

UPMC MAGEE-WOMENS HOSPITAL

# DEPARTMENT OF OB/GYN/RS

Working Collaboratively for Healthy Mothers and Babies



## Moving the Needle on Equitable Obstetric Care

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ALUMNI EVENTS





## A MESSAGE FROM Dr. Robert Edwards

Magee Family,

As a community defined by its shared training at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital—one of the largest and most impactful teaching hospitals for women’s health in the US—we are also unified by our mission to provide the highest quality care to women everywhere. Across UPMC Magee-Womens and Magee-Womens Research Institute, we strive to keep you updated, so that together we may continue advancing care that better meets our patients’ needs, despite the challenges before us.

One of those persistent challenges we’ve faced over the last year has been staffing—an issue likely shared by many of you. While we’ve re-established full capacity at Magee for our operating rooms, many of our community outreach sites continue to struggle with access. We are embracing our service line model, looking at opportunities to expand care in nontraditional hospital systems and outpatient care centers, and making better use of our outpatient surgery centers. Identifying and responding to these issues are especially urgent considering our ongoing priority to address care disparities. We know that given the particularly challenging climate for many patients, exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic, we must continue to develop new models of care and innovative programs that drive us toward care equity.

To that end, we are happy to report in this newsletter two of the major efforts underway at Magee/OB/GYN. The first is a realignment of our GYN specialties and the UNO Division, or our university OB/GYN group. They are now one entity co-led by Drs. Susan Lareau and Nicole Donnellan. That reorganization, championed in part by Dr. Gabriella Gosman, is an attempt to build, recognize, and expand a true generalist academic group here at Magee. Many in the UNO were initially part of the Kisner Turner Thomas practice and are furthering its legacy of disparity work. We also continue to provide OB services at McKeesport, and as we align with disparity care at other centers in the city, I am working closely with UPMC Health Plan on alliances around improved obstetric outcomes.

Others in the department, including Beth Quinn, M.S.N., R.N.C., and Drs. Hyagriv Simhan and John Harris, are also collaborating with UPMC Health Plan and funders like Richard King Mellon Foundation on granting initiatives for improving care disparities. With a combination of our doula program, which provides patient support and advocacy during the pregnancy process, and advanced, patient-directed technologies, we’ve seen increased engagement, participation, and alignment of our prenatal services with the goals and needs of our greater URM community throughout the Pittsburgh region. More obstetric patients are now benefiting from better continuity of services overall and are supported by doulas to navigate from prenatal through postpartum care. These programs are resulting in early indicators of improved outcomes, including reduced ER utilization, and increased compliance with screening and prevention strategies. We hope to continue evolving and enhancing these programs in the months and years to come.

As always, we invite you to stay in touch with us by dropping a note over email, following along on social media @MageeWomens, or connecting at an upcoming event such as the ACOG reception. Your continued engagement and input drives us to keep raising the bar in delivering world class women’s health care.

Best regards,

Robert P. Edwards



## A Career in Community: Dr. Richard Guido Reflects on 34 Years in the Magee Family

**When you ask Dr. Richard (“Dick”) Guido about the proudest moments of his career, he may start telling you about his community: the colleagues, mentors, family, and friends who supported his success over 34 years of practice in various roles at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. In fact, Dr. Guido credits his wife for the decision to transition to medicine from chemical engineering in the first place.**

“[My wife] went into medicine before I did,” Dr. Guido says. “I saw what she was doing and thought I would really enjoy it.” So, he left his position at Kodak and started medical school with his wife at the University of Rochester, before moving to Pittsburgh for his obstetrics and gynecology residency at Magee, where he graduated in 1992. Since then, Dr. Guido has witnessed Magee’s evolution in both size and scope.

“When I joined, Irma Goertzen was president of the hospital and it was just ‘Magee,’” he says. “Dr. Sweet was just joining the department, which is one of the reasons I stayed—he did so many great things for the institution including developing the Magee-Womens Research Institute along with Dr. Roberts.”

As Magee has grown and changed, so have Dr. Guido’s roles, which encompass clinical care, research, leadership, and training. “I’ve been involved in cervical cancer screening and running the colposcopy clinic for the almost the entirety of my career,” Dr. Guido says.

As a recipient of the Kanbour Chair in Gynecology, Dr. Guido furthered his research in areas like human papilloma virus (HPV) and the development of national guidelines for managing abnormal pap smears. The endowment was named for Dr. Anisa Kanbour, a Magee-based international expert in pathology and cytology, and champion for women’s health. “She was a remarkable person and deserves a lot of recognition for what she did for this institution, the cytology department, and for our department, too,” he says.

Dr. Guido also led the fibroid treatment center for over 17 years in tandem with Dr. Orons, Dr. Novelli, and Dr. Donnellan, where they offer multiple treatments for fibroids. He has also chaired the Institutional Research Board for the University of Pittsburgh for 15 years.

