

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley - UTRGV

Graduate Medical Education UTRGV School of Medicine

Faculty

Program Leadership



Tony Ogburn, MD, FACOG

Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology / Professor

Dr. Tony Ogburn is a professor and the chair of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was previously a professor in the Department of Obstetrics at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where he was on faculty since 1997. He was also the chief medical officer at the University of New Mexico-Sandoval Regional Medical Center.

He attended medical school at the University of Florida and completed his residency in OB-GYN at the University of California-Irvine. Following his residency he worked for the Indian Health Service in Gallup, New Mexico for six years. He served in a number of educational leadership roles at UNM including residency program director and Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education. He continues with an active clinical practice with a focus in general gynecology and family planning.

He has published over 50 scientific articles with an emphasis on family planning, educational evaluation and curriculum development, and improving access to underserved populations. He is the immediate past chair of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology and founding treasurer and president elect of the Society of Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a board member of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. He is a board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a former ACOG McCain Fellow and until moving to UTRGV served as the legislative chair and member of the Advisory Council for ACOG District 8. He is a member of the ACOG Committee on Indian Affairs, serving as the chair of the committee from 2007-11 and the current director of education. Dr. Ogburn is a member of the ACOG Committee on Healthcare for Underserved Women and is on the ACOG Global Operations Advisory Group.

Throughout his career Dr. Ogburn has advocated for improved access and health care for underserved populations. He spent six years in Gallup working with the Indian Health Service serving the Navajo reservation and he has volunteered on Indian reservations in the United States and at a maternity hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan. He is

a strong advocate on the state and national levels for improved access to quality health care for the underserved.



Jennifer Salcedo, MD, MPH, MPP, FACOG

Program Director / Associate Professor

Dr. Jennifer Salcedo is Associate Professor and Program Director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). She was previously an Associate Professor in the Division of Family Planning, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health, at the University of Hawaii where she served as an Associate Program Director and Director of the Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program in Abortion & Family Planning. There she also held adjunct faculty appointments in the Office of Public Health Studies and the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Salcedo received her medical degree and MPH at Northwestern University, completed residency training at the University of California, Irvine, and finished a fellowship in family planning at the University of California, Los Angeles. During fellowship, she received an MPP through UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, with a concentration in health. She has held leadership positions in the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, American Society of Reproductive Medicine, and the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. Dr. Salcedo's research interests include emergency contraception, health care systems improvement, and medical education. She is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Efraim Vela, MD, FACOG

Associate Program Director / Assistant Professor

Efraim Vela, born and raised in McAllen, Texas, graduated from University of Texas in Austin then received his MD degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. While finishing a Family Medicine Residency at UTSA Family Medicine Residency Program, his interest in Women's health was cultured. After completion of Family Medicine residency, he decided to pursue this interest. A second residency at UTMB-Galveston, Texas honed his OBGYN skills. Upon completion of OBGYN residency, he returned to McAllen, a sleepy community town of 40,000 people at that time, and joined an established practice, Landrum-Chester and Associates.

After nearly thirty years of a successful private practice, he became instrumental in the formation of the UTRGV OBGYN Residency Program and accepted position of Associate Program Director and Assistant Professor of the newly formed UTRGV School of Medicine. He serves as Chief of Women's Services at Women's Hospital at DHR Health, and is directly involved in many leadership committees at the largest freestanding Women's hospital in South Texas. Two years ago, he helped form the OBGYN Hospitalist Program at Women's Hospital and serves as director of team of board certified physicians that provide round the clock emergency services for women.

Recently, he was elected Vice Chair of ACOG District XI Section V organization. He is excited to be involved in a national organization that is vital, active, progressive and making important political and clinical changes that promote women's health and wellbeing.

Core Faculty



Roberto Prieto-Harris, MD, FACOG

Assistant Clinical Professor

Born and raised in Mexico City, Dr. Roberto Prieto-Harris completed his Doctor of Medicine at one of the most prestigious medical schools in Mexico City, where he graduated with honors. He moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he completed his residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Albert Einstein Medical Center. During this time, he received numerous awards including Best First-year Resident, Best Teaching Resident; and ended his residency as chief administrative resident.

In 2007, he moved to the Rio Grande Valley. During this short time, he has accomplished certification by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and was appointed as OB-GYN professor at The University of Texas Medical Science Center in San Antonio. In 2010 he was chosen by his medical students as the best teaching junior attending. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Lyuba Levine, MD, MMsci, FACOG

Professor

Dr. Levine comes to UTRGV to continue and expand her clinical and basic science research, particularly translational research trials for patients diagnosed with gynecologic malignancies. Being clinically involved in her patients' care has allowed her to provide enrollment in collaborative group trials and to lead local, investigator-initiated trials to improve care and outcomes for cancer patients. Dr. Levine's main focus in cancer care is to improve quality of life during and after completion of treatment.

Dr. Levine obtained her M.D. at St. George's University in 1996 and completed a Master's in Medical Science (2003) and a Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology (2004) at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. Dr. Levine's experience as a principal investigator of Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) trials at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and as a co-investigator of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN)/CDC study puts her in a unique position to enroll cancer patients in national trials and provide state-of-the-art care.

