaber, Holly D Valentine, Rob Knight, Christopher A Longhurst, **Louise C Laurent**, **Marni B Jacobs**

[Longitudinal assessment of the impact of COVID-19 infection on mask-wearing behaviors](#) | *BMC Public Health* • AUGUST 2024

James Kim, Shihan Xu, Seung-Ryoung Jung, Alya Nguyen, Yuanhua Cheng, Mengxia Zhao, Bryant S Fujimoto, Wyatt Nelson, Perry Schiro, Jeffrey L Franklin, James N Higginbotham, Robert J Coffey, Min Shi, Lucia N Vojtech, Florian Hladik, Muneesh Tewari, John Tigges, Ionita Ghiran, Tijana Jovanovic-Talman, **Louise C Laurent**, Saumya Das, Olesia Gololobova, Kenneth W Witwer, Tuoye Xu, Al Charest, Kendall Van Keuren Jensen, Robert L Raffai, Jennifer C Jones, Joshua A Welsh, John P Nolan, Daniel T Chiu

[Comparison of EV characterization by commercial high-sensitivity flow cytometers and a custom single-molecule flow cytometer](#) | *Journal of Extracellular Vesicles* • AUGUST 2024

Leslie M Rickey, Elizabeth R Mueller, Diane K Newman, Alayne D Markland, Chloe Falke, Kyle Rudser, Ariana L Smith, Margaret G Mueller, Jerry L Lowder, **Emily S Lukacz**; Prevention of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (PLUS) Research Consortium

[Reliability of Uroflowmetry Pattern Interpretation in Adult Women](#) | *Neurology Urodynamics* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Michael T McHale

[New insights in Endometriosis Subtypes and Ovarian Cancer Risk](#) | *JAMA* • AUGUST 2024

Hafsatou Diop, Eugene R Declercq, Chia-Ling Liu 3, Xiaohui Cui, Ndiadamaka Amutah-Onukagha, **Audra R Meadows**, Howard J Cabral

[Leveraging a Longitudinally Linked Dataset to Assess Recurrence of Severe Maternal Morbidity](#) | *Women's Health Issues* • OCTOBER 2024

Bella Ribeiro de Oliveira, Sarah Alsamman, Maya Pai, **Sheila K Mody**

["My IUD is expiring": A national U.S. mystery client study regarding use of the LNG 52-mg IUD for pregnancy prevention beyond 5 years after multiple FDA extensions](#) | *Contraception* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Raksha Jain, Giselle Peng, MinJae Lee, Ashley Keller, Sophia Cosmich, Sarthak Reddy, Natalie E West, Traci M Kazmerski, Jennifer L Goralski, Patrick A Flume, Andrea H Roe, Denis Hadjiliadis, Ahmet Uluer, **Sheila Mody**, Sigrid Ladores, Jennifer L Taylor-Cousar

[Impact of Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator Modulators on Maternal Outcomes During and After Pregnancy](#) | *CHEST Journal* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Abram Soliman, Ruba Hassan, Ion Codreanu, **Steven C Plaxe**, Constantin A Dasanu

[Sjogren's syndrome due to immune checkpoint inhibitors \(ICIs\): Insights from a single-institution series and systematic review of the literature](#) | *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice* • AUGUST 2024

Maya Patel, Ashley N Battarbee, Jerrie S Refuerzo, Noelia Zork, Kacey Eichelberger, **Gladys A Ramos**, Gayle Olson, Celeste Durnwald, Mark B Landon, Kjersti M Aagaard, Kedra Wallace, Christina Scifres, Todd Rosen, Wadia Mulla, Amy Valent, Sherri Longo, Kim A Boggess

[Association Between Metformin Use in Early Gestational or Type 2 Diabetes in Pregnancy and Preterm Preeclampsia](#) | *Obstetrics & Gynecology* • NOVEMBER 2024

Nasim C Sobhani, Sophie Goemans, Antoinette Nguyen, Melissa E Chambers, Michael Richley, Lauryn C Gabby, Nancy Field, Christina S Han, **Gladys A Ramos**

[Continuous glucose monitoring in pregnancies with type 1 diabetes: small increases in time-in-range improve maternal and perinatal outcomes](#) | *AJOG* • OCTOBER 2024

Megan R Routzong, Mary M Rieger, Mark S Cook, Ramya Ukkan, **Marianna Alperin**

[Sexual Dimorphism in the Architectural Design of Rat and Human Pelvic Floor Muscles](#) | *Journal of Biomechanical Engineering* • OCTOBER 2024

Minhazur R Sarker, **Gladys A Ramos**, **Andrew D Hull**

[Recommending maternal bedrest to improve intrauterine growth is not proven](#) | *AJOG* • OCTOBER 2024

Nasim C Sobhani, Christina S Han, Minhazur R Sarker, Sohun Shah, **Gladys A Ramos**

[Use of a Commercially Available Automated Insulin Delivery System for the Management of Type 1 Diabetes in Pregnancy](#) | *Journal of Diabetes Science and Technology* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Jacqueline C Yano Maher, Allison Kumnick, Ninet Sinaii, **H Irene Su**, Katherine E Cameron, Sobenna A George, Clarissa Gracia, Lillian R Meacham, Veronica Gomez-Lobo

[A Mega-Analysis of Anti-Müllerian Hormone Levels in Female Childhood Cancer Survivors Based on Treatment Risk, Time since Treatment, and Pubertal Status](#) | *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Afshan B Hameed, **Maryam Tarsa**, Cornelia R Graves, Anna Grodzinsky, Heike Thiel De Bocanegra, Diana S Wolfe

[Universal Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment in Pregnancy: Call to Action JACC: Advances Expert Panel](#) | *JACC Advances* • OCTOBER 2024