But his favorite part of the job? “Working with the residents,” he says. “They’ve really supported all the work I’ve done, and I’ve had a wonderful opportunity to meet so many great residents, train them, and work with them in the OR and the colposcopy clinic.” Dr. Guido says that working with 10 new residents every year for 30 years is a special experience, and he credits the Magee culture for fostering a community among those in training.

“We’re just so fortunate to have really great residents,” he says. “We’re in the top three residency programs in

the country and it shows because we get such great, bright people... energetic individuals who absorb all the information you can give them.”

He adds that being in one building allows residents to build camaraderie and support one another through the at-times grueling demands of residency. “Between being a resident and going through the many long hours and the trials and tribulations of such a demanding time in your life, you really bond with the people who you train with,” he says.

To celebrate this special bond that those who have trained at Magee share, Dr. Guido helps steer the Alumni Day event held in the fall, which brings together those who have completed their OB/GYN residencies at Magee for a lineup of speakers on hot topics in the field. “It’s a real joy to see [alumni] again, because probably nobody knows you as well those people you went through such a trying time in your life with, whether it be medical school or residency,” he says.

Dr. Guido adds that the Alumni Day team strives to do two things each year: bring back Magee-trained speakers and encourage classes from different years to have mini-reunions and get together while back in Pittsburgh. “Everybody that graduated from here is part of a very special community. The training we get here is phenomenal and everybody appreciates the significance of the great training we receive and want to continue to support the residents—whether it’s by coming back and being part of Alumni Day or supporting one of the resident funds,” Dr. Guido says.

This year’s Alumni Day celebration—the 47th annual—is extra special, as Dr. Guido is preparing to retire from major clinical activities come next fall. He will be handing off the fibroid center to Dr. Sarah Allen but plans to continue doing ad hoc ultrasound work and a bit of research as well.

In retirement, Dr. Guido looks forward to playing ice hockey, volunteering, and traveling with his wife to visit their three children who live across the country. Reflecting on this milestone, he credits those around him, his family, and the Magee community, for all they have done to help him get here. “My wife and family really gave a lot of themselves during all of this time,” he said. “We Magee Alumni wouldn’t be able to do what we do without our loved ones’ support.”





## Moving the Needle on Equitable Obstetric Care

When it comes to maternal and infant mortality, the evidence is clear: Pittsburgh has work to do.

A 2019 Gender and Racial Equity Commission report comparing Pittsburgh to nearly 90 other U.S. cities with sizable white and Black populations found that Pittsburgh’s infant mortality rate for Black babies is over six times higher than white babies. The report also noted that maternal mortality among Black mothers in Pittsburgh was worse than comparable cities.

“Pittsburgh should consider targeted interventions that address racially discriminatory biases in the health care system,” the report states.

Dr. Kavita Vinekar, a UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital fellowship graduate, echoes this call in her September 2021 *New England Journal of Medicine* article, “Pathology of Racism—A Call to Desegregate Teaching Hospitals,” where she describes her observations as a medical resident.

Her article recounts the segregated care provided to Black, Latinx, undocumented, and low-income patients with a literal “fork in the hallway. To the right were the ‘resident’ clinics—where Medicaid patients were seen. To the left were the ‘attending’ clinics for privately insured patients.”

Dr. Vinekar recommends a reboot: “If our academic institutions and hospital systems truly support Black Lives—if they seek to be antiracist and to address implicit biases, and if they are serious about addressing racial health care inequities—they will start by desegregating their own training hospitals.”



Dr. Gabriella Gosman

In agreement with Dr. Vinekar is Dr. Gabriella Gosman, Professor and Vice Chair for Education in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences as well as, Vice President of Medical Affairs for UPMC Magee, who recently revealed UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital’s response to these calls to action.

“We’re focusing on redesigning outpatient care,” Gosman states.

Multiple interdisciplinary teams of UPMC Magee caregivers and administrators have been evaluating the current state of patient care, continuously asking questions like “How do patients get care? Who are the providers? What does the team look like? What does the schedule look like? How do we offer evidence-based prenatal care that meets patients’ needs?”

These teams assessed two of UPMC Magee’s obstetric practices: The UNO-NIA group of academic physicians on the hospital’s Fourth floor and the hospital’s Outpatient Clinic, primarily consisting of residents under faculty supervision. Currently, patients going to the Fourth floor are predominantly white and from more privileged backgrounds, while patients being seen on the Zero floor are predominantly Black or people of color with government insurance or no insurance.

Dr. Gosman shared the UPMC Magee leadership team’s vision: take the best aspects of both practices and combine them in updated spaces with balanced teams in locations throughout hospital, while modernizing the clinic model to provide outstanding care, education, and patient experiences to all outpatient populations.

She adds that UPMC Magee is taking this redesigned practice and dividing it into several teams where consistent faculty, residents, and advanced practice providers are working together in both the office and on the labor and delivery floor. Patients will

experience the benefit of consistency, as this re-organization will boost the care team’s familiarity with each individual and their wishes for their delivery.

