

Women's Health educational opportunities at the University of Iowa's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's (OBGYN) educational programs span a continuum of learners from undergraduate premedical students to continuing education for practicing providers in Iowa and nearby states. The Department of OBGYN is committed to teaching women-centered, compassionate, evidence-based care and fostering life-long learning. The Department of OBGYN is a part of the Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine (CCOM) and the University of Iowa Health Care (UIHC) at the University of Iowa.

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Premedical Education

Approximately ten premedical students explore women's health by shadowing department physician providers each year.

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Undergraduate Medical Education

A number of departmental faculty members serve as facilitators for small groups in the preclinical curriculum for medical students and provide didactic lectures, including the departmental segment of the M2/PA FCP IV Introduction to Clinical Disciplines. Dr. Colleen Stockdale is the current departmental liaison for FCP IV.

The department offers a six week core clerkship which is taken by all of the College of Medicine M3s. For AY 2011-12 this represents 125 M3s. The majority of the students pursue this clerkship at UIHC, with a small number each block at Des Moines. Dr. Colleen Stockdale is the clerkship director and Mary Hernandez the clerkship coordinator. Dr. Roy Hart is the site director for the clerkship at Des Moines. The Des Moines curriculum is equivalent although not identical. Des Moines students have access to all online resources for the UIHC clerkship including access to Hardin library.

| Match Day Results | Total # of Graduates | OBG | % OBG* |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 2007 | 142 | 8 | 6 |
| 2008 | 137 | 2 | 1 |
| 2009 | 143 | 9 | 6 |
| 2010 | 132 | 9 | 7 |
| 2011 | 147 | 10 | 7 |
| 2012 | 140 | 11 | 8 |

***National average for 2007-2012 is 4.2%.**

Students are exposed to our specialty through inpatient and outpatient experiences including continuity clinics. At UIHC, faculty members present noon hour didactic sessions most weekdays. The clerkship includes ethics sessions coordinated by Dr. Ginny Ryan and a pilot program in communication sessions on sexual history conducted with faculty from OBGYN and the Carver College of Medicine's Office for Consultation and Research in Medical Education (OCRME). Approximately twelve PA2s also rotate in our department for a one month long exposure to obstetrics and gynecology. The PA2s are assigned to outpatient clinics and work alongside the M3s with resident and faculty preceptors.

The department offers M4 sub-internships in gynecologic oncology and maternal fetal medicine, as well as advanced electives in urogynecology,

family planning, reproductive endocrinology and infertility and community-based obstetrics and gynecology. There are also two continuity of care electives offered for M4s. Fifteen M4s enrolled in these electives in AY10-11. Fourteen of these were CCOM students and one was a visiting student from another medical school. Four students enrolled in two opportunities, filling 19 total slots.

In addition to clinical offerings, several faculty have served as mentors for medical student research projects, research distinction track students and service distinction track students. We are pleased to note that Carver College of Medicine students choose residency in obstetrics and gynecology at nearly twice the national average, an indicator of the strength of the student overall experience in our departmental offerings.

Graduate Medical Education

At the Graduate Medical Education (GME) level, the department is accredited for five residents per year for the four year obstetrics and gynecology residency. The current PG4 class entered when the residency was four residents per year and hence we currently have nineteen residents. Next year we will be at the full complement of twenty. Dr. Marygrace Elson is the residency program director, having assumed this role in December 2010. She previously was the clerkship director and FCP IV liaison. Dr. Jennifer Niebyl was the previous program director and led the expansion to five residents per year. Associate program directors are Dr. Merida Miller and Dr. Kelly Ward. Nanci Wieneke is program coordinator. We had our last site visit in 2008 and received a four year accreditation. We are scheduled for a site visit in autumn of 2012. The residency is competitive. This year we had 264 applicants for five positions, 163 of whom were from U.S. schools. We interviewed forty-five.