Jennifer Leeman, Catherine L Rohweder, Feng-Chang Lin, Alexandra F Lightfoot, Jennifer Medearis Costello, Narges Farahi, Kimberly Harper, Johanna Quist-Nelson, **E Nicole Teal**, Maihan B Vu, Sarahn Wheeler, M Kathryn Menard

[Community-engaged implementation of a safety bundle for pregnancy-related severe hypertension in the outpatient setting: protocol for a type 3 hybrid study with a multiple baseline design](#) | *BMC Health Services Research* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Timothy Wen, Alexander M Friedman, **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman**, Camille E Powe, Nasim C Sobhani, **Gladys A Ramos**, Steven Gabbe, Mark B Landon, William A Grobman, Kartik K Venkatesh

[Diabetic Ketoacidosis and Adverse Outcomes Among Pregnant Individuals With Pregestational Diabetes in the United States, 2010-2020](#) | *Obstetrics & Gynecology* • NOVEMBER 2024

NEWSBYTES

Recent News Featuring Department of OBGYN & RS

**News** featuring **Anne Cooper, CNM, MSN, RN**

[New Comprehensive Women's Health Program Director](#) | *UCSD Physician/APP Update* • SEPTEMBER 2024

Podcast featuring **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MS**

[The Extraordinaire within you: Dr. Gyamfi-Bannerman](#) | *AJOG MFM* • OCTOBER 2024

**News** featuring **Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MS**

[Breaking Barriers, Shattering Glass: Women in Medicine Month](#) | *UC San Diego Today* • SEPTEMBER 2024

News featuring **Gina Frugoni, MD**

[Can you actually get pregnant during your period? What an OB/GYN needs you to know](#) | *USA Today* • AUGUST 2024

News featuring **Jessica Kingston, MD**

[Periods don't have to be painful. Here's how to find relief from menstrual cramps](#) | *USA Today* • AUGUST 2024

News featuring **Yvette LaCoursiere, MD, MPH**

[A Guide to Breast Health: Lower Your Cancer Risk, Debunk Myths, and Eat Better](#) | *Prevention* • OCTOBER 2024

News featuring **Kathryn Macaulay, MD**

[Opinion: Hormone replacement was the answer for women, until it wasn't](#) | *San Diego Union Tribune* • SEPTEMBER 2024

News featuring **Michael McHale, MD**

[Subtypes of Endometriosis Linked With Ovarian Cancer Risk](#) | *Cancer Nursing Today* • SEPTEMBER 2024

News featuring **H. Irene Su, MD, MSCE**

[Research Funded by Curebound Gains Continued Momentum with Follow-On Funding for Cancer Research Clinical Trials and Scientific Accolades for New AI Precision-Oncology Platform](#) | *Business Wire* • AUGUST 2024

News featuring **Danielle Vachon, MD**

[HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra speaks in San Diego on White House efforts to expand access to contraception](#) | *CBS8* • OCTOBER 2024

**News** featuring **Shira Varon, MD**

[Younger Patients Have More Regrets About Hysterectomy](#) | *MedPage Today* • SEPTEMBER 2024

News featuring **OBGYN & RS Midwife Practice, Erica Vu Hill, CNM, NP, MS, and Amanda Bradshaw**

[APP Week 2024 - Midwives](#) | *Advanced Practice Council* • SEPTEMBER 2024

News featuring **OBGYN & RS**

[World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2024](#) | *Newsweek* • SEPTEMBER 2024

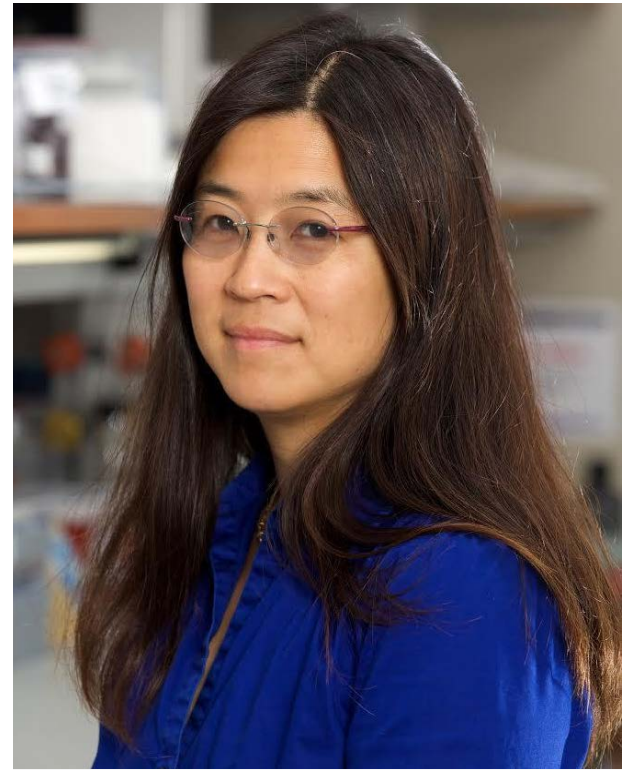
LABORATORY IN THE SPOTLIGHT *Featuring OBGYN & RS Groundbreaking Research Endeavors*

LOUISE LAURENT, MD/PhD Lab on the LEADING EDGE of HEALTH TECHNOLOGY and CLINICAL RESEARCH IMPROVING MATERNAL and INFANT HEALTH

Highly-regarded for her heroic body of research achievements with international scope, renowned clinician-translational scientist Louise Laurent, MD, PhD and her prestigious UC San Diego lab tackle public health behemoths from advancing perinatal care to strategizing pandemic preparedness. Dr. Laurent, a professor and maternal-fetal medicine specialist in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, serves as Director of Perinatal Research and Biorepository, Co-Director of the Center for Perinatal Discovery and the Excite Lab, Co-Director for the [Women's Health Research Program](#) (WRHR), Co-Director of the newly launched [Center for Ob/Gyn Research Innovation](#) (CORI), and member of the UC San Diego Stem Cell Program and the Institute for Genomic Medicine.

