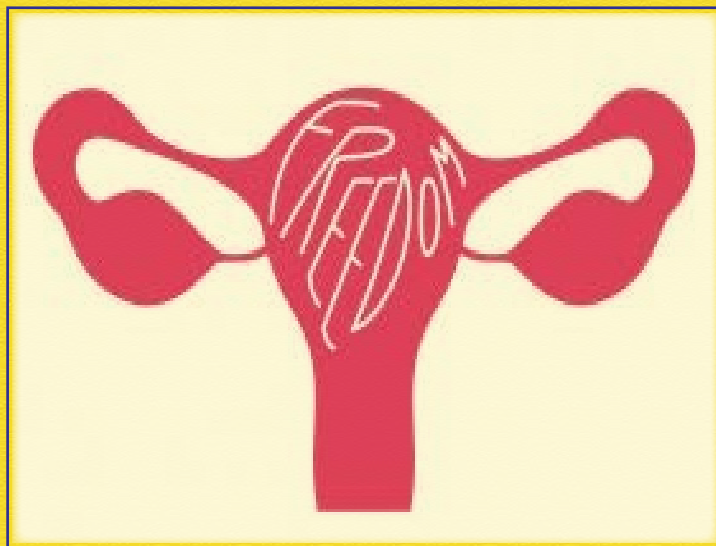




The End of an Era



THE END OF ROE V. WADE
1973 TO 2022

Sheila Mody Leads the Complex Family Planning Division during very complex times. Feature on Page 8.

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◆ *Translational Research Focus*
Marianna Alperin is redefining the future of pelvic floor health

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◆ *Back Page:*
Visiting Elective Scholar Program

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Approximately 50 years ago, the Supreme Court released its landmark decision on the right to an abortion in the case of Jane Roe (a pseudonym) versus Henry Wade, the Texas district attorney at the time. Before Roe v Wade, according to data from the Guttmacher Institute, 17% of maternal deaths in 1960 were attributed to illegal abortion. In the same year, among low-income New York City women who had an abortion, 77% attempted pregnancy termination themselves. In LA County Hospital in 1968, one admission for every 14 deliveries was for a septic abortion. The Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision both promoted proper training in the procedure and provided safe procedures for millions of individuals. On June 24th the protections affording women's healthcare changed, and we at UC San Diego are doing our part to continue the training of out-of-state residents and complex family planning fellows to ensure the safety of patients seeking pregnancy termination, whether life-saving or elective. This issue of The Fimbria highlights our Complex Family Planning division. Interestingly, we chose to highlight this division prior to knowledge of the Supreme Court decision due to their diligence in research and teaching as well as their support of the global community through global health initiatives. Led by Dr. Sheila Mody, the Complex Family Planning division provides care for the most complex and high-risk conditions including placenta accreta spectrum and mid-trimester prelabor rupture of membranes. This small but mighty division also includes a complex family planning fellowship program and receives exemplary research funding, including NIH and PCORI grants.

As a department, we are constantly re-evaluating our metrics of success. One such metric is the department's NIH funding portfolio, which is assessed by the *Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research*. Each year, Blue Ridge ranks the funding level of universities by department. We were very pleased to learn that UC San Diego ranks 3rd in NIH funding among OBGYN departments around the country in 2021. This rank is up from 4th place the prior year. We are extremely proud to continue the tradition of excellence in basic, translational, and clinical research that the department is known for, spanning all of our 7 divisions. We also are able to announce that our US News and World report Gynecology ranking is up to 26 from 29 last year, and UC San Diego remains the #1 medical center in the region.