“We really want to have a singular model of patient care where every patient that walks through Magee’s front door immediately receives cutting edge care from the best doctors with this shared teaching model in one practice,” she says.

But this reimagining of OB/GYN care goes beyond re-organizing people and space—it is also a commitment to ongoing education and action around care disparities. Gosman added that UPMC Magee leadership and faculty members, who teach residents every day, are steeped in statistics of racially inequitable maternal morbidity and mortality rates and are continuously educating themselves and their learners on anti-racism approaches to help improve these statistics for all UPMC Magee patients.

**“We really want to have a singular model of patient care where every patient that walks through Magee’s front door immediately receives cutting edge care from the best doctors with this shared teaching model in one practice.”**

— Dr. Gabriella Gosman

UPMC Magee plans to pilot this transformative care delivery model first, then scale it to neighborhood centers and regional practices, so that it becomes the standard Magee/OB/GYN and UPMC way of delivering equitable OBGYN care and improved patient outcomes.

Dr. Gosman affirms that Dr. Vinekar’s article has been a key catalyst and motivator for UPMC Magee to be at the vanguard of implementing these changes, bringing care groups together, and moving the needle on traditional practices in obstetrics and gynecology to recreate outpatient care.

“It is exciting to be a part of something that gives every person the care and social support that they need on their health journey,” she says.



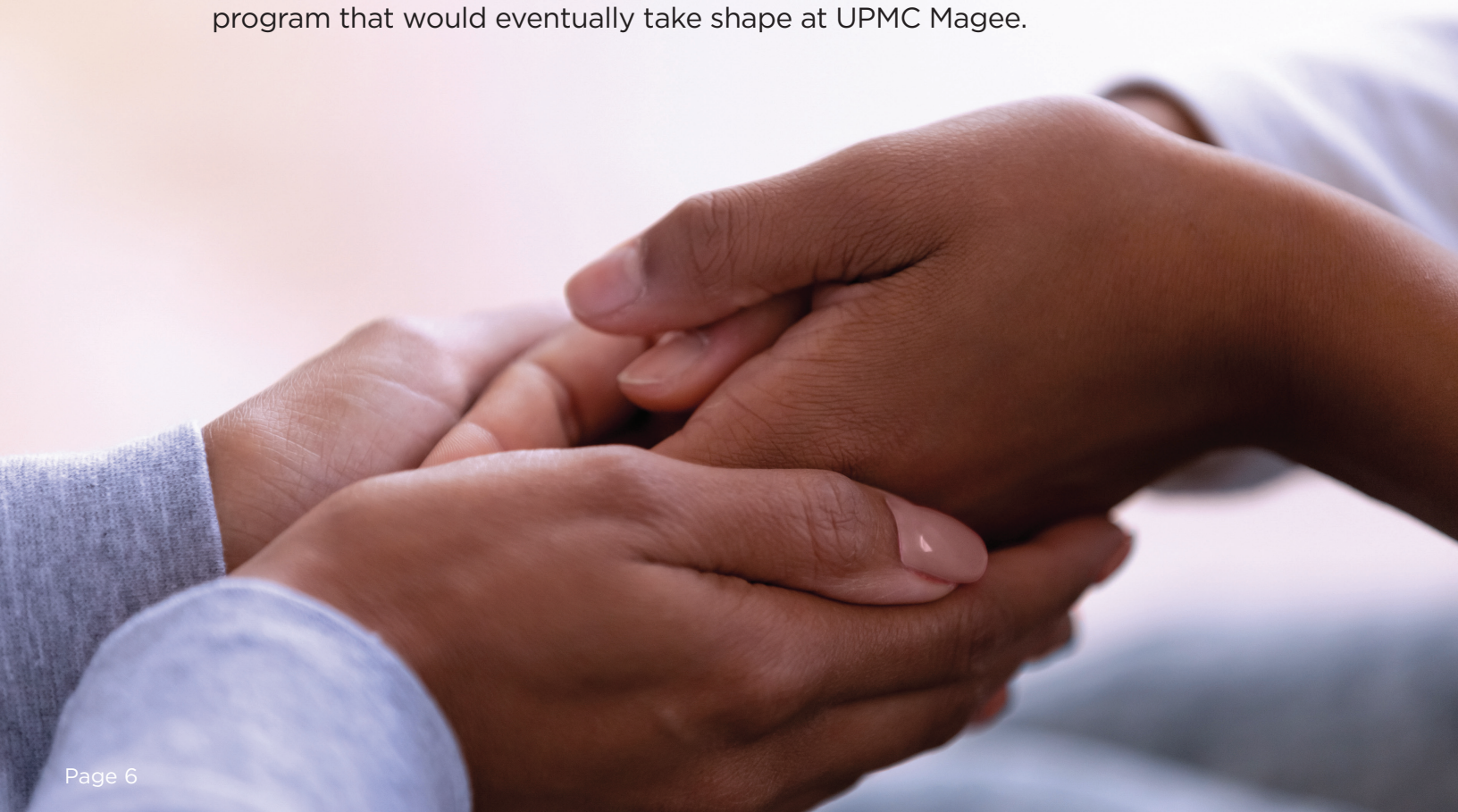
## Doula Program

### Strengthening Care, Addressing Disparities, and Supporting Patients

The hard truth is this: Black women in Pittsburgh are more likely to die during pregnancy than Black women in 97 percent of similar U.S. cities, according to a 2019 report on Pittsburgh’s Inequality on Gender and Race.

