

[Home](#) › [Internal Newsletters](#) › [What's New](#) ›

[Welcome Dr. Steven Ralston, Chair of the Department of Obs...](#)

Welcome Dr. Steven Ralston, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Pennsylvania Hospital

October 28, 2016



Pennsylvania Hospital welcomes **Steven J. Ralston, MD, MPH**, as the new chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Ralston will also serve as director of Obstetrical Service and as a vice chair of the Perelman School of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"We are very excited that Dr. Ralston will be joining Penn Medicine. His experience and achievements make him an excellent addition to the Pennsylvania Hospital family," **CEO Theresa Larivee** said.

Ralston joins Penn Medicine from Boston, where he served chief of the division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Harvard Medical School. Ralston received his BS in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry from Yale University, *summa cum laude*, and his MD from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. Ralston earned his MPH at Boston University in 2011 with a focus on health law, bioethics, and human rights. He completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at Tufts-New England Medical Center, where he also spent 13 years as a faculty member at Tufts University.

Beloved by his patients, Ralston specializes in high-risk obstetrical care and prenatal diagnosis and continues to enjoy the practice of obstetrics on labor and delivery. He has developed innovative care programs such as the Center for Compassionate Care and Perinatal Hospice and consultative community-based programs. He is an advocate for reproductive health and has served as a board member at Planned Parenthood in Boston.

In addition, Ralston has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding teaching over the past 20 years, including a certificate in excellence in tutoring from Harvard Medical School where he taught Medical Ethics and Professionalism for the past three years. He previously served as director of the medical

student clerkship and director of the medical ethics course at Tufts University School of Medicine. At Beth Israel, he was the fellowship program director in maternal fetal medicine. Along with teaching, Ralston has been a research mentor to many residents and fellows.

Ralston is also nationally recognized for his expertise in medical ethics and genetics, serving on the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee on Ethics for five years, including three as chair. He has also served as a liaison to the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics and to the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Ethics committee. Ralston has contributed to many professional guidelines and committee opinions ranging from direct to consumer marketing of genetic testing to equal access to fertility treatment to empathy in women's health care. He is currently on the ACOG Committee on Genetics and has lectured extensively on ethical issues related to genetic technologies, cesarean section on demand, abortion, and human rights.

Finally, Ralston is an ad hoc reviewer for a number of journals including the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, *Prenatal Diagnosis*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"We are honored to have Dr. Ralston join our team," said **Deborah Driscoll, MD**, chair of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn Medicine. "And I would also like to thank Dr. Harish Sehdev for his leadership as interim chair over the past nine months. Dr. Sehdev has been a good steward of the department and looks forward to working closely with Dr. Ralston during the transition."

Welcome, Dr. Ralston!