CLICK: UC SAN DIEGO OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY & REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES DEPT. CURRICULUM VITAE

Finally, July is a great time for academic medical centers around the country. New interns and new fellows bring fresh energy and the promise of new possibilities. This edition of the Fimbria welcomes our new complement of trainees, celebrates new grant awards, and shines a spotlight on the Alperin Lab, a lab using a multi-pronged approach to study the impact of life course events, including pregnancy and menopause, on pelvic floor structures. We welcome a new Vice Chair position, the Vice Chair for Culture and Justice, filled by Dr. Audra Meadows. We also have new Vice Chairs for Clinical Affairs and Education, Drs. LaCoursiere and Ramos. Sadly, we say farewell to many of our graduating residents and fellows, all of whom will remain members of the UC San Diego family. We are fortunate that some will stay on as faculty. We also celebrate the retirement of Dr. Pamela Mellon, who fortunately will continue to spend some time with us post-retirement. Lastly, we highlight our new program targeted to medical students applying to OBGYN to encourage the best students who are underrepresented in medicine to come and rotate with us. Selected students additionally receive a monetary award. As always, please enjoy this issue of the Fimbria and feel free to provide us with any feedback (FIMBRIA@ucsd.edu).

Thank you!

CYNTHIA GYAMFI-BANNERMAN, MD, MS
Professor and Chair
 Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology
 & Reproductive Sciences

VICE CHAIRS

Research (Interim)
Culture and Justice
Clinical Affairs
Education
Translational Research

PAMELA MELLON, PHD
 AUDRA MEADOWS, MD
 YVETTE LACOURSIERE, MD
 SANDY RAMOS, MD
 LOUISE LAURENT, PHD, MD

DIVISION DIRECTORS

Family Planning
 SHEILA MODY, MD
Hospitalist
 GINA FRUGONI, MD
Urogynecology
 EMILY LUKACZ, MD
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
 ANTONI DULEBA, MD

Gynecologic Oncology
 MICHAEL MCHALE, MD
Maternal-Fetal Medicine
 THOMAS KELLY, MD
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Communications
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 MICHAEL MORALES
 CYNTHIA PENA
 DWAYNE STUPACK, PHD

Newsbytes



Follow us: @UCSD_ObGyn

Congratulations to our Outstanding Educators

Julia Cormano, MD

who received the
2022 Kaiser Excellence in Teaching Award
Julia was selected from >800 UCSD House staff to receive this award.

Jorge Alvarado, MD

who received the
Whitehall Prize for Excellence
Selected by the Chief Residents for Active Teaching at all levels.

Sandy Ramos, MD

who received the
Homer G. Chin APGO Excellence
The teaching award was established to honor outstanding teaching in OB/GYN

Bill Parker, MD

who received the
James H. Price Teaching Award
voted on by all chief residents.

Scott Harvey, MD

who received the
**ACOG CREOG National Faculty Award
For Excellence in Resident Education**

Department Reaches 3rd in NIH Funding

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences was ranked Third in the Nation for Total NIH Research Funding, 2022. Congratulations to all.

Department Ranked 26th by US News & World Report in Gynecology

Research Day Awards

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences Research Day highlighted the work of the outstanding trainees in our programs.

Congratulations to

Tatyana Henderson, MD

*for garnering the
Outstanding Clinical Research Award
&*

Sydney Morill, PhD Candidate

*on receiving the
Outstanding Translational Research Award*

A Perfect 10

*Wow! Sarah Averbach just scored the highest possible score on an NIH application. She scored a perfect 10 on her R21 proposal entitled **Increasing access to postpartum contraception by linking family planning and infant vaccination services***

Funding News

Julie Suyama received a Pelvic Floor Disorders Research Foundation grant "*Non-invasive Novel MRI Biomarkers for Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome*" (\$25,000)

Audra Meadows received an American Medical Association grant: *Implementing Equity Focused Health Systems Science Learning into Medical Education Using a Novel Learning Framework.* (\$30,000)

Irene Su Received an R21 award from NCI: Policy implementation research on health benefit mandates for fertility preservation services to improve access to care in young cancer survivors (\$434,500). Irene also scored an 8th percentile on her R01, *Evaluation of a telehealth oncofertility care intervention in adolescent and young adult cancer patients: a stepped wedge cluster randomized controlled trial.* (\$2.6M). We are looking forward to the notice of award, Irene!

