

UNIFIED IN LEADING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FORWARD



Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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2022-23 YEAR IN REVIEW



UnityPoint Health
Meriter



Since we began our academic mission of training ob-gyn physicians in 1929, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology has set the standard for reproductive health education, research, clinical care, and advocacy. Today, we continue that legacy of excellence as a department of physicians, advanced practice providers, researchers, trainees, and staff who are **unified in leading reproductive health forward.**

Our vision is of a department unified by a shared commitment to improving reproductive health across each of our mission areas. I am proud of this department's accomplishments in education, research, clinical care, and advocacy during the 2022-23 academic year.

Together, we provide a comprehensive educational experience:

This year presented a variety of challenges in training, from returning medical students in person to clinical rotations to ensuring ob-gyn residents have opportunities to build their family planning skills.

Together, we achieve outstanding basic, clinical, and translational research:

Researchers across every division in our department are advancing our understanding of today's most pressing reproductive health issues. Significant investments in clinical trials infrastructure, reproductive equity research, and faculty recruitment have set us on a path for continued success in all types of research.

Together, we embody patient-centered care, service, and advocacy for reproductive health:

Providing exceptional reproductive health care is central to our clinical mission. This year, we made great strides in improving maternal health outcomes by ensuring the teams in our department and beyond are trained on the latest safety guidelines. We enjoyed strong outpatient clinic volume across our five clinical divisions, including a marked increase in our Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Together, we live the Wisconsin Idea:

Our department is full of advocates who help shape the future of education, research, and clinical care beyond our institution. From people championing interventions that connect high-risk patients with community health workers, to serving in local, statewide, and regional reproductive health organizations, members of the department freely share their expertise in service of better outcomes for patients and families across our state and region.

The people of the UW Department of Ob-Gyn are what set us apart. I am proud of our efforts to recruit and retain extraordinary professionals at all levels in our department, our intentional investment in career advancement, and our unwavering focus on individual and departmental wellbeing. I am grateful to lead such a comprehensive, creative, caring department on an unstoppable upward trajectory.

Sincerely,



**Department of
Obstetrics and Gynecology**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Ellen M. Hartenbach, MD
Chair and Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ben Miller Peckham, MD, PhD, Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology

TOGETHER, WE...PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

MEDICAL STUDENTS

This year presented a variety of challenges in training, from returning medical students in person to clinical rotations to ensuring ob-gyn residents have opportunities to build their family planning skills.

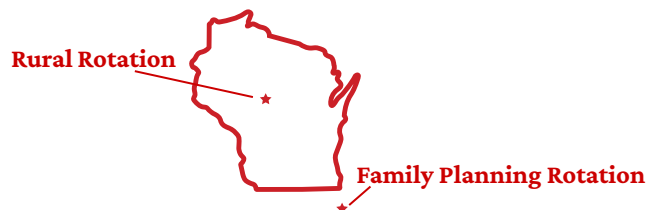


Students returned to inpatient hospital services at full capacity.



All Phase 2 Care Across the Life Cycle students were matched with a faculty preceptor for their 12-week rotation.

RESIDENT EDUCATION



The UW Ob-Gyn Rural Residency Track added two rural track rotations at Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Residency leadership developed a partnership with a training site in Illinois for residents to complete their family planning rotations.

FELLOWSHIPS



Progress continues on a future Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility fellowship – the UW Graduate Medical Education Committee approved the fellowship application in February 2023; next, the application will advance to the national Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

NOTEWORTHY



Luellwitz tapped to co-lead Rural Family Medicine Obstetrics fellowship

The Rural FMOB fellowship will provide much-needed surgical training and high-risk obstetrical experience for family physicians who plan to care for a rural population.



Values Clarification Workshop team receives Paster Award

Dr. Laura Jacques and her research team led Values Clarification Workshops on abortion for more than 500 medical students at three medical schools. They found that after the workshop, students' attitudes shifted toward being more supportive of abortion.



Willging receives Mentor Award in Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities

Molly Willging, a 2023 PhD graduate from the UW Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology Program, was one of two graduate students to receive the 2023 Undergraduate Symposium award.



Spencer selected for AAMC GME Leadership Development Program

As part of the program, Dr. Spencer will participate in in-person and virtual learning modules, develop and implement a learning project, and present at the 2024 AAMC Group on Resident Affairs annual meeting.