Approximately one third of our residents go on to fellowship programs and the remainder to private practice in Iowa and nearby states or points west. Over the last ten years, more than one-third of our graduates are in practice in Iowa. The residency includes training in the depth and breadth of the specialty, including inpatient and outpatient experiences. Each resident is required to pursue a scholarly project while in residency, which may be a research project an educational project, or a

quality improvement project. The resident research program is coordinated by Drs. Mark and Donna Santillan. Tuesday mornings are devoted to resident teaching sessions which include twice monthly skills lab sessions coordinated by Dr. Greg Skopec. Tuesday morning sessions also include patient-based learning and improvement M & M, didactic presentations by faculty on a number of obstetrics and gynecology topics from the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) learning objectives, ethics sessions led by Dr. Ginny Ryan, journal club led by Drs. Catherine Bradley and Barbara Stegmann, pathology presentations, and resident teaching development presented by Dr. Elson. Dr. Abbey Hardy-Fairbanks is the site director for the Ryan Family Planning resident training program.

Particular strengths of the residency include the Ryan Family Planning program, variety of gynecologic surgery, training in minimally invasive surgery, and the presence of fellowship training programs in three subspecialty areas.

Residency Highlights:

- ***Ryan Family Planning Program***
- ***Variety of gynecologic surgeries***
- ***Minimally invasive surgery training***
- ***Subspecialty Fellowships***

The department has a total of nine fellows in three subspecialty fellowships in Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. One fellow is in the joint fellowship in Genetics and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The fellowships are all competitive. Each division has fellows' teaching conferences and outstanding clinical opportunities for fellows. The division of Gynecologic Oncology offers training in robotic and major operative surgical procedures. The Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship provides intensive exposure to invasive procedures, fetal therapy, prenatal diagnosis and care of complicated pregnancy. Fellows in the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility division have abundant exposure to surgical procedures such as difficult endoscopy, as well as superior experience in *in vitro* fertilization and clinical embryology.

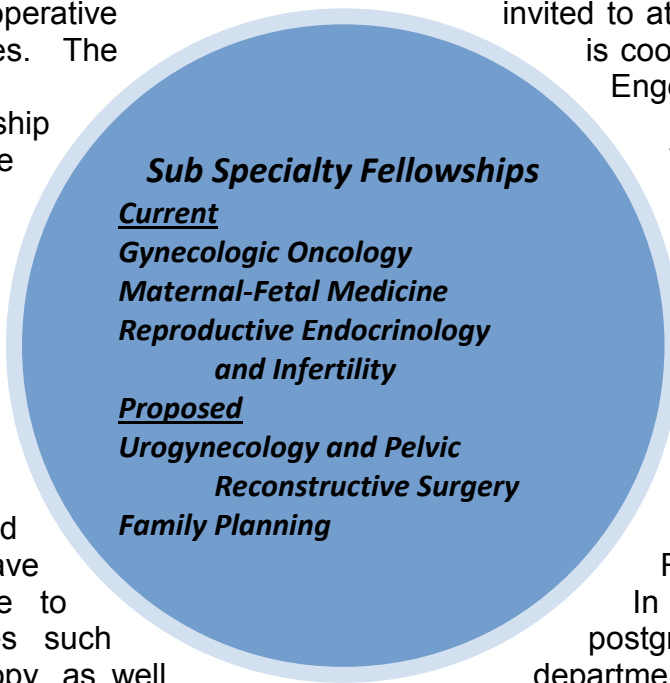
Plans for the future include a fellowship in Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery after more faculty members have been recruited. We also hope to add a Family Planning fellowship.

Continuing Medical Education

The department's primary Continuing Medical Education (CME) activity is a weekly Tuesday morning Grand Rounds. Offerings at Grand Rounds include faculty presentations, resident and fellow research, and outside speakers from other departments at the University of Iowa, as well as visiting guests from other academic institutions. Area women's health providers are invited to attend. Grand Rounds is coordinated by Dr. Jane Engeldinger.

The department also hosts an annual postgraduate course in the autumn which is a day-long activity featuring an outside keynote speaker and including presentation of the R4 scholarly projects. In addition to the postgraduate course, the department has recently hosted two other symposia concerning Preeclampsia and Hormone Receptor Research.