Dwayne Stupack and coPI Michael Bouvet MD have received a T32 award from NCI. The Cancer Therapeutics Training (CT2) program is a five year award to train the next generation of leaders in cancer research. (\$3.1M)

CHEERING ON THE RESIDENTS

The 2022 annual resident's dinner recognized the outstanding performance of all of our residents during the past year. Several residents were individually recognized for exceptional performance:

SMFM RESIDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN OBSTETRICS

Renee Sullender, MD

In recognition of shared commitment to the vision of the SMFM to improve pregnancy and perinatal outcomes.



RYAN PROGRAM RESIDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FAMILY PLANNING

Diana Ha, MD

In recognition of continued excellence and dedication to service, training, and education in family planning.



RESIDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FPMRS
Tatyanna Henderson, MD

This award recognizes a resident who demonstrates a commitment to the care of women with pelvic floor disorders and incorporating quality of life improvement into the clinical care of patients.



AAGL RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN MIGS

Tatyanna Henderson, MD

In recognition of excellence in minimally invasive gynecology.



SREI RESIDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REI

Hayley Schultz, MD

In recognition of commitment and excellence in caring for patients in the field of REI. This resident demonstrates dedication, and commitment to learning in the field of human reproduction.



SLS OUTSTANDING MIS RESIDENT AWARD

Sharon Heichman, MD

In recognition of excellence in minimally invasive surgery.

SGO OUTSTANDING RESIDENT IN GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY AWARD

Michelle Tang, MD

The award is for a resident who best exemplifies the qualities of the mission and vision of SGO. To prevent and treat gynecologic cancers with equity, thereby improving lives through advocacy, engagement, education, research and collaboration.

SASGOG RESIDENT AWARD

Michelle Tang, MD

This award recognizes a fourth-year resident for their academic accomplishments and interest in achieving excellence as an academic specialist in Ob/Gyn.



UCSD MIDWIVES OUTSTANDING RESIDENT CONSULTANT AWARD

Selam Ghebrendrias, MD

Awarded to a chief resident providing outstanding consultation with the UCSD Midwifery Service



UCSD WOMEN & INFANTS SERVICES CHIEF RESIDENT AWARD

Selam Ghebrendrias, MD

Awarded to a chief resident with excellent patient care skills and communication with our nurses in our Medical Offices - South Clinic.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OUTGOING RESIDENTS

The Class of 2022 graduates and their future plans include:

Selam Ghebrendrias, MD – Global Health, Eritrea

Sharon Heichman, MD – Private Practice, Yreka, CA

Erica Magelky, MD – Private Practice, Portland, OR

Erin Mowers, MD, PhD – Female Pelvic Medicine and Reproductive Surgery Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

Michelle Tang, MD – Academic Practice, UC San Diego

Ashten Waks, MD – Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship, UC Irvine

RESEARCH FEATURE:

THE ALPERIN LAB AT
UC SAN DIEGO

The Alperin lab's research mission is to discover treatment and prevention strategies for women's health, with the main focus on pelvic floor disorders. Dr. Alperin's expertise as a practicing female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery specialist places her in a unique position, in which her clinical and surgical understanding help guide the directions of the lab's basic science and translational studies to answer the most relevant clinical questions. Her NIH-funded laboratory (<https://alperinmlab.org/>) uses a multi-pronged approach, including computational modeling, in vivo animal models, cadaveric tissues, and biopsies from living women, to study the impact of pregnancy, injury, obesity, menopause, and aging on the structure and function of pelvic soft tissues.

Using rat models, the Alperin lab documented the existence of protective pregnancy-induced adaptations in the pelvic skeletal muscles, identified novel mechanism of birth injury, and found degenerative changes in the pelvic skeletal muscles in response to simulated birth injuries. This has paved the way for the collaborative regenerative studies, focused on potentiating the intrinsic adaptive and regenerative properties of the pelvic tissues using tissue specific acellular biomaterials. The studies have major implications for the development of effective preventative and mitigating strategies. Ultimately, Dr. Alperin hopes that this research will help reduce the epidemic of pelvic floor disorders and improve the lives of millions of women.