UW Collaborative for Reproductive Equity (CORE) grant renewal

The \$5.9 million grant renewal funds this interdisciplinary research center focused on reproductive health policy for three years and supports eight investigator-led projects. CORE is seen as the go-to source of evidence about abortion, contraception, and other aspects of reproductive equity at a critical moment.



Dr. María Virumbrales-Muñoz joined the Division of Reproductive Sciences, bringing her novel organ-on-a-chip model to help advance our understanding of endometriosis and ovarian cancer, two major gynecologic diseases with limited treatment options.

Hypertension Research Has an Impact



[Staying Healthy After Childbirth selected for HHS Innovator Award Program](#)



[UW Ob-Gyn named Preeclampsia Center of Excellence](#)

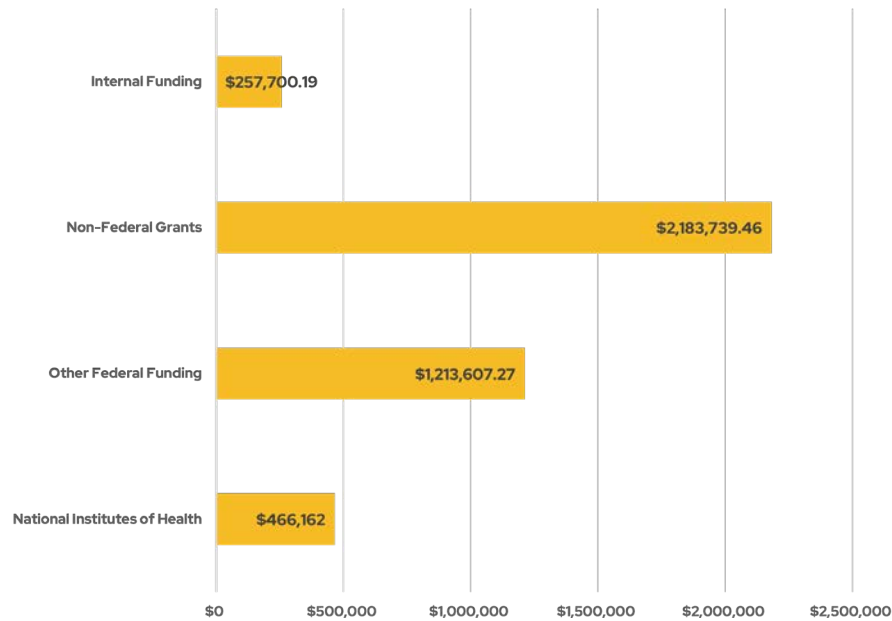


[CHAP team receives Norman F. Gant Award at SMFM Conference](#)

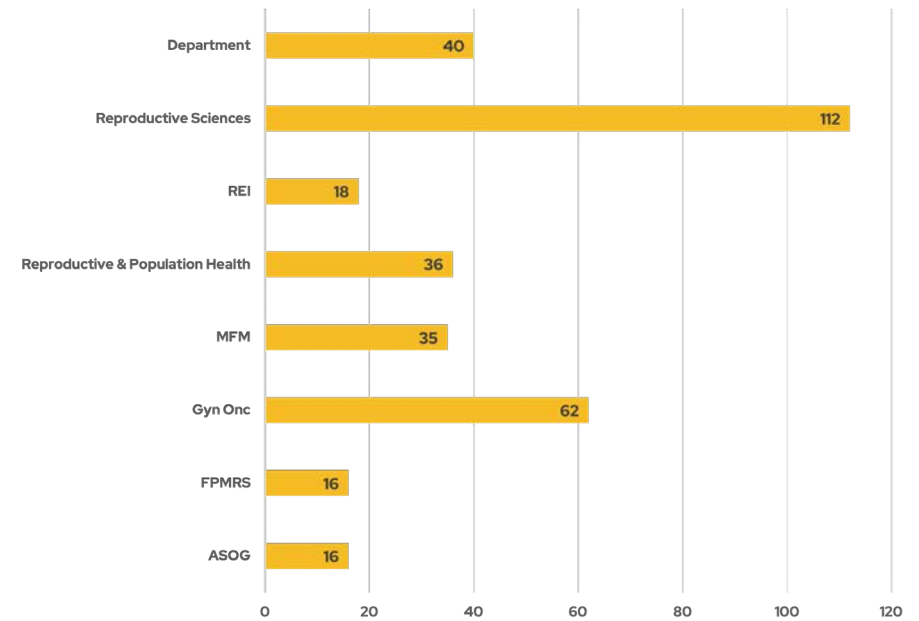
[CHAP study earns Trial of the Year Award from Society of Clinical Trials](#)