As an exemplary role model and visionary mentor for UC San Diego student researchers and budding scientists early in faculty appointments, [Dr. Laurent's lab](#) bustles with award-winning stem-cell and genomic technology projects:

- extracellular multi-omics
- state-of-the-art construction of multiscale 3D molecular and cellular model of the human placenta through gestation
- investigation of biomarkers for diagnosis of pregnancy complications
- exploring key regulators of human placental development
- characterization of substates of stem cell pluripotency (genomic and epigenomic differentiation) and extracellular nanoparticle biology
- advancing equitable care for underserved populations with public health strategic management of respiratory infection and disease



Louise Laurent, MD, PhD

MEET THE LAURENT LAB TEAM MEMBERS



Peter DeHoff



Scott Lindsay-Hewett,
PhD



Srimeenakshi
Srinivasan, PhD



Abhik Chakraborty,
PhD



Luiza Perucci, PhD



Abbas Hakim



Anelizze Castro-
Martinez



Willi Cheung



Tyler Ostrander



Yoshinori Endo



Andrew Lin



Natalie Kaplanyan

LABORATORY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Featuring OBGYN & RS Groundbreaking Research Endeavors

Community Health Equitable Approach for Women and Children

The Laurent Lab takes great pride in developing high quality next-generation health technology for the betterment of community and society as a whole when there is a need. From all angles, Dr. Laurent lab discovers evidence-backed solutions and solves problems through understanding molecular mechanisms associated with disease which has tremendous impact on CDC shaping procedural and therapeutic directive.

Nested Labs within Laurent Lab are [CO-CREATE](#) and EXCITE Lab. CO-CREATE (Community-driven Optimization of COVID-19 testing to Reach and Engage underserved Areas for Testing Equity—in Women and Children) is part of the NIH-funded [RADx® Underserved Populations](#) (RADx-UP) projects which ensure access to COVID-19 testing. EXCITE Lab is a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Lab revolutionizing rapid testing of human specimens using high-throughput screening (HTS) assays for scientific discovery.

“PREVENT: Preparedness through Respiratory Virus Epidemiology and Community Engagement” is Dr. Laurent's newest trailblazer to prepare and guide the nation on how to respond to disease and highly transmissible respiratory virus. The formation of a "Pandemic Preparedness Network of Community Cohorts" is a data hub for sharing real-time information procured from monitoring respiratory infection rates and immune response, three Longitudinal cohorts, two Immunologic Assessment cohorts, and three Household Transmission cohorts. Identification of virus subvariants and factors influencing transmission will be researched to mine immunologic insights, public perception and behavior (i.e. masking, vaccines) for a multi-partnered approach to de-escalate high prevalence of transmission and hospitalization. The CDC granted \$28M for the five-year project in alignment with Dr. Laurent's mission to protect equitable access to care.

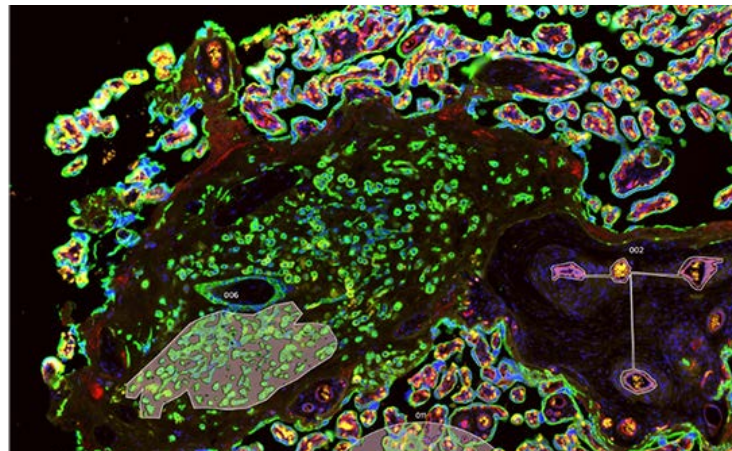
Up-and-Coming Research

View featured publications from Laurent Lab on up-and-coming research and clinical study findings: [Laurent Lab + Research Publications](#)

Thank you, [Dr. Laurent Lab](#) for your preminent excellence in research innovation masterminding treatments to advance quality of life for mothers and infants, forging partnerships across the globe to bring the best of care to communities, and training clinician-scientists to build bright careers in reproductive health.



Laurent Lab | Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine



Laurent Lab | Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research

CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

OBGYN & RS State-of-the-Art Programs Advance Patient Care

FUNDAMENTAL CRITICAL CARE SUPPORT: OBSTETRICS PROGRAM

In 2017, as maternal mortality rates were on the rise, Dr. Scott Harvey, alongside his colleagues in obstetrics, maternal-fetal medicine, and critical care, took a bold step to address a critical need. Through the Society of Critical Care Medicine, they developed the "Fundamentals of Critical Care Support: Obstetric" course. This initiative was a direct attempt to improve the care and outcomes for critically ill pregnant patients, filling a vital gap in medical training and education.

Scott Harvey, MD, MS, FACOG, FCCM is dual board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Surgical Critical Care. He is an Associate Clinical Professor, Director of Obstetrics, Hospitalist, and member of the Hospitalist division in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UC San Diego.