Couched in the backdrop of racial inequalities across all sectors of society, jarring disparities like this one spurred the team at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital to double down on their efforts to better care for underserved populations—particularly the women of color affected by these devastating odds.

The Birth Circle of Doulas, a patient support program initially housed within the Family Medicine Health Center in Squirrel Hill, emerged as an exemplar of a targeted intervention that could help address these disparities. Its staff of doula caregivers formed the backbone of the program that would eventually take shape at UPMC Magee.



The UPMC Magee doula program recruits candidates from the same communities as its patient population



#### Establishing the Doula Program

Doulas are trained, non-medical staff who provide advanced physical and emotional specialty care to pregnant patients. These birth coaches play an integral role in the care experience by providing ongoing information and advocacy, closing knowledge gaps, and assisting patients with overcoming barriers in the process.



Dr. Hyagriv Simhan

“I’m grateful for the Department of Family Medicine who had the vision and foresight to have doulas available to at-risk individuals within the community setting and did a fantastic job of establishing that program and the connections to the UPMC Health Plan,” says Dr. Hyagriv Simhan, Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Executive Vice Chair of Obstetrical Services, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Director of Clinical Innovation for the Women’s Health Service Line, UPMC.

Dr. Simhan says that these initial efforts formed the basis of UPMC Magee’s entire program. In fact, the ten doulas who were working at the Squirrel Hill center integrated with the UPMC Magee clinical care team as part of the effort to scale the program up. The UPMC Magee doula program, now housed within the Women’s Health Service Line, launched in November 2020. Over two years later, the team has grown to 22 doulas, who provide their services free-of-charge.

UPMC Magee’s doula program is unique in its approach to integrating the doulas into a comprehensive obstetric prenatal care team, as most doulas work outside the health care system and tend to take and manage clients privately. The UPMC Magee doula program recruits candidates from the same communities as its patient population and frames the role as an exciting and valuable way to step into healthcare or into the workforce.

Beth Quinn, Senior Director, Women’s Health Operations at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, has seen this potential play out with the current team.





Beth Quinn

“Several [members] of our doula team have been with the program from before we took it on, so we have a lot of longevity on the team, but the few that have left have gone on to be nurses, or attend medical school,” she says.

In other cases, patients supported by doulas end up deciding to become one themselves.

“We’ve had some of our newer doulas that were doula clients, and loved it so much, and loved the support that they had from our doula team that they’ve gone on to become doulas now,” Quinn says.

### Building Community-Based Trust

For Quinn, the integration of doulas into the care team was a necessary measure to ensure continuity in services for patients every step of the way, especially in breaking down barriers and building trust.

“By providing this service, the doula is an advocate for them,” Quinn says. “Patients become more engaged with their care because the doulas are staying engaged with them, providing education throughout the pregnancy, meeting with them, attending visits to their docs, or just debriefing after.”

Quinn adds that the doulas’ abilities to bridge knowledge and language gaps is critical for cultural concordance—a key piece of success for the doula-patient relationship and the program.

“To optimize the effectiveness of doulas and their value to the patients whom they serve, there must be cultural competency and a degree of relatedness to the communities from which folks originate,” Dr. Simhan says.

Apart from bringing shared knowledge and experiences with the patients they serve, doulas also undergo specialized training in tandem with DONA International, a recognized leader in doula training and certification. UPMC Magee doulas in training learn methods for patient support and advocacy in areas like breastfeeding and lactation services, as well as functional clinical skills like documenting notes in an Electronic Health Record.

Trainees get exposed to community resources for behavioral health and trauma, as well as places like the Pregnancy Recovery Center. They also benefit from real-time Q&A sessions with doctors on high-risk conditions like gestational diabetes. Trainees attend several live births with a mentoring doula during their orientation period, until they are comfortable doing so on their own.



### Early Promising Outcomes

UPMC Magee’s doula program exemplifies a cross section of clinical care with research—it provides clinical care to patients today, that has a tangible yield of data informing the care of tomorrow. Dr. Simhan credits the support from the UPMC Magee Women’s Health Service Line, UPMC Health Plan, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and donors Tom and Terri Bone, to not only get the program up and running,” but to determine its optimal structure through data gathering and analysis.