TOGETHER, WE...ACHIEVE OUTSTANDING BASIC, CLINICAL, AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Research Funding Sources



Research Projects by Division



NOTEWORTHY



Patankar and Ong receive CDC grant for ovarian cancer detection

In collaboration with researchers at the University of Iowa and the University of Minnesota, they hope to develop computational tools to help identify early-stage ovarian cancer and improve patient outcomes.



Golos and Stanic receive NIH R21 grant

With this grant, Dr. Golos, Dr. Stanic, and their research teams will study the trafficking of peripheral blood immune cells to the endometrium in the luteal phase, and the decidua in pregnancy, in rhesus macaques.



Wagar's study on opportunistic salpingectomy featured on Green Journal Editor's Picks podcast

Dr. Wagar and co-authors designed a decision analytic model to compare the cost and effects of opportunistic salpingectomy and standard bilateral tubal ligation immediately after vaginal delivery.



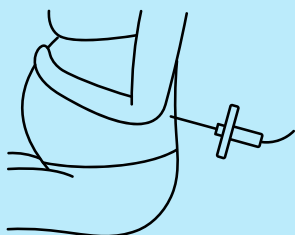
Sobecki named UW Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Scholar

Funded by the NIH, the UW BIRCWH program provides interdisciplinary career development opportunities for a diverse cohort of early career faculty to foster their successful transition to independent funding in women's health and sex/gender differences research.

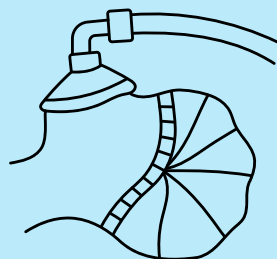
TOGETHER, WE...EMBODY PATIENT-CENTERED CARE, SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

REDUCING ADVERSE MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

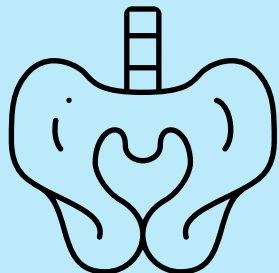
In the past year, we successfully implemented and trained labor and delivery staff on several safety bundles:



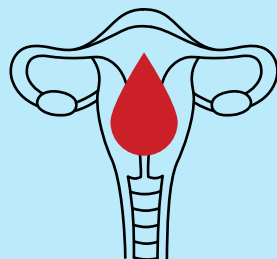
Postpartum
Neuraxial Analgesia



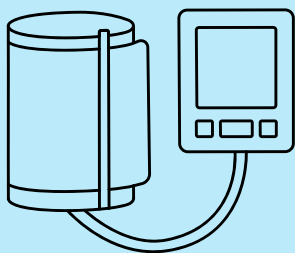
Respiratory Distress



Shoulder Dystocia



Postpartum Hemorrhage



Hypertension
Emergency



Emergency Cesarean (with all
UW Health trauma surgeons)

AMONG THE NATION'S TOP 10 IN OB-GYN

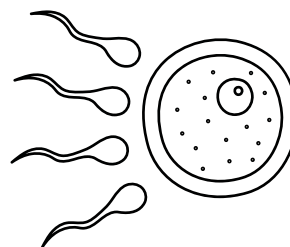


UW Health University Hospital is among the [top 10 best hospitals in Obstetrics and Gynecology](#), according to the 2023 U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals ranking!

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR BIRTHING PATIENTS WITH OPIOID DEPENDENCE THROUGH:

- Offering **group prenatal classes** for pregnant patients to connect with anesthesia, pharmacy, pediatrics, and nursing before delivery.
- Building coalition groups with the neonatal intensive care unit, pediatric newborn providers, social services to **decrease bias towards pregnant patients** on opioid maintenance therapy.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH FERTILITY CARE:



Generations Fertility Care's outpatient clinical volume continues to increase, connecting more patients with more services.