A national trend is an emphasis on team-based learning and practice with incorporation of nurse midwives on the obstetrics team. At Iowa, we are "ahead of the curve" with a nurse-midwifery service that is fully integrated with our obstetrics team. Nurse midwives are faculty members at Iowa and are



actively involved in didactic and clinical education of medical students, PA students and residents.

Recent educational innovations in the residency include acquisition of a two-console teaching robot system and access to a robotics teaching lab shared with Urology and General Surgery. Dr. David Bender directs the resident robotic teaching. Over the next year, we plan to increase team-based skills via an obstetrics emergencies simulation session in collaboration with nursing.

The department regularly offers an outpatient gynecology rotation to upper-level family medicine residents as required by their residency review committee. We also offer an outpatient women's health elective to upper-level internal medicine residents with interest in women's health. One resident per month is enrolled in this experience for a total of 6-10 family medicine and internal medicine residents annually.

Departmental Educational Retreat

For the last two years our department has held a half day educational retreat in the autumn which is attended by residents, fellows and faculty. The retreat was led by Dr. Elson in collaboration with Jeff Pettit of OCRME. The retreat has addressed the broader educational goals of the department. The 2010 retreat's main topic was competency assessment. The 2011 retreat's main activities included developing a departmental educational vision statement, patient handover processes, and team communication. Nursing management from the clinic and

inpatient units attended the 2011 retreat. The retreat allows a forum for open discussion of our various educational programs by stakeholders setting for discussion of our various educational programs, with an emphasis on the residency training program.

Educational Leadership

Our clerkship and our residency enjoy an excellent reputation nationally on the education front. Dr. Elson completed a Master of Medical Education degree through the Carver College of Medicine in 2010. She was selected for the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Academic Scholars and Leaders program, which is a competitive national program for leaders in obstetrics and gynecology education. Dr. Stockdale is participating in the Teaching Scholars program through the Carver College of Medicine Office for Consultation and Research in Medical Education (OCRME). Mary Hernandez, clerkship coordinator, has pursued graduate courses towards the Master of Medical Education degree also through OCRME.

Regional and National Service

Multiple faculty members have provided presentations for CME programs in other departments at UIHC, regionally, and nationally during the study period. Several faculty members have given invited lectureships and presentations at international meetings. Multiple faculty members participate in the Visiting Professors program and provide invited lectures to family medicine residents and faculty at University of Iowa

affiliated family medicine residency sites throughout the state.

Drs. Bowdler, Bradley, Elson, Gellhaus, Leslie and Syrop are oral boards examiners for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Van Voorhis is a board examiner for the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility subspecialty boards. Dr. Stockdale serves on the Iowa Board of Medicine, is the Secretary for the Board and the Chair for the Committee on Licensure. Dr. Stockdale is on the National Board of Medical Examiners as a test writer for the USMLE Step 3.

Diane Elas, ARNP, and Dr. Stockdale have provided observerships to physicians from outside UIHC in vulvar vaginal disease. Diane Elas has trained non UIHC nurse practitioners and physician assistants in pessary fitting,

pelvic floor assessment and vulvar disease evaluation.

International Opportunities

Dr. Ryan has traveled to Haiti for medical mission work. Dr. Gellhaus has traveled to Bolivia for medical mission work and a resident has accompanied him to help provide gynecologic surgery services. Understanding the low number of health care providers in Bolivia and especially in the rural areas where the group works, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa has made a commitment to develop a sustainable site in this area in Bolivia. Dr. Rijhsinghani traveled to India with a group of seven medical students as an international health elective "Rural India" in Feb 2009.

Educational Leadership

Obstetrics and Gynecology Department Vice Chair for Education

Marygrace Elson, MD, MME

Medical Student Clerkship Director (and FCP IV liaison)

Colleen K. Stockdale, MD, MS

Residency Program Director

Marygrace Elson, MD, MME

Associate Residency Program Directors

Merida Miller, MD and Kelly Ward, MD

Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Director

Koen De Geest, MD

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Director

Kimberly Leslie, MD

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellowship Director

Brad Van Voorhis, MD