“It’s what we call a learning health system,” Dr. Simhan says. “This is not experimental, this is not research, this is not a randomized trial. But we can still learn and disseminate knowledge.”

In various measures and outcomes, the doula program is already performing well. Among the data examined are value-specific measures like attendance of prenatal visits and engagement in the care process. The UPMC Magee team also monitors tangible health outcomes, such as cesarean section or cesarean delivery frequency, breastfeeding rates, and connectedness to ongoing postpartum care.

“We have seen in all three of those areas that our women who have received doula care have better rates of those things than a comparable group of women who have not gotten doula care,” Dr. Simhan says.

Quinn adds that outside of these measures, doulas have also had a positive impact on the approach of the care teams.

“Doulas are really the eyes and ears to the patients that we have not had before,” she says, noting that the trust doulas build with patients helps them glean information that might have otherwise been lost. She said that the care team has benefited from doula’s unique perspectives, as it helps those from traditional healthcare backgrounds look at and approach patients more holistically and try to understand and work with them in a different way.

“I think [doulas have] taught our team to listen in a different way than we had ever before,” she says. “Everybody has a story and a reason, and it might not match what we know and what we believe, but we have to take that in, put our implicit bias aside, and move forward for the care of the patient.”

### Building the Future of Doula Care

As the program celebrates its second birthday, program leaders are assessing how far they’ve come, while planning for what’s next. “We’ve demonstrated

our ability to have a functioning program within a geographically broad and complex prenatal care system and it can work. It’s more than a pilot. It’s a big, effective part of prenatal care,” Dr. Simhan says.

He adds that while UPMC Magee’s doula program is large, given its integration within a prenatal health care system, the overall need for doulas outpaces supply. At its current level of staff support, the program is not scaled to offer doula services to all women who are at risk for adverse outcomes—but that’s the goal.

Now that that program has been integrated into clinical care here at UPMC Magee, it’s become a valuable component of patient care that must not only be sustained but grown.

**“Doulas are really the eyes and ears to the patients that we have not had before.”**

— Beth Quinn

“We’d like to grow it out in terms of the number of doulas and patients served, but also the strategies in which we allocate the doula resources,” Dr. Simhan says. “To be able to do targeted focused outreach to patients who would most benefit from doula services ... we’d like to be able to level the playing field a bit and make the resource available and that takes resources to do.”

Quinn adds that they hope to expand into other labor support models, specifically looking at the postpartum space and how to provide support up to a year after delivery. Other elements of the program requiring ongoing resources are virtual—electronic educational resources and live synchronous video have aided the doula program in connecting with patients from afar.

Ultimately, the program would also like to roll out their model into other UPMC sites, providers, and hospitals, expanding this model of care across the entire UPMC system. In the coming year, Dr. Simhan is planning to release a series of presentations along with publications from both nursing and medical literature that highlight the program’s success. With an eye on the future, the doula program leaders are focused on scalability so that more patient populations can benefit—especially those who have systematically failed by traditional models.

“Our program is a core part of improving engagement in the quality of prenatal care to improve pregnancy outcomes in the patient experience for all patients, particularly those who unfortunately have not had that as the expectation in health care,” he says.



“I chose a career in obstetrics and gynecology because there’s something about honoring women, honoring the birth process. We all come from women, and there’s something extraordinary about the mothers who raised us.”

—Annie Lennox

## Graduating Fellows

### Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

**Priyanka Ghosh, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Columbia University Fertility Center, Dept. of OB/GYN, New York, NY

### Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery

**Stephanie Glass Clark, MD**  
Assistant Professor, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Dept. of OB/GYN/RS, Division of Urogynecology, Pittsburgh, PA

### Complex Family Planning

**Mack Goldberg, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Dept. of OB/GYN, Nashville, TN

### Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

**Sarah Allen, MD**  
Assistant Professor, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Dept. of OB/GYN/RS, Division of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Pittsburgh, PA

**Nathan King, MD**  
Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Dept. of OB/GYN, Chicago, IL

### Family Medicine Obstetrics

**Megan Killeen, MD**  
Faculty, Family Medicine Obstetrics, UPMC St. Margaret, Dept. of Family Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

### Maternal Fetal Medicine

**Jacqueline Atlass, MD**  
Assistant Professor, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Dept. of OB/GYN/RS, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA

**Francis Hacker, MD**  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, Women’s Care/Sacred Heart Medical Center, Center for Genetics & Maternal Fetal Medicine, Springfield, OR

**Jaclyn Phillips, MD**  
Assistant Professor, George Washington University, Dept. of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Washington, DC

## Gynecologic Oncology

**Michael Cohen, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Albany Medical Center, Dept. of OB/GYN, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Albany, NY