TOGETHER, WE...EMBODY PATIENT-CENTERED CARE, SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

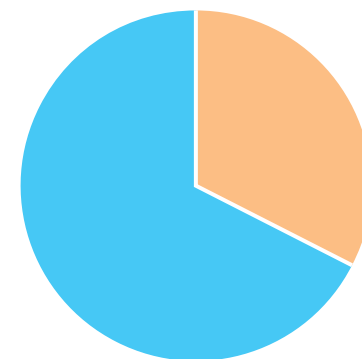
Outpatient clinical volume

Academic Specialists in Ob-Gyn	29,068
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery	5,611
Gynecologic Oncology	6,430
Maternal Fetal Medicine	11,864
Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility	10,128
Certified Nurse Midwives	2,952



3,235
deliveries

Deliveries at UnityPoint Health-
Meriter Hospital



UW Ob-Gyn Other groups

UWHealth



UnityPoint Health
Meriter

NOTEWORTHY



Rose earns UW Health Regional Services Physician Excellence Award

Dr. Stephen Rose received the award for his role as medical director of regional oncology services. Through his insightful, collaborative leadership, Dr. Rose ensures patients across Wisconsin and northern Illinois receive high-quality cancer care.



UW Health Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Center celebrates successes

This multidisciplinary team of specialists and surgeons, co-led by maternal-fetal medicine physician Michael Beninati, MD, cared for several high-profile cases this year.



Bhagavath advocates for increased fertility care access

Through his leadership on the Building Families Alliance, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Director Dr. Bala Bhagavath, advocated for infertility coverage in state insurance plans. Governor Tony Evers included this provision in his state budget proposal in 2023.



Sobecki appointed as medical director of Women's Integrative Sexual Health (WISH) Clinic

The WISH Program provides clinical consultation, resources, education, emotional support, and appropriate referrals related to sexual health concerns for women with cancer. The program is open to people experiencing issues with gynecologic, breast, and other types of cancer.

TOGETHER, WE...LIVE THE WISCONSIN IDEA

We strive to help individuals better understand their own health, and to shape the future of clinical care, education, and research in Wisconsin and across the nation. UW Ob-Gyn outreach efforts include serving in local, regional, and statewide reproductive health organizations, advocating for expanded ob-gyn research funding and healthcare access, sharing expertise in the media, presenting research on national stages, and more.

	Publications	Presentations
Academic Specialists in Ob-Gyn	21	26
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery	28	22
Gynecologic Oncology	29	50
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	32	12
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	11	10
Reproductive & Population Health	30	35
Reproductive Sciences	27	15

HEALTHY WOMEN COMMUNITY TALKS

In the 2022-23 academic year, UW Ob-Gyn faculty, advanced practice providers, and staff hosted four [Healthy Women Community Talks](#):

- **High Blood Pressure During Pregnancy and Beyond** – Kara Hoppe, DO, MS
- **Sex After Cancer: A Candid Discussion** – Janelle Sobecki, MD
- **Pelvic Floor Disorders** – Heidi Brown, MD, MAS
- **Navigating Your Fertility Journey** – Bala Bhagavath, MD, and Julianne Zweifel, PhD

Outreach and Community

9,472

Diapers distributed to community partners through [Diaper Drive](#)



28,015

Downloads of the [Women's Healthcast](#)

\$26,750

Department sponsorship of community events and organizations

TOGETHER, WE...LIVE THE WISCONSIN IDEA



Domeyer-Klenske visits White House Gender Policy Council

In her role as president of the Wisconsin section of ACOG, Dr. Domeyer-Klenske met with staff from the White House Gender Policy Council to discuss challenges and experiences practicing in a post-Dobbs environment. During the visit, she participated in a press conference with some physician members of Congress to share her experience of providing ob-gyn care in a post-Dobbs environment with a specific focus on how legislative interference impacts physician ability to provide medical care.

Barroilhet, Giles, and Iruretagoyena serve as subspecialty ABOG board examiners

It was an honor to have three UW Ob-Gyn faculty leaders serve as board examiners, ensuring the next generation of gynecologic oncology, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, and maternal-fetal medicine physicians will be well-prepared for their careers.



NOTEWORTHY



Adams selected as co-chair of Wisconsin Maternal Mortality Review Team

Part of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Maternal and Child Health Program, the MMRT works to increase awareness of the issues surrounding pregnancy-associated deaths and make recommendations to promote change among individuals, communities, and health care systems in order to eliminate preventable maternal deaths.