Scott Harvey, MD, MS



Scott Harvey, MD course on Fundamentals of Critical Care Support: Obstetrics. Photos by Johanna Romero

CLINICAL INNOVATIONS

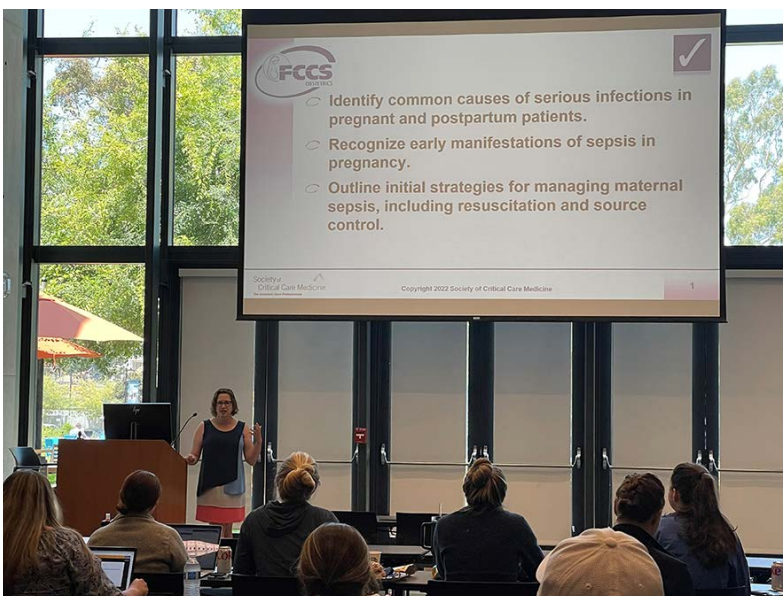
OBGYN & RS State-of-the-Art Programs Advance Patient Care

Course Overview | Fundamental Critical Care Support: Obstetrics (FCCS:OB)

The course is a comprehensive program incorporating didactic lectures, a corresponding textbook, pretests, post-tests, and simulations. It provides a robust blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring participants are well-equipped to handle complex situations. This course is unique in its ability to cater to a global audience, having been taught worldwide using both high and low fidelity simulations. Dr. Harvey has personally led the course multiple times, both nationally and internationally, reflecting his commitment to advancing maternal healthcare on a global scale.

The inaugural session was held at the UC San Diego Simulation Center on July 26-27, 2024, attracting 18 participants from diverse backgrounds, including attending physicians, fellows, nurses, and nursing instructors. These participants came from various specialties such as emergency medicine, critical care, and obstetrics, which enriched the course with a multidisciplinary perspective. The curriculum skillfully blends critical care and obstetrics, making it accessible and relevant to all attendees, regardless of their primary specialty. The instructors are all experts in their various subspecialties to include neuroscience critical care, obstetric anesthesia, maternal fetal medicine, obstetric hospital medicine, and obstetric critical care.

Over the course of two half-day sessions, participants engage in didactic lectures aligned with the textbook, followed by a half day of high fidelity simulations in the world renowned UC San Diego Simulation Center. There is a multidisciplinary discussion that ensues after every topic, leading to thoughts on practice changes and protocols within our own institution.



Alice Sutton, MD teaching FCCS:OB



UC San Diego Simulation Training Center

2024 Conference Course Faculty:

Julia Cormano, MD, FACOG
 Gina Frugoni, MD
 Thomas Kelly, MD
 Yvette LaCoursiere, MD, MPH
 Tiffany Lentz, DNP, CNL, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
 Anushirvan Minokadeh, MD
 Brooke Sanchez, MSN, CNL, CPLC, RNC-OB
 Alice Sutton, MD, FACOG
 Lawrence Weinstein, MD

"I have directed this course multiple times, and with each session, I gain new insights and knowledge. The multidisciplinary environment is one of the most valuable aspects of the course, as it allows instructors from diverse specialties to share their unique expertise and perspectives. I believe this course should be a fundamental component of education for all residents and fellows. I look forward to continuing to host this course on at least an annual basis."

– Scott Harvey, MD, MS

Stay tuned to register for Dr. Harvey's 2025 Conference and earn CME Credits!

IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH VIA TEAM SCIENCE



Women's Health Innovations through Scientific Development, Engineering, and Medicine

The Mission

The Center for Women's Health Innovations through Scientific Development, Engineering, and Medicine have forged their mission:

"to unite UC San Diego engineers, basic scientists, and health care providers to spark cross-university, multidisciplinary research opportunities centered around women's health. We also seek to educate trainees and faculty at all career levels to address sex-based and gender-based health disparities through technological advancements, commercialize novel diagnostic and therapeutic solutions, and promote outreach both within and outside of the university community."

WHISDEM members from the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences contributing to this brilliant endeavor are: Sarah Averbach, MD, MAS, Kathleen Fisch, PhD, Cecile Ferrando, MD, MPH, Amanda Lewis, PhD, Warren Lewis, PhD, Emily Lukacz, MD, MAS, Audra Meadows, MD, MPH, Priya Pantham, PhD, and David Schlaepfer, PhD. [Explore WHISDEM »](#)

Award Announcement

WHISDEM Co-Directors Marianna Alperin, MD, MS, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Vice Chair for Translational Research, and Brian Aguado, PhD, Assistant Professor, Shu Chien-Gen Lay Department of Bioengineering have established awards for bioengineering students to fund team science research projects. Congratulations to Dr. Aguado on winning the 2024 Biomedical Engineering Society award for outstanding achievement and contribution to biomedical engineering: 2024 Diversity Lecture Award LatinXinBME for his work "Building a Virtual Community to Support and Celebrate the Success of Latinx Biomedical Engineers."

"Ob/Gyn is the cornerstone of Women's Health" – Marianna Alperin, MD, MS"

Accessible Midwifery Model of Care Improves Maternal and Infant Health

The [Culture and Justice Quorum](#) (CJQ) of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, led by Audra Meadows, MD, MPH, Vice Chair of Culture and Justice, in partnership with the Department Grand Rounds Team and Department Midwifery Team hosted “The State of Midwifery in California,” featuring Holly Smith, CNM, MPH, FACNM, in honor of 2024 Midwifery Week. The event included a reception celebrating the Anne Cooper CNM, the new UCSD CNM Director, the important contributions of UC San Diego Health midwives and highlighted the equity-driven impact of midwifery care. Holly’s Grand Rounds presentation further explored these themes, focusing on the urgent need to address disparities and improve access to reproductive and maternity care.

