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Faculty

There are currently 29 full-time faculty members and 4 part-time faculty members.

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Maternal-Fetal Medicine

The division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) consists of eight board-certified faculty members who bring their expertise to Atrium Health from across the country. Atrium Health serves as a tertiary regional referral center for nine surrounding counties given its robust Neonatology Department. This status generates a substantial volume of high acuity, high-risk obstetric patient referrals that provide residents with a broad

clinical experience. MFM is responsible for the education and supervision of residents and medical students on the antepartum service and Labor and Delivery unit. Our MFMs work closely with the Academic Generalist and Hospitalist faculty, and together they perform approximately 7,000 deliveries per year. The MFM faculty train the PGY-3 and PGY-4 residents in obstetrical triage and labor management of complicated pregnancies on the Labor and Delivery unit. In addition, MFM staffs the outpatient High-Risk and Diabetic Obstetric Clinics at AH Myers Park. Interns participate in ambulatory prenatal care of high-risk pregnant women in these same clinics as well as their management once on the postpartum unit. During their ultrasound rotation, interns are trained to master their ultrasound skills and participate in counseling of high-risk pregnancies. Residents spend time one on one with MFM faculty in the Prenatal Diagnosis unit. The division has a robust clinical research program given the high volume of high-risk pregnancies.



Rebecca Pollack, MD

Medical School: Indiana University

Residency: Indiana University

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University of Kentucky

Areas of interest: Resident education, diabetes in pregnancy, preterm birth prevention, cerclage



Ngina Connors, MD, MBA

Interim Chair

Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Division Director

Medical School: Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

Residency: Christiana Care Health System

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Wake Forest University

Area of interest: Maternal healthcare disparities



Julio F. Mateus Nino, MD

Director, Resident Research Committee

Medical School: University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Residency: Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, Pennsylvania

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal-Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch - Galveston

Heather Mertz, MD, MHA

Medical School: West Virginia University

Graduate School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Residency: West Virginia University



Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Wake Forest University

Kelecia Brown, MD



Medical School: New York Medical College

Residency: UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School

Areas of interest: Cardiac conditions in pregnancy, disparities in maternal care, prenatal diagnosis



Nikki Koklanaris, MD

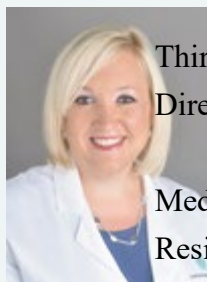
Medical School: Temple University School of Medicine

Residency: New York University School of Medicine

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Georgetown University Hospital

Areas of interest: Growth restriction, antenatal testing, resident education

Lorene Temming, MD



Third Year Clerkship Director

Director, AH CMC Labor and Delivery Unit

Medical School: University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Barnes Hospital at Washington University

Areas of interest: Obstetrics, preterm birth, cervical insufficiency, clinical research, medical education

Jennifer Philips, MD

Medical School: University of Virginia School of Medicine

Residency: Wake Forest University

Fellowship: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Eastern Virginia Medical School



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Academic Specialists in Obstetrics & Gynecology

The division of Academic Specialists in Obstetrics & Gynecology seeks to develop residents' operative skills and application of knowledge in general obstetrics and gynecology in both the ambulatory and inpatient setting. This division consists of eight OBGYN academic specialists, of which one is fellowship-trained in Complex Family Planning and another in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. These specialists are dedicated to resident education across all settings: inpatient service, resident continuity clinic, Complicated Gynecology clinic, colposcopy, gynecologic surgery, Labor and Delivery, and resident didactic lectures and simulations. While maintaining broad skills, each of the division members have special expertise in several niche areas such as advanced laparoscopy, pediatric and adolescent gynecology, gynecologic ultrasound, and vulvovaginal disorders. In addition, we have three academic hospitalists who cover Labor and Delivery and gynecologic emergencies.

Our goal is to provide our residents with exposure and experience in all facets of benign gynecology. Our ambulatory gynecology clinics, which evaluate over 5,500 patients each year, provide exposure to topics such as contraception, sexually transmitted infections, abnormal uterine bleeding, vulvovaginal disorders, abnormal cervical cytology, benign adnexal masses, uterine fibroids, and chronic pelvic pain. In both continuity clinics and Complicated Gynecology clinic, residents manage these above conditions and perform Nexplanon and Intrauterine Device insertion and removals, endometrial and vulvar biopsies, Endosee In-Office Hysteroscopy, transvaginal ultrasound, and more.