Green and Dane County Health Council celebrate one year of Connect Rx

In April 2022, the Dane County Health Council launched ConnectRx, a care coordination tool within the electronic health record to help providers working with Black pregnant patients navigate supportive resources for patients that are available in the community, in all Madison ob-gyn clinics.



UW Division of REI hosts 24th Annual Clinical Embryologists Summit in Madison

More than 80 professionals from reproductive endocrinology and infertility organizations across the country attended the 24th Annual Clinical Embryologists Summit (CES) Conference, an annual event designed to give participants an informal setting to share ideas and to interact with invited speakers and other clinical embryologists.

UNIFIED IN LEADING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH FORWARD

We work tirelessly to build a welcoming, inclusive community, with a focus on wellbeing, anti-racism, and career development. Our award-winning faculty, staff, advanced practice providers, trainees, and researchers are the heart of our department.

AWARDS AND HONORS



Amy Williamson, MPP

Associate Director, UW CORE

[UW–Madison Robert and Carroll Heideman Award for Excellence in Public Service](#)



Lisa Barroilhet, MD, MS

Associate Professor, Gynecologic Oncology

[UW SMPH Group on Women in Medicine and Science Impact Award](#)



Emelle Holmes-Drammeh, PA

Division of Academic Specialists in Ob-Gyn

[UW SMPH Physician Assistant Program Jerry Noack Friend of the Program Award](#)



Ryan Spencer, MD, MS

Associate Professor,
Gynecologic Oncology

[Society of Gynecologic Oncology Congressional Ambassador Award](#)

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT

- **Erin Bailey, MD** – Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- **Amy Domeyer-Klenske, MD** – ASOG
- **Caroline Cox, MD** – FPMRS
- **Olga Fajardo, MD** – ASOG
- **María Virumbrales-Muñoz, PhD** – Reproductive Sciences
- **Catherine Zhang, MD, MPH** – Gynecologic Oncology

PROMOTIONS

- **Laura Cooney, MD** to Associate Professor (CHS)
- **Laura Jacques, MD** to Associate Professor (CHS)
- **Jennifer Karnowski, MD** to Clinical Associate Professor
- **Ryan McDonald, MD** to Clinical Professor
- **Sumer Wallace, MD** to Associate Professor (CHS)
- **Ruth Yemane, MD** to Associate Professor (CHS)

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The UW Department of Ob-Gyn aims to promote a diverse and inclusive department and advance health equity in alignment with the UW Health and UW SMPH DEI frameworks.

The department's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, chaired by **Dr. Katherine Sampene**, convened work groups to address issues of concern shared by community members.

As a result, the work groups:

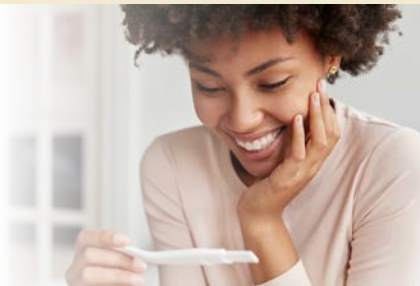
- Established teams to work on improving collaboration between health professionals during births
- Shared resources about labor induction and local induction rates with community partners
- Examined process for follow-up care after miscarriage to better support all patients

OPTIMIZING POSTPARTUM CONTRACEPTIVE CARE

Would you like to become pregnant again within 3 years?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Being unsure or OK either way is normal.



After receiving significant patient feedback about issues with contraceptive counseling in the perinatal period, a team led by Dr. Sampene developed and launched tools to help optimize and standardize the contraceptive counseling process. The new tools were created with principles of person-centered care and reproductive justice in mind.

DEI GRAND ROUNDS AND PRESENTATIONS



[A Strategic and Integrated Approach to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)

*Naomi Takahashi, MSW, LCSW
Director of Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion - UW Health*



[Pioneering Racial Justice, Health Equity, and the Health of Black Women: The Medical Career and Activist Life of Dr. Virginia M. Alexander](#)

*(2022 Women's Health and Health Equity Research Lecture and Symposium Keynote)
Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD Professor,
George Washington University*



[Improving Birth Outcomes for Black Families by Connecting Care and Community to Advance Health Equity](#)

*Adrian Jones, MPH
Community Health Improvement
Manager - UW Health
Ariel Robbins, MPH
Program Director, Dane County Health Council*



[A Practical Approach to EleVATE Equity in Reproductive Health](#)

*Ebony Boyce Carter, MD, MPH
Associate Professor, Washington
University in St. Louis*



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