Holly Smith, who serves as Health Policy Chair and Legislative Lead for the [California Nurse-Midwives Association](#) and Co-Lead of Midwifery Access California, emphasized the ongoing maternal health crisis. She discussed how racism-based disparities and restricted access to care have resulted in persistently poor maternity outcomes and high maternal and infant morbidity rates in the U.S. Data shared during the presentation revealed inequities and the effect of limited access to care. Holly highlighted that over 50 maternity units in California have closed since 2012, citing a lack of providers, geographic barriers to care, high facility operating costs, and staffing challenges. These closures have contributed to rising rates of preterm and out-of-hospital births. Additional stressors include the complex licensing and regulation of freestanding birth centers across the state.

The patient-centered midwifery model of care offers comprehensive support throughout the prenatal, labor, and postpartum periods, fostering advocacy and partnership. Globally, midwifery care is associated with optimal clinical outcomes, including high rates of spontaneous vaginal birth, breastfeeding, fewer clinical interventions, and reduced costs. The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative ([CMQCC](#)) patient safety bundle currently being implemented at UCSD provides strategies for reducing primary cesarean births, advancing equity, and their complications.



Midwifery Week 2024

CULTURE & JUSTICE

OBGYN & RS Culture & Justice Quorum (CJQ) Spearheads Inclusive Excellence

Directed by Anne Cooper, CNM, UC San Diego’s midwifery program is well-integrated with hospital services, ensuring seamless coordination for patients who require complex care. As the maternal health crisis persists, expanding access to midwifery services remains critical to strengthening birth infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Holly emphasized that midwifery care is vital for these regions, where health provider shortages and vulnerable populations are more prevalent. She also shared CDC data showing that community home births are rising, especially among Black and Hispanic women, highlighting the importance of midwives for safe, low-risk pregnancies. The new CMQCC Community Birth Partner Initiative offers a path toward improving maternity safety and reducing poor outcomes through strengthened collaborations between midwives and community birth settings.



Audra Meadows, MD, MPH, Holly Smith, CNM, MPH, and Cynthia Gyamfi, MD, MS

Anne Cooper, CNM with Nurse Midwife from California Nurse Midwife Association



APP Week 2024 Midwives

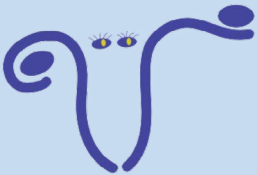
CULTURE & JUSTICE

OBGYN & RS Culture & Justice Quorum (CJQ) Spearheads Inclusive Excellence



Midwife birth with Pam Ward, CNM and OBGYN & RS Resident Leilani Gutierrez-Palomino, MD who is rotating through the Nurse Midwife service

At Your Cervix



At Your Cervix 2024-2025 Resident leads:

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Lead: Rafa Ifthikhar, MD

Advocacy Lead: Jess Rivas, MD

Community Engagement and Service Lead: Milli Desai, MD and Allison Rajan, MD

This issue of Fimbria's At Your Cervix highlights Community Health Clinic

Interdisciplinary Global Health Pathway | Prevensa Community Health Clinic

Rafa Ifthikhar, MD is a Chief resident from the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences who participates in the Interdisciplinary Global Health Pathway, led by Sarah Averbach, MD, along with residents from Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Anesthesia, and Surgery. With new Obstetrics and Gynecology faculty member, Omar Mesina, MD, Dr. Ifthikhar provides care for patients and assists with pharmacy in a low-resource setting at UC San Diego Health partner Prevensa Community Health Clinic in Tijuana, Mexico as part of improving global health care delivery for OB refugees and border health needs. The global health pathway encompasses an interdisciplinary residents' journal club and simulation training.

Voting!

Election Day is November 5th - this election has major implications for healthcare and we encourage all to participate in the democratic process. All active California registered voters should receive a vote-by-mail ballot. UC San Diego's ballot drop-box is outside of the northeast entrance to Price Center on Matthews Lane. Remember to sign and seal your envelope!



Rafa Ifthikhar, MD at Prevensa Clinic

Voting Locations at UCSD

UCSD Eleanor Roosevelt College - Middle Earth	9906 Scholars Dr N	November 2 to November 5
UCSD Price Center - Bear & Red Shoe Room	9500 Gilman Dr	October 26 to November 5

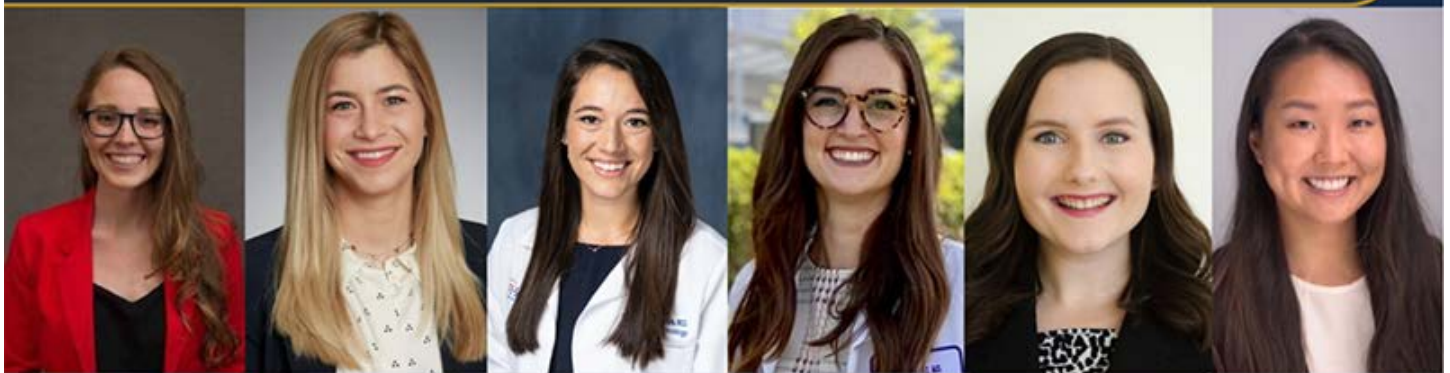
Please visit our [CJQ website](#) to discover more about our Culture and Justice Quorum.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Incoming FELLOWS 2025

We are thrilled to announce our AY 2025-2026 fellowship matches. Welcome aboard fellows!