**Alyssa Wield, MD**  
Gynecologic Oncologist, Dept. of OB/GYN, Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA

## New Fellows, Summer 2022

### Gynecologic Oncology Fellow Residency

**Sarah Bell, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

**Mackenzey Radolec, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA

### Maternal-Fetal Medicine Residency

**Carrie Bennett, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

**Laura Brubaker, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA

**Rosemary Shay, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Residency

### Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Residency

**Roy Handelsman, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA

### Addiction Medicine - Perinatal Track Residency

**Alexander Hughes, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Summa Health Systems, Akron, OH

### Family Medicine Obstetrics Residency

**Sophia Kunkle, MD**  
Family Medicine, UPMC St. Margaret, Pittsburgh, PA

## Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery (Urogynecology) Residency

**Erin Mowers, MD, PhD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of California, San Diego, CA

**Coralee Toal, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA

### Laboratory Genetics & Genomics PhD

**Taimoor Sheikh, PhD**  
Molecular Genetics, Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

### Complex Family Planning Residency

**Kathryn Thomas, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

### Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Residency

**Kathryn Denny, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, George Washington School of Medicine & Health Science, Washington, DC

**Alison Zeccola, MD**  
Obstetrics & Gynecology, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA

## Resident Graduates:

**Alexandra Buffie, MD**  
Faculty, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences

**Latima Collins, MD**  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Health System

**Jason Conger, MD**  
Gynecologic Oncology Fellow, Temple University/ Fox Chase Cancer Center

**Eesha Dave, MD**  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow, Yale School of Medicine

**Caroline Elbaum, MD, MPH**  
Generalist, Concordia Medical Group

**Taylor Rives, MD**  
Gynecologic Oncology Fellow, University of Kentucky College of Medicine

**Jourdan Schmitz, MD,**  
MS Generalist, St. Clair Medical Group OB/GYN

**Julia Tasset, MD**  
MPH Complex Family Planning, Oregon Health & Science University

**Coralee Toal, MD**  
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery Fellow, UPMC Medical Education, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

**Alison Zeccola, MD**  
Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellow, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Science

## New Residents:

**Brittany Carson, MD**  
University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine

**Nat Jones, MD**  
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine

**Rosiris León-Rivera, MD, MS, PhD**  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

**Kristiana McLarty, MD**  
Morehouse School of Medicine

**Belita Opene, MD**  
Howard University College of Medicine

**Kara Skjoldager, MD**  
George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Sciences

**Matthew Tessmer, MD**  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Safiye Unlu, MD**  
Drexel University College of Medicine

**Meryl Warshafsky, MD**  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine



Awards

**Resident Societal & Procedural Skills Awards:**

**The Margaret Searce Compassionate Care Award**  
Anna Weimer, MD, MPH  
First Year Resident

**Society for Gynecologic Oncology Residency Award**  
Emily O'Brien, MD  
Second Year Resident

**Ryan Program Resident Award for Excellence in Family Planning**  
Rachel Dang, MD  
Fourth Year Resident

**MWH Junior Resident Award for Excellence in Family Planning**  
Sarah Smith, MD  
First Year Resident

**AAGL Special Excellence in Endoscopic Procedures**  
Selma Su, MD  
Third Year Resident

**SLS Outstanding Laparoendoscopic Resident**  
Alexandra Buffie, MD  
Fourth Year Resident

**AUGS Resident Award for Excellence in FPMRS**  
Nicole Meckes, MD  
Third Year Resident

**NASPAG Outstanding Resident Award**  
Sarah Bennett, MD  
Second Year Resident

**Society of Reproductive and Infertility - The Golden Embryo Award**  
Coralee Toal, MD  
Fourth Year Resident

**Society of Generalist Hospitalists Resident Award**  
Brigid Mumford, MD  
Third Year Resident

**Outstanding Resident for Colposcopy**  
Taylor Rives, MD  
Fourth Year Resident

**SASGOG Resident Award**  
Kymberly Forsyth, MD  
Third Year Resident

**Best General OB Skills by an Intern**  
Sarah Smith, MD  
First Year Resident

**SMFM Resident Award for Excellence in OB**  
Lauren Sutherland, MD  
Second Year Resident

**Morris Turner Procedural Teaching/Guidance Award**  
Taylor Rives, MD  
Fourth Year Resident

**Alison Zeccola, MD**  
MIGS Fellow

**William R. Crombleholme Excellence in Training Award**  
Emily Carbaugh, MD  
Third Year Resident

**Kymberly Forsyth, MD**  
Third Year Resident

Faculty/Staff Recipient:  
**Diana Brucha, C-TAGME**

**The Marvin C. Rulin Resident Research Presentation Award**  
Praveen Ramesh, MD  
Third Year Resident  
Title: "The Impact of Race-Based Customization on Detection of FGR"  
Research Mentor: Jacob Larkin, MD

**MWRI Research Day Winners**

**Oral Presentation Recipient:**  
Priyanka Ghosh, MD  
REI Fellow  
Title: "Utility of preconception carrier screening in couples with unexplained infertility"

**Poster Presentation Recipient:**  
Alexandra Melnyk, MD  
Med, Urogyn Fellow  
Title: "The utilization of disposable supplies in a urogynecologic operating room: Measuring suburethral sling surgical waste by cost and weight"

**Clinical Research Training and Award**  
Alison Garrett, MD  
Oncology Fellow  
Mentor: Ron Buckanovich, MD, PHD  
Project: "The Role of EGFL6 in the Tumorigenesis of Endometrial Cancer"

**The Steve Cartis Endowed Obstetrical Research Awardees**

**The Steve Caritis Endowed Obstetrical Research Award** was established to support Obstetrics research for OB/GYN residents and MFM fellows.