We asked Marianna to give an overview of the focus in her lab - and she shared some of her ongoing and unpublished work that highlights the exciting multidisciplinary approaches being used in her lab. New work is available for anyone to see on BioRxiv, and the Mechanisms of Birth Injury study is in late revision in Nature Regenerative Medicine.

Fimbria
QUARTERLY

Pregnancy-Induced Adaptations in Pelvic Skeletal Muscles & Mechanisms of Maternal Birth Injury

These studies focus on the problem that the mechanisms of pelvic floor muscle birth injury are poorly understood, and what is known is derived from imaging studies and computational models. An important question was what separates women who sustain pelvic floor muscle injury from those who do not. To address this question, the Alperin lab studies pregnancy-induced adaptations in an animal model, which allows for longitudinal and invasive approaches. Establishing that the architectural design of rat pelvic floor muscles best approximate human muscles among commonly used laboratory species, they subsequently discovered that rat pelvic floor muscles increase their fiber length by the addition of sarcomeres in preparation for delivery. In this pioneering work, they demonstrated that muscle stem cells undergo extremely rapid amplification following parturition, implicating muscle stem cells priming in preparation for fetal delivery. This enhances their regenerative potential postpartum.

Dr. Alperin noted: "Together with specialists with expertise in stem cell and molecular biology, we are working to determine the signaling networks that regulate antepartum adaptations of female muscle stem cells. This will be foundational if we are to develop practical preventative and therapeutic approaches that enhance the intrinsic regenerative potential of endogenous muscle stem cells linked to maternal recovery following parturition."

bioRxiv 2021.07.30.454534; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.07.30.454534> b

Novel Approaches for Prevention of Pelvic Skeletal Muscle Dysfunction. *(with the Christman Bioengineering Lab at UC San Diego)*

One limitation of current treatments to restore pelvic floor function is that they are delayed and compensatory. They are indirect measures which do not reverse the pathway disruptions causing pelvic muscle dysfunction. Using studies of pelvic muscles' morphometric properties in parous women with pelvic organ prolapse, the Alperin lab showed substantial degeneration related to cell death and to fibrosis. This renders muscles insensitive to rehabilitation, and thus is associated with poor clinical outcomes. To establish a mechanistic link between birth injury and pelvic muscle dysfunction, they again used the rat model, to show that simulated birth injury leads to fiber atrophy and fibrosis, analogous to the degenerative changes observed in humans, as well as functional alterations. Working biomaterial scientists, the impact of a novel tissue-specific injectable biomaterial on stimulating muscle reparative processes at the time of birth injury.

THE ALPERIN LAB, CON'T

In turn, this halts degeneration of the injured pelvic muscles. If successful, this strategy could shift the current clinical paradigm towards prevention of pelvic muscle dysfunction following birth trauma. This represents an essential - and meaningful - advance in women's health.

bioRxiv 2021.05.28.446170; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.28.446170>

Understanding the Impact of Aging on Pelvic Skeletal Muscles

Aging is a key risk factor for pelvic skeletal muscle dysfunction and resultant pelvic floor disorders, including pelvic organ prolapse, and urinary and fecal incontinence. These common conditions interfere with the well-being of older women due to their negative impact on quality of life and associated morbidities. Notably, the prevalence of pelvic floor disorders increases by 20% for each decade of life, reaching 50% in women age 80 and over. As the U.S. population is aging, pelvic floor disorders will affect an increasing proportion of women over the next decades, with a forecasted 44 million women suffering from pelvic floor disorders by 2050. There are currently no preventive or pro-regenerative therapeutic strategies for these disorders. Existing treatments are limited. The Alperin lab has now performed the first systematic age-related studies of human pelvic floor muscle architectural and histomorphological properties, using cadaveric specimens. Continuing tissue and stem cell-level investigations will determine pelvic skeletal muscle alteration with age.