FELLOWSHIP MATCH DAY 2025

Join us in welcoming our new fellows who matched to UC San Diego Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences! We are overjoyed to have these brilliant top trainees journey into our family of subspecialties and contribute to advancing the future of leadership in medicine and reproductive health care! OBGYN & RS is very proud of your success, hard work in residency, and dedication to the highest quality of training! **CONGRATULATIONS!**



CYNTHIA COOTS, MD

New York College Residency to UC San Diego Complex Family Planning

OLIVIA NICOLAIS, MD

Abbington Jefferson University Residency to UC San Diego Gynecologic Oncology

EMILY ALLARD-PHILLIPS, MD

University of Florida Residency to UC San Diego Reproductive Endocrinology & Reproductive Sciences

ERIN GALLENT, MD, PhD

Kaiser Permanente Southern California Residency to UC San Diego Maternal-Fetal Medicine

JENNY KOENIG, MD, PhD

UC San Diego School of Medicine Residency to UC San Diego Maternal-Fetal Medicine

JANICE WONG, MD

Duke University School of Medicine Residency to UC San Diego Urogynecology & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery



MEET OUR CURRENT FIRST YEAR FELLOWS



Karen Greiner, MD

Hometown: Palo Alto, California

Undergraduate School: Stanford University

Medical School: Oregon Health & Science University

Residency: Kaiser Permanente San Francisco

Fellowship: Complex Family Planning at UC San Diego

Career Interests: Work as both a clinician and researcher in Complex Family Planning

"Karen joins us after completing her OB/GYN residency at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco. She is originally from the Bay Area. She attended Stanford University for her undergraduate degree, received her MD from Oregon Health & Science University, and her MPH in Epidemiology from the OHSU-Portland State University School of Public Health. She has published and presented research on cost-effectiveness analyses, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and adverse outcomes after D&E based on the method used to confirm an empty uterus. She is particularly interested in working with Spanish-speaking populations and continuing to pursue her research interests related to abortion care. Outside of work, she has been exploring the San Diego sunshine with her husband, 4-year-old son, Leon, and her extended family in the San Diego area."



Alexandra Nutaitis, DO

Hometown: Surf City, New Jersey

Undergraduate School: Emory University

Medical School: Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Residency: Cleveland Clinic Akron General

Fellowship: Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Career Interests: childbirth-related pelvic floor injury, obstetric anal sphincter injury, patient education and resource development, protocol development and implementation

"Dr. Nutaitis is a Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery Fellow who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of pelvic health disorders including various types of urinary leakage, pelvic organ prolapse, accidental bowel leakage, and sexual health disorders. Dr. Nutaitis prioritizes patient education and interaction and is committed to improving the quality of life of her patients."

She has a special research interest in childbirth associated pelvic floor disorders and is interested in helping women in the immediate postpartum period. She has presented her research at various national conferences including the American Urogynecologic Society and The Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction.

In her free time, Dr. Nutaitis enjoys hiking, sailing, and traveling with her husband. "



Carissa Pekney, MD

Hometown: West Lafayette, Indiana

Undergraduate School: United States Military Academy at West Point

Medical School: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Residency: National Capital Consortium (Walter Reed National Military Medical Center)

Fellowship: Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at UC San Diego

Career Interests: fertility preservation, oncofertility, LGBTQ+ family building, reproductive surgery

"Carissa Pekny is originally from West Lafayette, Indiana. She completed her undergraduate education at the United States Military Academy at West Point and attended the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, MD for medical school. She stayed in Bethesda, MD for her OB/GYN residency training at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (National Capital Consortium) prior to moving to California for fellowship training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at University of California San Diego. Her career interests include fertility preservation, oncofertility, LGBTQ+ family building, and reproductive surgery. In her free time, Carissa likes to hike and explore the local San Diego food scene with her wife, Hannah, and their two dogs."

MEET OUR CURRENT FIRST YEAR FELLOWS



Patrick Peñalosa, MD

Hometown: San Jose, CA
Undergraduate School: UC Irvine
Medical School: UC Irvine
Residency: UC Irvine
Fellowship: Gynecologic Oncology
Career Interests: Gynecologic oncology, health care disparities research

"Patrick Peñalosa is a first-year Gynecologic Oncology Fellow with career and research interests in health care disparities and healthcare services research as it relates to cervical cancer among underserved populations. Outside of medicine, he enjoys photography as well as staying active and has picked up running as a hobby to explore the area since moving to sunny San Diego."



Rachel Wiley, MD

Hometown: Plano, TX
Undergraduate School: Trinity University
Medical School: University of Texas Houston Health Science Center
Residency: University of Texas Houston Health Science Center
Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Career Interests: Maternal mental health, postpartum hemorrhage, labor and delivery

"I grew up and have lived my life in Texas, through Dallas as a child, San Antonio for undergrad and Houston for medical school and residency. I came to California to get a different perspective on reproductive care, as well as escape the heat and spend some time outside! My interests include maternal mental health, optimizing labor and delivery management and my family."

NEW FACULTY HIRES

Welcome to the Department of OBGYN & RS! We're delighted to have you join the team!



Laura Biver, MD

Obstetrics and Gynecology (Generalist) division

Dr. Laura Biver received her Bachelor of Arts and Master's in Public Health degree from University of Virginia. She completed her medical school training and residency at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in July of 2024. At GW, she developed an interest in sexual medicine. She plans to continue her education and development of skills in this field. She is new to San Diego area and will be joining the Generalist Division.