Dr. Levine has received a number of awards for her contributions, including Resident Research Award, Consumer Award, Chairman's Award, Hospital Academic Fellowship

Award, Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholarship, and the Junior Faculty Development Award, and was the holder of the Edward V. Hannigan Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UTMB.

Dr. Levine's peer-reviewed publication topics have included primary small cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the vagina, implications of tyrosine phosphoproteomics in cervical carcinogenesis, cancer cachexia, and anabolic interventions.



Laura Faye Gephart, MD, MBA, FACOG

Assistant Professor

Dr. Laura Faye Gephart MD MBA FACOG received her undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior from the University of California, Davis and her MD from Loma Linda University. She also earned her MBA from Loma Linda University while teaching elementary school in Desert Hot Springs. After her internship in Washington DC, she completed Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at University of South Florida in Tampa followed by Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery fellowship at Baylor Scott & White Health in Temple, Texas.

During her fellowship, her research focused on the development of pelvic organ prolapse in the squirrel monkey model, urinary incontinence and intraabdominal pressures during CrossFit exercise, retropubic midurethral slings after Burch colposuspension, and intraocular pressures during robotic surgery. Her current research interests include frailty, surgical outcomes, border health disparities in women's health, and treatment of obstetric anal sphincter injury.

A board certified OBGyn with fellowship training in FPMRS, Dr. Gephart treats women suffering from urinary and fecal incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, defecatory, and urinary dysfunction, recurrent UTI, and bladder pain syndrome. She advocates for patients and health system reform on the state and national level. Dr. Gephart is passionate about her patients, clinical research, medical education and legislative advocacy.



Denise De Los Santos, MD

Assistant Professor

Dr. De Los Santos was born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley. She went to PSJA North High School and was accepted into the Medical School Early Acceptance Program, which allowed her to matriculate to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio at age 20 after 3 years of undergraduate education at the University of Texas Pan American. She graduated with an undergraduate degree from UTPA with a Bachelor's degree in Biology and minor in Chemistry, and UTHSCSA with her Doctorate in Medicine. After completing an OB/GYN residency at New York Downtown Hospital in Manhattan and Danbury Hospital in Danbury, CT.

Dr. De Los Santos is excited to be back home to help the next generation of RGV physicians. She is currently the Assistant Medical Student Clerkship Director and is active in medical student education.



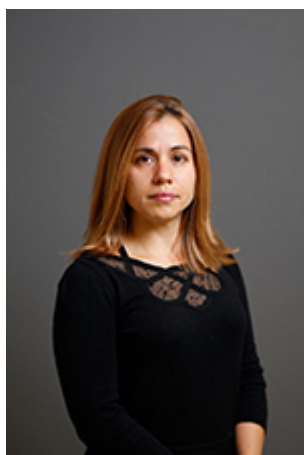
Saul Rivas, MD, MSPH

Assistant Professor

Dr. Saul Rivas is an Assistant Professor and the Medical Student Clerkship Director in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). He received his medical degree from Texas A&M College of Medicine and completed residency training at the University of New Mexico. He had previously completed a Master of Science in Public Health degree at the University of Texas School of Public Health and worked in epidemiological research and public health at MD Anderson Cancer and the Texas Department of State Health Services, respectively.

Dr. Rivas has a strong interest in providing care to underserved populations and plays an integral part in the effort to provide women's care through the UTRGV Unimovil. He is the Director of the Immediate Post-Partum LARC program at the Women's Hospital at Renaissance; one of the few hospitals in the state and the only hospital in South Texas to provide this service. Dr. Rivas has been an invited speaker at several regional and national meetings in the area of long acting reversible contraception.

In his leisure time, Dr. Rivas enjoys spending time on the beach, fishing, hiking, and jogging with his wife, Anna.



Maria del C Colon-Gonzalez, M.D.

Assistant Professor

Ted Held, MD, MPH, FACOG

Assistant Professor



Dr. Held has been a practicing OBGYN for over 20 years and is an assistant professor of OBGYN at UTRGV. Prior to joining the faculty at UTRGV, Dr. Held served as the Associate Chief Medical Officer for Austin's Healthcare District, where he was responsible for designing and overseeing implementation of healthcare delivery system reforms for the underserved in Austin/Travis County, including group prenatal care programs, contraceptive access programs, street and homeless medicine outreach, and population health monitoring and evaluation. He graduated from UTMB medical school, and completed his residency at the University of Kentucky in Lexington in 1996. His career has largely been focused on the care of the underserved with a specific focus on contraception access and public health care system redesign. He completed a Master's in Public Health in 2013 at the University of Texas School of Public Health- Austin Regional Campus.