This fund will provide approximately \$20,000 annually for research expenses. The objective of this fund is to encourage involvement of residents and fellows with faculty to explore and enhance obstetrics research output and provide trainees with a perspective on how difficult clinical questions can be addressed through research.

**Isabel Janmey, MD, MPH**  
Second Year Resident  
Title: "Understanding Gaps in Preconception and Postpartum Care for Women Living with HIV: A Qualitative Analysis"  
Mentor: Katherine Bunge, MD, MPH

**Alexandra Szczupak, MD**  
REI Fellow  
Title: "Maternal Effect Genes: Disruption by Assisted Reproduction and Required to Maintain Imprinted Methylation in Preimplantation Embryos"  
Mentor: Mellissa Mann, PhD

**Faculty & Fellows Teaching Awards**

**CREOG National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education**  
Suji Uhm, MD

**OPC Faculty Teaching Award**  
Erin Rhinehart, MD

**SASGOG Faculty Teaching Award**  
Carol Krupski, MD

**Wayne A. Christoperson, MD Teaching Award**  
Carol Krupski, MD

**GYN Faculty Teaching Awards**  
Sarah Allen, MD, MIGS Fellow  
Mack Goldberg, MD, CFP Fellow

**OB Faculty Teaching Award**  
Jaclyn Phillips, MD, MFM Fellow

**Faculty Award by Medical Students**

**2022 APGO Excellence in Teaching Award**  
Carol Krupski, MD

**Residents & Fellows Teaching Awards by Medical Students**

First-Year Residents  
**Margaret Flanigan, MD**  
**Carly O'Connor-Terry, MD**

Second-Year Resident  
**Isabel Janmey, MD, MPH**

Third-Year Residents  
**Sarah Bennett, MD**  
**Praveen Ramesh, MD**

Fourth-Year Resident  
**Eesha Dave, MD**

Gyn Onc Fellows  
**Michael Cohen, MD**  
**Alison Garrett, MD**

MFM Fellow  
**Carmen Proctor, MD**

**New Hires 2020 to August 2022**

**Amanda Artsen**  
8/1/2020, Urogynecology

**Rachel Beverley, MD**  
7/1/2021, REI

**Anna Binstock, MD**  
7/1/2020, MFM & Ultrasound

**Natalie Brzoza**  
9/1/2020, Womancare North

**Timothy Canavan**  
9/1/2021, Pinnacle (MFM/US)

**Emily Cunningham, MD**  
9/1/2020, OB Specialties

**Tiffany Deihl, MD**  
8/1/2021, MFM

**Ashwini Dhokte, MD**  
9/1/2021, Womancare East

**Kelly DiMattio, MD**  
9/1/2020, NIA OB/GYN Associates

**Morgan Figueroa, CNM**  
11/1/2021, Womancare South

**Stephanie Fitting, CNM**  
3/1/2022, Midwives at Magee

**Jocelyn Fitzgerald, MD**  
9/1/2020, Urogynecology

**Elizabeth Franks, CNM**  
9/1/2021, Altoon

**Allison Hartford, DO**  
8/1/2021, Womancare North

**Jessica Jankowski, CNM**  
8/1/2021, Womancare East

**Rachel Kay, CNM**  
4/1/2022, OB Specialties

**Carol Krupski, MD**  
8/1/2020, OB Specialties

**Johanna Krygsman, CNM**  
10/1/2021, Midwives at Magee

**Michaela Lamonde, DO**  
8/1/2020, OGAP

**Haider Mahdi, MD**  
11/1/2020, Gyn Oncology

**Kelly McCune, MD**  
9/1/2021, OGAP

**Crissy Megli, MD**  
7/1/2020, MFM

**Vasiliki Moragianni, MD**  
11/1/2021, REI

**Abby Phillips, DO**  
8/1/2021, Womancare South

**Helana Pietragallo, MD**  
5/1/2020, Mid-Life

**Christina Pisani-Conway, MD**  
4/1/2020, MFM & Ultrasound

**Victoria Quimpo Moretti, MD**  
9/1/2021, GPOB

**Mackenzey Radolec, MD**  
9/1/2021, OB Specialties

**Julie Rios, MD**  
8/15/2021, REI

**Sarah Rogan, MD**  
9/1/2020, MFM & Ultrasound

**Amanda Sample, MD**  
11/1/2020, OGAP

**Shikha Sharma, MD**  
2/1/2020, OB Specialties

**Malay Sheth, MD**  
3/7/2022, OB Specialties

**Paul Speer, MD**  
9/1/2020, MFM & Ultrasound

**Solomiya Teterichko, DO**  
9/1/2021, OB Specialties

**Asaki Toda, CNM**  
6/1/2021, Midwives at Magee

**Katie Turgeon, MD**  
10/1/2020, Womancare East

**Suji Uhm, MD**  
9/1/2020, Gynecologic Spec/  
Family Planning

**Retirees 2020 to August 2022**

**Michael Bashford, MD**  
12/31/2021, Genetics

**James Garver, MD**  
8/8/2022, WCA North

**Stephen Hasley, MD**  
2/14/2020, OB Specialties

**Yasaswi Kislovskiy, MD**  
6/30/2021, Gyn Spec

**Carolyn Kubik, MD**  
6/30/2021, REI

**George Poutous, MD**  
6/30/2021, WCA South

**Sam Seiavitch, MD**  
3/31/2022, GPOB

**Shereen Singer, MD**  
2/8/2021, Hamot

**Kenneth Spisso, MD**  
8/17/2020, OB Specialties

**Lee Ann Swanson, MD**  
6/30/2022, WCA South

**Robert Thomas, MD**  
12/31/2020, Ob Gyn Associates