Maternal Outcomes Transformed by Harnessing Endogenous Regeneration (MOTHER):

Morbidity and mortality associated with childbirth are tragedies that have impacted families throughout history and continue to make motherhood one of the riskiest ventures a reproductive-age woman can undertake today. Despite advances in medical care, almost 1000 women around the world die every day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. *The United States has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world.* Abnormal placentation and uterine rupture are leading causes of severe maternal morbidity. They share a common etiology - improper healing of a prior uterotomy (i.e., uterine incision), most commonly from a prior cesarean section. Leveraging team science approach, we are deciphering key cellular players and pathways that govern uterine regeneration post-surgically. In parallel, we are developing and testing biomaterials that can be delivered to the uterus by simple injection during the index uterine surgery.

This will open up a new paradigm for the use of biomaterials in the uterus and decrease maternal mortality and improving the quality of life for women throughout the world./

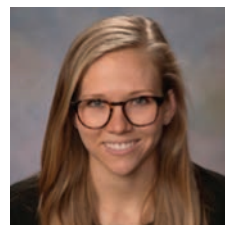
New Fellows Preview

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences is home to several acclaimed fellowship programs. We welcome this year's new Fellows as they continue their academic trajectory.



DANIELLE VACHON, MD
Complex Family Planning
joining us from:
University of Illinois, Chicago

MAYOWA DAYO, MD
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
joining us from:
Kaiser Permanete, Oakland



BREANA HILL, MD
Gynecologic Oncology
joining us from:
University of Colorado

GHANSH YADAV, MD
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
joining us from:
Baylor University



DANA CANFIELD, MD
Maternal Fetal Medicine:
joining us from:
University of Utah

Please come back and join us in to the October issue of *Fimbria*, when our new colleagues will have settled in their divisions and will be featured in more detail!

The Intern Files:

Fimbria Quarterly (FQ) asked the Class of 2026 why they became interested in UC San Diego as a home, and to share a little known fact about themselves.

Sophia Angelides, MD

University of California Irvine
On interview day I felt at home talking to residents and attendings. They were genuinely committed to both their patients and to each other. UCSD fosters both a patient and team-centered environment while encouraging residents to explore their individual passions. I'm so excited to be here!

In my free time I like to get outside as much as I can, whether it be hiking, trying to stand up on my surfboard, playing volleyball, or just exploring new neighborhoods and restaurants. Since moving to San Diego I've been expanding my home improvement and DIY skills.



Allison Rajan, MD

University of Washington

I was impressed by the department's commitment to health equity and justice as well as the high volume surgical training and abundance of research opportunities. I left my interview day feeling confident that UCSD would prepare me to be an excellent Ob-Gyn and a successful fellowship applicant. Having spent the last ten years in Alaska, I am still in awe of the climate, lifestyle, and topography of Southern California and feel fortunate to have landed here for residency.



My husband and I have a husky named Bella. She is the best girl. Our family enjoys running, hiking, and climbing in the mountains together. I'm also looking forward to learning how to surf in the next four years. When I'm not outside, you can find me buying more books than I ever have time to read and falling in love with every animal on Petfinder.

Kelsey Keverline, MD

University of North Carolina

I was first interested in UCSD because I want to pursue academic medicine as a career and wanted a program that would support my development as a researcher and teacher. Additionally, I was really impressed by how thoughtfully UCSD structured its curriculum to be a balance of training from generalist and subspecialist practitioners. When I interviewed, it was easy to see how happy

the residents and faculty were, and how much fun they were having even through zoom. UCSD was easily my favorite program on the interview trail and although I am nervous about moving across the country away from family and friends, I am so excited to start my career here.

During my fourth year of medical school, I picked up knitting as a hobby and made winter hats for all my friends who matched in the Midwest.



Emma Roberts, MD

University of Washington

When choosing a residency program, I was looking for a program that serves a diverse patient population, allows residents to train at multiple sites, provides exposure to subspecialties with OB/GYN, encourages impactful clinical research, and fosters a strong sense of support and community - and UCSD checked all these boxes! Staying on the West Coast and living in a beautiful city were also two huge bonuses.



Within medicine, I'm passionate about working with underserved populations and doing clinical research. In my free time, I love getting outside with my husband and dog - hiking, biking, kayaking, and BBQing!