Tiffany Marie Ticer, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Nurse Practitioner



Tiffany is a native of the Rio Grande Valley. She is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with over 12 years of experience in the nursing profession. She obtained her ADN and BSN from UT Brownsville and MSN from Walden University. She is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner, and has served in a variety of settings. Tiffany strives to provide quality holistic care to her patients and their families. She is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She is looking forward to continuing her education and obtaining her Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

K. Michael Buttermann, MD, FACOG

Assistant Professor



Karl M. Buttermann came to UTRGV from UT-Austin Dell Medical School, where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Health. After completing medical school at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, he completed an Internship in Preliminary Medicine at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY, and a Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, VA. He has been an Attending Physician at Austin Medical Education Program, St. Luke Hospitals/Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, UTMB-Austin, UTSW-Austin, and UT-Austin Dell Medical School.

Dr. Buttermann has been selected as an Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology Scholar. He has been a recipient of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident

Education, and the American College of OB/GYN Mentor Award. His focus has been on teaching medical students and residents, with an emphasis on Gynecology and surgery.

He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Texas Medical Association, the Travis County Medical Society, and the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists.



Wayne Wilson, MD, MS, FACOG

Assistant Professor

Dr. Wilson attended the University of Texas at Austin and then went on to receive his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1980. He then completed an OB/GYN residency at the University of Texas Southwestern at Parkland Memorial Hospital and has been in private practice in McAllen since 1984. He was a Clinical Associate Professor at UTHSC San Antonio from 2012-2017 and has been on the UTRGV Medical School Admissions Committee since its inception. In his role as the Medical Student Community Coordinator, he recruits and is the liaison for the Ob-Gyn community physicians who serve as preceptors for the medical students. He is on the Board of Directors for El Milagro Clinic, a member of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics, the Texas Medical Association, and the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



Ayda Garza-Montalvo, MD, FACOG

Assistant Professor

Dr. Garza-Montalvo is a graduate of Harlingen High School and received her Bachelor's Degree in Biology at Yale University. She attended UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, where she earned her MD. She completed her residency in OB/GYN at Parkland Memorial Hospital and returned to the valley where she has been in private practice since 1995.



Christine McCleary, PT, DPT

Physical Therapist

Dr. Christine McCleary, PT, DPT is a physical therapist from Weslaco, TX who specializes in pelvic floor dysfunctions. Prior to earning a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Texas State University, she graduated with honors from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Education.

After returning to the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. McCleary identified a need in the area for conservative treatment options for women's pelvic health conditions. She has completed various levels of course work in examining, diagnosing, and treating musculoskeletal conditions related to the pelvic floor. This includes course work offered through the Herman and Wallace Pelvic Health Institute and the American Physical Therapy Association's Section of Women's Health. She has a Certificate of Achievement in Pelvic Physical Therapy and Obstetric Physical Therapy (CAPP-PT, CAPP-OB).

Dr. McCleary is dedicated to serving her community by raising women's health awareness and practicing in an evidence-based manner in order to improve her patients' comfort and quality of life.

Adjoint Faculty



Robert S. Schenken, MD, FACOG

Clinical Professor

Dr. Robert S. Schenken completed medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in 1977 and concluded his residency training at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the National Institutes of Health, Pregnancy Research Branch in 1982. Dr. Schenken was the chief of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility from 1986 until 2002. He served as chair of OB/Gyn at UTHSCSA from 2002-2016. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive endocrinology and infertility. He was president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in 2005. He previously served as a director of The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and was a member of the Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Randall Robinson, MD, FACOG

Clinical Professor

Dr. Robinson joined the UTHSCSA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology Division in 2011. He received his A.B (Arte Baccareleuratis) and MD degrees from the University of Missouri and completed his Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington in 1992 and a Fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts in 1996. He previously served on active duty in the US Army Medical Corps and retired at the rank of Colonel after more than 26 years of service. He served as both the Chairman and Residency Program Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the San Antonio Military Medical Center and the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium. He is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Dr. Robinson currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is a board examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is the Army Section Chair of the Armed Forces District of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



Abbey Berenson, MD, MMS, PhD, FACOG

Clinical Professor

Dr. Berenson's research at UTMB focuses on women's health, especially during the reproductive years and among underserved populations. She is the founding Director of the UTMB Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health (CIRWH). Dr. Berenson has served on the national level as a board Examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has also served on numerous committees for American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the board of directors for the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, and was the first female president of the Central Association of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. Dr. Berenson's area of interest is the utilization of vaccines to improve women's health.

Community Faculty

Cameron County

Brownsville

- Claudia P. Garcia, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Rose Gowen, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Ramiro Munoz Jr., MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Jose R. Nieves Sosa, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Magdalena Flores, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor

Harlingen

- Ruben M. Torres Jr., MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
 - Uvavldo Cantu Jr., MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
 - Susan D. Hunter, MD, FACOG, FACS - Clinical Assistant Professor
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Hidalgo County

Edinburg

- Heriberto Rodriguez-Ayala, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Ayda Garza-Montalvo, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Adrian Salinas, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Fernando Otero, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Carlos Puig, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Carlos Herrera, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Kedak Baltajian, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Cherie Johnson, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor

McAllen

- Danielle Jimenez-Flores, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Liliana Padilla-Williams, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Wayne B. Wilson, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Cesar Coronado, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Guillermo L. Montanez, MD, FACOG - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Mary E. Klentz, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor
- Lourdes A. Uribe, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