**Deborah Whiteside, MD**  
3/31/2021, WCA East



## OB/GYN Awards Ceremony and Dinner

June 1, 2022, University Club, Pittsburgh, PA

Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital *Photos by John McCauley*



Resident Graduates, front to back: Drs. Latima Collins MD, Caroline Elbaum MD, Jourdan Schmitz MD, Eesha Dave MD, Julia Tasset MD, Taylor Rives MD, Alexandra Buffie MD, and Coralee Toal MD (not pictured: Drs. Jason Conger MD, and Alison Zeccola MD)



Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellowship: Dr. Joseph Sanfilippo MD, MBA Fellowship Director; and graduate Dr. Priyanka Ghosh MD



Robert P. Edwards MD, Chair



Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship: Dr. Mary Ackenbom MD, MSc, Faculty; and graduate Dr. Stephanie Glass Clark MD, MSc



Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship: Dr. Nicole Donnellan MD, Fellowship Associate Program Director; and graduate Dr. Nathan King MD

## Magee Luminary Event

Sept. 15, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA



Photo by Mark Bolster

The Magee Luminary event was held on September 15, 2022. This beautiful event honored breast, ovarian, and all gynecologic cancer patients as well as survivors, and those who have passed. Three colors of bags were available for those who wanted to decorate a luminary dedicated to a loved one. Pink bags represented breast cancer, purple bags represented all gynecologic cancers, and teal represented ovarian cancer. The staff at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital then placed and lit all 2,500 luminaries around the front of UPMC Magee. Every year, this meaningful event pays homage to those in our community that have been affected by these cancers.

## Upcoming Events

**American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) Annual Global Congress**  
December 1-4, 2022, Aurora, CO

**American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) 2023 Annual Clinical & Scientific Meeting (ACSM)**  
May 19-21, 2023, Baltimore, MD

**American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP) 2023 ASCCP Scientific Meeting**  
May 4-7, 2023, Houston, TX

**Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) 2023 CREOG & APGO Annual Meeting**  
February 27-March 1, 2023, National Harbor, MD

**Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO) SGO 2023 Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer**  
March 25-March 28, 2023, Tampa, FL

**Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) 43rd Annual Pregnancy Meeting**  
February 6-11, 2023, San Francisco, CA

**Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS) 49th Annual Scientific Meeting**  
March 19-22, 2023, Tucson, AZ

Keep an eye on your emails for more details on these events!

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Magee offers one of the most robust OB/GYN training programs in the nation, and we're proud of our alumni. If you trained at Magee and have a story to share about how you're applying those skill sets within your practice, we'd love to hear from you—and possibly feature you in an upcoming issue of this newsletter. Please contact Jessica Rock, [rockjj2@mwri.magee.edu](mailto:rockjj2@mwri.magee.edu).

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Help us keep you informed! Please join our email list to stay up to date on the great things happening at Magee. It's easy. Just email Jessica Rock, [rockjj2@mwri.magee.edu](mailto:rockjj2@mwri.magee.edu) or call 412-641-4008.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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There are many other gift options to choose from including life insurance, gifts of real estate, and gifts of stock. For more information about making a meaningful gift to Magee, contact Jessica Rock at [rockj12@mwr.i.magee.edu](mailto:rockj12@mwr.i.magee.edu) or call 412-641-4008.

## Three ways to give. So many lives to touch.

**Bequest** – You can remember Magee through your will.

**IRA** – Name Magee as a beneficiary on a retirement account.

**Charitable Remainder Trust** – Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to Magee.