NEW FACULTY HIRES*Welcome to the Department of OBGYN & RS! We're delighted to have you join the team!***Omar Mesina, MD****Obstetrics and Gynecology (Generalist) division**

Dr. Mesina completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UC San Diego School of Medicine, where he also served as an administrative chief resident. He earned his medical degree from UC San Francisco School of Medicine and his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. Before medical school, he worked in health outcomes research in Boston and as a case manager for underserved patients in the South Bronx in NYC. He has a personal and academic interest in promoting health care access among underrepresented and historically marginalized patients, with a special interest in LGBTQ+ health, gender affirming care, minimally invasive surgery, and medical education. Outside of work, he enjoys group fitness classes, long-distance running, going to concerts, traveling, and spending time with his mischievous cat.

**Isabella Qendro, MD, PhD****Obstetrics and Gynecology (Generalist) division**

Dr. Isabella Qendro joins the department in 2024 directly from the UCSD OBGYN Residency Program. Having joined our residency program from the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Qendro has maintained close ties with the department with her endearing personality and disposition. During residency, Dr. Qendro was active in resident leadership activities as simulation lead, helping to improve and facilitate all simulation activities for residents. We are excited for her new role in the UCSD OBGYN Family.

**Danielle Vachon, MD****Complex Family Planning division**

Dr. Vachon happily joined the department as the Ryan Residency Director in 2024 after completing Complex Family Planning Fellowship here at UCSD. She is interested in medical student and resident education in reproductive healthcare. Her fellowship project was on investigating the impact of the Dobbs decision on OBGYN residency abortion training in the United States. She is also dedicated to physician advocacy and serves as a Co-chair on the ACOG District IX Legislative Committee. In her free time, she and her husband have been working on DIY projects for their new home and figuring out how to raise their 6-month-old son to be a feminist.

**Timothy Wen, MD****Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Division of Biomedical Informatics (Department of Medicine)**

Dr. Tim Wen completed his Bachelor of Science at UCLA followed by an MPH in Epidemiology from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. He earned his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC and completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Dr. Wen then pursued fellowships in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Clinical Informatics at UCSF. Throughout his training, he has been interested in using large databases to understand outcomes and health services utilization in women's health. His current academic and research focuses on leveraging the electronic health record and the data within it to develop artificial intelligence/machine learning prediction models and interventions to standardize and improve care, specifically in pregnancy care. His work has involved being co-investigator on two Small Business Innovation Research grants and >100 peer-reviewed publications. Outside of the academic world, he is on the medical advisory board of Delfina Care Inc, a data-driven digital health pregnancy start-up. Dr. Wen is originally from San Diego and excited to return home as part of both the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the Division of Biomedical Informatics.

NEW NURSE-MIDWIVES and ADMINISTRATORS

UC San Diego midwifery stands out among the world's finest and we're grateful for our talented new Tritons. A warm welcome to newly arriving nurse-midwives and administration members:



Rachel Ely-Konoske, CNM
Certified Nurse-Midwife



Jenique Keys, CNM
Certified Nurse-Midwife



Carly Nathan, CNM
Certified Nurse-Midwife



Naxiely Cortez
Administrative Assistant



Haley DeGuzman
Administrative Assistant



Maria Saucedo
Administrative Assistant



Susy Kim, PhD
Scientific Editor

"I have a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Arizona and did my post-doctoral training here at UCSD. My past scientific research centered around *Drosophila* synaptic plasticity and olfactory behaviors for which I developed expertise in neurophysiology, neurogenetics, and behavioral analysis. I have over 15 years of grant writing experience starting from the time I was a post-doc and have written and edited many funded proposals for several principal investigators at UCSD and other institutions on a range of topics and projects, including cancer therapeutics, liver disease, antibody engineering, clinical trials, and neuroscience. My research grant writing portfolio includes a wide range of successfully funded proposals including R01s, R21s, U01s, a K23, a K99, F32s, P01s, an STTR, an NSF research proposal, a CIRM infrastructure grant, a CDMRP Breast Cancer Research Program Proposal, as well as industry proposals totaling over \$65 million in research funding. I have a soft spot for early career investigators and have worked closely with many post-doctoral scholars, first-time grant writers, and early career faculty to help them secure their first grants. Several have gone on to secure independent funding on their own, which is an outcome I am very proud of. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, running, reading, developing science educational outreach activities for kids, and serving as a coach for my kid's Science Olympiad team."

RECENT EVENTS

Department of OBGYN & RS Event Happenings, Member Gatherings, and Community Engagement



Convoy Women's Health Services Clinic

The UC San Diego Convoy Women's Health Services clinic was highlighted on the channel 10 News!

RECENT EVENTS

Department of OBGYN & RS Event Happenings, Member Gatherings, and Community Engagement



Inaugural Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Global Congress

Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MS, SMFM President, speaks at first 2024 SMFM Global Congress in Rome



ACOG Annual District Meeting

From left: Maureen Ries, MD (Scientific Program Co-Chair) and Diana Ha, MD (alumni class of 2023)



APGO CREOG National Conference and Education Retreat

Residency Program Directors From left: Kelli Kruse, University of Kansas, Maureen Ries, MD, UC San Diego, and Teresa Byrd, MD, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital in Georgia and prior PD at UT McGovern

RECENT EVENTS

Department of OBGYN & RS Event Happenings, Member Gatherings, and Community Engagement



Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences Annual Picnic

Department members and their families gathered at Mission Bay for our annual fall picnic with food and games. Photography by Hitomi O'Briant and Chelsea Saelee.



Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences Faculty Wellness Day

Faculty members enjoyed a day of yoga wellness at Tecolote Shores North Park. Photography by Johanna Romero.