The Intern Files, con't



Lilian Liao, MD
Columbia University

I was drawn to UCSD first and foremost for the genuine and uplifting interactions on interview day. As someone interested in gynecological oncology, I liked that UCSD was a program with strong surgical and clinical training in the subspecialty that would also give me the skill set to be a generalist.

Finally, as a native southern Californian who spent my childhood by the ocean, I was curious to come back and see how OB/Gyn is practiced on the West Coast - though I will always be a New Yorker at heart!

As a violinist and swing dancer, my dream would be to arrange/play in string quartet in the lobby of Jacobs Medical Center and find an old recorder to play jazz music during nights on the L&D floor. If you know anyone who would be interested in this...let me know.

Daniella Rogerson, MD
Columbia University

I grew up in California, and after a few years in NYC was ready to return to my home state and family. As well as being so impressed with everyone I spoke with at UCSD, I knew this was the right place for me when Dr. LaCoursiere described the "culture of kindness" and exciting research opportunities here.

I am very thankful to you all for the amazing opportunity to train at UCSD and work with you! I couldn't be more excited to become a part of the UCSD OBGYN team, and to serve as a women's health advocate and health care provider.



Department Graduating Fellows 2022

We are proud of the contributions of our fellows, who leave UC San Diego well-trained, confident, and accomplished. We wish them well in their coming endeavors.

BETH ZHOU, MD

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility:

to: CCRM Houston In Vitro Fertilization & Infertility Clinic
Beth came, saw and conquered large-scale administrative data to investigate ovarian function and fertility. She will be a great asset to CCRM Houston.

JESSICA JOU, MD

Gynecologic Oncology

to: Oregon Health Sciences University (Faculty)
Jessica leaves for an academic position at OHSU having garnered the Fellows teaching award, as voted on by all residents, for 2022.

SELINA SANDOVAL, MD

Complex Family Planning

to: Planned Parenthood, Great Plains
Selina will be moving to an Associate Director position at Planned Parenthood in Kansas.

LINDSEY BURNETT, MD, PHD

Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

to: UC San Diego Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences (Faculty).
Lindsey exits fellowship but stays at UC San Diego as a scientist in the prestigious Reproductive Scientist Development Program.

DORA MELBER, MD

Maternal Fetal Medicine:

to: UC San Diego, & the San Diego Perinatal Center
Dora will be staying in San Diego joining San Diego Perinatal Center. She will also keep a volunteer faculty position at UCSD to continue to be involved with fellow education.

Featured Division

Complex Family Planning



Left to Right: Drs. Averbach, Mody, Sandoval and Gupta at ACOG this year.

The Complex Family Planning (CFP) Division provides compassionate, high quality patient care, inspires and trains the next generation of physicians and advocates, and conducts collaborative research, locally and globally, to advance family planning. The extensive educational program includes training activities for medical students, residents, and fellows in complex family planning, and junior faculty scholars. In addition to standard curriculum, medical students are offered sub-internship and elective courses. We also conduct collaborative clinical, translational, and implementation research.

UC San Diego offers CFP clinical services including patient-centered abortion, early pregnancy loss, and contraceptive care. We offer medication and procedural options. In addition, this unique program serves patients who have complex medical conditions, prior unsuccessful IUD insertion, desire removal of an IUD with no strings or have a non-palpable contraceptive implant. In fact, we are a Center of Excellence for Deep Implant Removals and receive referrals from throughout San Diego region.

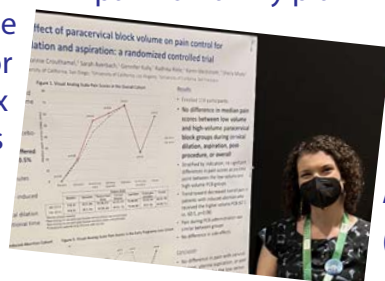
As the CFP division fellowship celebrates its five-year anniversary, we are well positioned to help with the challenges ahead. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade. The ramifications for women in restrictive states is severe. Twenty-six states have laws in place or are expected to pass laws that severely restrict or ban abortion.

Notably, Arizona is a nearby state where abortion care is expected to become extremely limited and possibly illegal. Several initiatives are underway here at UCSD to be able to handle an increase in volume. We are working closely with members of our department and the family medicine department as well as student health services to expand mifepristone access in the clinics. We also have the ability to increase our capacity to do procedural abortions. We are actively seeking a clinic IV sedation option so that we can be able to help with the increase volume. In addition, we are doing educational workshop with the surgical and nursing staff around respectful and evidence-based abortion care.

With regards to training, we are actively thinking of various ways to insure abortion training for the medical student's, residents, and fellows. The medical students will continue to have access locally to abortion lectures as well as training in abortion care. Our OB-GYN residents will have a new complex family planning rotation for four weeks in the first half of the academic year. The second half of the academic year, we will host residents from restrictive states. We also are excited to announce that we have secured funding from the Chancellor's office and the health system for the Complex Family Planning Fellowship program. The complex family planning fellowship program has one clinical fellow per year and it is a two year program. Our graduated fellows have joined academic practices such as Dr. Nicole Economou at UC Davis and pursued positions in states that need abortion access like our most recent graduate Dr. Selina Sandoval who is headed to Kansas to provide abortion care as the Associate Medical Director for the Planned Parenthood affiliate.

CFP fellows have done high impact research studies focused on improving access and patient experience. Two fellows did randomized control trials to reduce pain for family planning procedures.

This year, Nicole Economou, MD our Complex Family Planning fellow class of 2021 won the poster award at the National Abortion Federation meeting.
(at left)



Complex Family Planning (con't)

They have also improved access by pursuing innovative projects such as exploring medication abortion provision by pharmacists. Our second year fellow, Dr. Marielle Meurice, is doing an equity and telehealth project among Spanish speakers. She received a society family planning and Bayer competitive grant to conduct this study.

Faculty research is also thriving in the CFP division. As many of you at we would like to congratulate Dr. Sarah Averbach for her R21 perfect score (See page 2). The project is on linking infant vaccination with postpartum contraception in rural India. She is completing the pilot work for this project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Mody has projects looking at barriers and facilitators of extended use of the contraceptive implant. She continues to work on and reproductive access for refugee women via PCORI grant, as well as for reproductive health needs a woman with cystic fibrosis via CF foundation grants (see also: Clinical studies box, upper right).

The CFP Division is a powerhouse for advocacy. Dr. Pratima Gupta is the chair for a Society for Family Planning special interest group on advocacy and was recently appointed to the national ACOG board. She has done many media interviews as well as many testimonies in Sacramento to expand & protect reproductive access. Dr. Gupta will be also be instrumental in the introduction of medication abortion at Student Health. Dr. Gupta and Dr. Sandoval attended the District IX Legislative Committee meeting March 5, 2022. The District IX Legislative Committee is a team of ACOG serving Ob/Gyns who meet together and review proposed California legislation that affects our patients and their families. The committee decides together if ACOG should take a formal stance on each piece of legislation and what that stance should be.

Our small but growing division continues to make a disproportionate impact on reproductive science and women's health.

Complex Family Planning Clinical Studies

Postpartum progestin-only pill use and breastfeeding pilot study. (Averbach)

KEEP Contraceptive Arm Long acting-iMplant (CALM) AND CARRY ON (Mody)

Exploring equity and person-centered care in telemedicine contraception among patients who speak Spanish: A mixed-methods study. (Meurice)

Assessing Interest in peer Doula-facilitated Empathy and Self-compassion training among women with history of Early Pregnancy Loss (AIDES for EPL) (Conroy/Mody)

Increasing access to postpartum contraception by linking family planning and infant vaccination services. (Averbach)

Recent CFP Publications:

Refugee Women's Receptiveness for Virtual Engagement on Reproductive Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thiel de Bocanegra H, Goliaei Z, Khan N, Banna S, Behnam R, Mody SK. *Int J Behav Med.* 2022. PMID: 35554855.