SAVE THE DATE • UPCOMING EVENTS

OBGYN&RS Birth Community Engagement & Symposia: Community Engagement in Research and Urobiome 2025



UC San Diego Health

SAVE THE DATE

**Birth Community Engagement & Symposia
Community Engagement
in Research**

11:00AM



JAN 24
2025



CHAVEZ CENTER
5101 MARKET ST.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92114



UC San Diego

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology
& Reproductive Sciences

Presented by the
Culture & Justice Quorum

UROBIOME 2025

On behalf of Linda Brubaker, MD, Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at UC San Diego, we announce the **2025 Urobiome Conference** on February 24.

Researchers will present the emerging science of the **UROBIOME** and its recently discovered implications for human health, including common conditions such as urinary tract infection, urinary incontinence, and bladder overactivity.



Registration: \$275

FEB 24TH,
2025

Location:

UC San Diego, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Robert Paine Scripps Forum for Science
8610 Kennel Way, La Jolla, CA 92037

Conference Organizer:

Linda Brubaker, MD
Professor, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
librubaker@health.ucsd.edu

Agenda and speaker information to follow.

UC San Diego

OPEN FACULTY POSITIONS

Department of OBGYN & RS is hiring new faculty committed to academic and clinical excellence

CLINICAL POSITIONS



Director, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Associate or Full Professor

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences (<https://obgyn.ucsd.edu>) within the School of Medicine at UC San Diego is committed to academic excellence and diversity within the faculty, staff and student body. The Department is expanding its clinical and research programs and is recruiting a Division Director in the field of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

The Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division Director is a key clinical and administrative leader who is expected to balance and maintain prominence in the tripartite academic mission by promoting excellence and advancement in clinical care, education and research.

As an ambassador for the Department and the Division, the selected candidate will lead by example, advise the Department Chair and provide mentorship to the research and clinical faculty, as well as to fellows, residents and medical students. The selected candidate will also deliver high-quality training and teaching, provide clinical care to patients, and conduct research. The successful candidate will benefit from the highly stimulating and collaborative environment within the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences.

The Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division Director has historically served as the Director of Maternity Services (Obstetrics). Candidates interested in a combined role are encouraged to apply.

Candidates must have a MD, DO, or equivalent. Candidates must be Board certified in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and currently practicing in the field. Candidates must have 5 years of clinical experience in the full spectrum of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Candidates must have a strong publication record, with a minimum of 3 - 5 publications. Candidates must have at least 5 years of leadership experience at a division level or in major programmatic areas, along with a minimum of 5 years of experience in an academic medical center. Candidates must have or be eligible for a California medical license or equivalent certification/permit as determined by the Medical Board of California.

Candidates with a Master's degree in Clinical Research (or equivalent) are preferred. Candidates with extramural funding are also preferred.

Apply Link: <https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/JPF04097> Initial Review Deadline: November 11, 2024

The appropriate series and appointment at the Associate or Full Professor level will be based on the candidate's background and experience.

A link to the full descriptions of each series is provided for your review:

HS Clinical Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-278.pdf

Clinical X Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-275.pdf

In-Residence Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-270.pdf

The posted UC Salary scales set the minimum pay at the appointment as determined by appointment type and if applicable, rank and/or step. The base pay range for this position is \$400,000-\$600,000. Salary is negotiated annually. Additional compensation may be available if the position includes membership in the Health Sciences Compensation Plan. UC Salary information can be found here: <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/compensation/2024-25-academic-salary-scales.html>.

As a member of the Health Sciences Compensation Plan, the appointee should be aware that there are limitations on outside professional activities and clinical moonlighting is expressly prohibited. Additional information can be found here: https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-671.pdf

Appointments may require candidates to be self-funded.

The University of California, San Diego is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, covered veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy.

For the University of California's Affirmative Action Policy please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4010393/PPSM-20>

For the University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy, please visit: <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/1001004/Anti-Discrimination>.

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

The University of California prohibits [smoking and tobacco](#) use at all University controlled properties.

The UC San Diego Annual Security & Fire Safety Report is available online at: <https://www.police.ucsd.edu/docs/annualclery.pdf>. This report provides crime and fire statistics, as well as institutional policy statement & procedures. Contact the UC San Diego Police Department at (858) 534-4361 if you want to obtain paper copies of this report.



Faculty Positions in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Assistant, Associate or Full Professor

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences (<https://obgyn.ucsd.edu/index.html>) at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) is committed to academic excellence and diversity within the faculty, staff and student body and is seeking board certified physicians in Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM), Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI), Gynecologic Oncology (GynOnc), Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS), Complex Family Planning (FP), Hospitalist, and General Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN).

The successful candidates will be responsible for providing high quality training and teaching, clinical care of patients and/or research.

Candidates must have a MD or equivalent, PhD or MD/PhD in areas of OB/GYN & Reproductive Medicine or health related fields.

Candidates with a MD or equivalent must be Board eligible or Board certified in areas of OB/GYN & Reproductive Sciences. Candidates with a MD or equivalent must also be eligible for a California medical license or equivalent certification/permit as determined by the Medical Board of California.

Apply Link: <https://apol-recruit.ucsd.edu/JPF03836>

Appointment will be at the Assistant, Associate or Full Professor level and will be based on the candidate's background and experience.

A link to the full descriptions of each series is provided for your review:

HS Clinical Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-278.pdf

Clinical X Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-275.pdf

In-Residence Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-270.pdf

Adjunct Professor - see: http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-280.pdf

Appointments may require candidates to be self-funded.

As a member of the Health Sciences Compensation Plan, the appointee should be aware that there are limitations on outside professional activities, and clinical moonlighting is expressly prohibited. Additional information can be found here: https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/apm/apm-671.pdf

The posted UC Salary scales set the minimum pay at the appointment as determined by appointment type and if applicable, rank and/or step. The base pay range for this position is \$112,500-\$411,500. Salary is negotiated annually. Additional compensation may be available if the position includes membership in the Health Sciences Compensation Plan. UC Salary information can be found here: <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/compensation/2023-24-academic-salary-scales.html>.



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