Impact of COVID-19 on abortion method under ten weeks gestational age in Southern California. 110:56-60. Sullender RT, Jacobs M, Bukowski K, Marengo A, Mody SK, Averbach SH. *Contraception.* 2022. PMID: 35263650.

Refugee women's experiences with contraceptive care after resettlement in high-income countries: A critical interpretive synthesis. *Contraception.* 2022. 108:7-18. Chalmiers MA, Karaki F, Muriki M, Mody SK, Chen A, Thiel de Bocanegra H. PMID: 34971601.

Time from first clinical contact to abortion in Texas and California. *Contraception.* 2022. 110:76-80. Adams M, Kully G, Tilford S, White K, Mody S, Hildebrand M, Johns N, Grossman D, Averbach S. PMID: 34971611.

Engaging Stakeholders in the Development of a Reproductive Goals Decision AID for Women with Cystic Fibrosis. Stransky OM, Pam M, Ladores SL, Birru Talabi M, Borrero S, Godfrey EM, Roe AH, Sawicki GS, Zuckerwise LC, Mody S, Mentch L, Deal A, O'Leary R, Taylor-Cousar JL, Jain R, Kazmerski TM. *J Patient Exp.* 2022. PMID: 35128042.

Pharmacist contraception services: All about access. Mospan C, Vernon V, Rafie S. *J Am Pharm Assoc* (2003). 2022. Epub 2021 PMID: 34920956.

Effect of Paracervical Block Volume on Pain Control for Dilation and Aspiration. Crouthamel B, Economou N, Averbach S, Rible R, Kully G, Meckstroth K, Mody SK. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 2022. PMID: 35852274

Long-Acting Reversible Contraception With Contraceptive Implants and Intrauterine Devices. Averbach S, Hofler L. *JAMA.* 2022 327(20):2013-2014. PMID: 3552232

Association of traditional marital practices with contraceptive decision-making, couple communication, and method use among couples in rural Maharashtra, India. Dixit A, Johns NE, Ghule M, Battala M, Begum S, Saggurti N, Silverman J, Elizabeth Reed, Kiene SM, Benmarhnia T, Averbach S, Raj A. *Cult Health Sex.* 2022 PMID: 35465833



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Students must have completed all required core clerkships at their home institution
- Students must complete the VSLO application available through AAMC
- Students must submit the visiting elective scholars program application at the time of VSLO submission

THE VISITING ELECTIVE SCHOLAR PROGRAM FOR URIM MEDICAL STUDENTS

THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO IS PLEASED TO OFFER THE VISITING ELECTIVE SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR 2022.



AWARD SPECIFICS

Recipients will participate in a four-week clinical elective in Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, or Complex Family Planning based on availability starting August 2022.

- Recipients will work with division faculty and will be paired with a URiM faculty mentor
- Recipients will be involved in resident educational sessions including didactics and simulations within the Department of Obstetrics &

OVERVIEW

Our department recognizes that patient well-being is influenced by the relationship with their providers. The relationships that are formed over the course of care can be enhanced by a mutual understanding of lived experiences which can be achieved through a diverse provider pool. To help us achieve this goal, we developed a scholar program to promote the recruitment and development of medical students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine to participate in a sub-internship within the department of obstetrics and gynecology at University of California San Diego. Through this scholar program, we hope to engage medical students to develop relationships with residents and faculty and pursue training at our institution.

ELIGIBILITY

We encourage fourth year medical students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine and in good academic standing at a U.S. LCME-accredited medical school who intend to match into a residency program in Obstetrics & Gynecology. As defined by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), "Underrepresented in medicine means those racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population."

Gynecology

- The selected recipient will receive a \$1200 scholarship.
- Housing, if requested, will be provided in the form of a private room in a shared suite with graduate students on the UCSD campus.
- Recipients are responsible for identifying their independent travel plan and transportation while in San Diego.

Please submit application at the time of VSLO application. Notification of award will be made 60 days prior to your rotation.



Please direct documents and questions regarding the scholars program to the Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program: obgyninternsresidents@health.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego Health