In the inpatient setting, residents care for patients with a broad range of disorders, including pelvic inflammatory disease, tuboovarian abscess, abnormal uterine bleeding, severe iron deficiency anemia, ovarian torsion, ectopic pregnancy, vulvar abscess, and adnexal masses. The gynecology team acts as primary admitting physicians as well as consultants for the inpatient and emergency department settings. In the operating room, residents develop a strong foundation of surgical skills and continue to expand upon them throughout their training. We operate using all modalities of vaginal, abdominal, laparoscopic, and hysteroscopic surgery. Resident experience is further enhanced as they rotate as PGY-3 residents through a smaller community private practice that provides substantial surgical cases, including vaginal hysterectomy, as well as opportunity to cover L&D and do patient visits with attending supervision.

The gynecology team consists of a PGY-2 and PGY-4 resident. The PGY-2 resident is responsible for providing inpatient care, managing emergency department and in-house consultations, assisting with major

procedures, and performing most outpatient procedures such as tubal ligation, dilation and curettage, and operative hysteroscopy. The PGY-4 resident is responsible for overseeing all inpatient care and performs all major procedures such as hysterectomy, exploratory laparotomy, dilation and evacuation, and complex adnexal surgery. Overnight, the gynecology service is run by the PGY-2 Night Float resident with oversight by the PGY-4 Night Float resident and the hospitalist or generalist attending physician.

From an obstetrics perspective, both the generalist and hospitalist faculty educate residents on the management of normal and abnormal labor as well as gynecologic emergencies. We have three OBGYN hospitalists and eight OBGYN generalists who are committed to the inpatient management of women's obstetric and gynecologic needs. The faculty is committed to resident education in intrapartum and postpartum care of women, including labor induction, spontaneous vaginal delivery, operative vaginal delivery, and cesarean delivery. Additionally, these providers oversee management of gynecologic emergencies, including ruptured ectopic pregnancy, ovarian torsion, gynecologic trauma, and hemorrhage of gynecologic origin.

The labor and delivery team consists of two or three PGY-1 residents, and one resident each from PGY-2, PGY-3, and PGY-4 years. The PGY-1 OBGYN resident is accompanied by PGY-1 Family Medicine and/or Emergency Medicine Residents. These interns on the labor and delivery team are responsible for performing all spontaneous vaginal deliveries, providing low-risk postpartum care, and attending to all OB triage encounters. A team of Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), including a certified nurse midwife and Physician Assistants, also work alongside residents in OB triage. The PGY-2 resident manages labor for all admitted patients, performs all cesarean sections, and oversees all vaginal deliveries. The PGY-3 resident cares for patients admitted to the high-risk antepartum service. The PGY-4 resident is responsible for the higher level of care coordination, supervising the entire labor and delivery service. The chief acts as first-assistant to the PGY-2 during cesarean delivery and supervises/performs operative vaginal delivery with forceps or vacuum-assistance.



Heather Bane, MD

Director, Gynecologic Ultrasound
Academic Specialist

Medical School: University of Virginia School of Medicine
Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Area of interest: Gynecologic ultrasound

Amy Boardman, MD

Residency Program Director
Academic Specialist



Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine

Residency: University of Florida College of Medicine

Areas of interest: Vulvovaginal disorders, minimally invasive surgery, resident education, surgical simulation



Melissa Brunner Woolworth, MD

Director, Complex Obstetrics Delivery Care

Director, OBGYN Simulation

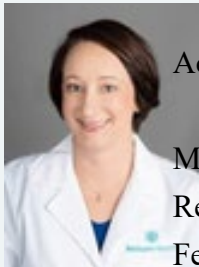
Academic Specialist

Medical School: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Residency: George Washington University Hospital

Areas of interest: Simulation, delivery planning for women with obesity or placenta accreta spectrum

Erin Cook, MD



Academic Specialist

Medical School: University of Alabama School of Medicine

Residency: University of Alabama Birmingham

Fellowship: Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, University of Alabama Birmingham

Areas of interest: Menstrual suppression for girls with special needs, contraception for young women with complex medical conditions, reproductive healthcare for LGBTQIA youth

Petronela Meszaros, MD

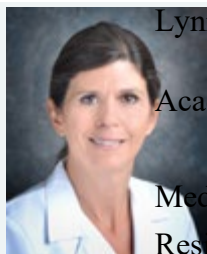


Academic Hospitalist

Medical School: University of Medicine & Pharmacy “Victor Babes,” Timisoara, Romania

Residency: University Clinic of Ob-Gyn “Bega,” Timisoara, Romania; Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center

Area of interest: General Obstetrics



Lynn Pitson, MD

Academic Hospitalist

Medical School: University of Toronto

Residency: University of Toronto

Area of interest: General Obstetrics



Kristen Russo-Rivera, MD

Academic Hospitalist

Medical School: Wake Forest University

Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Area of interest: General Obstetrics



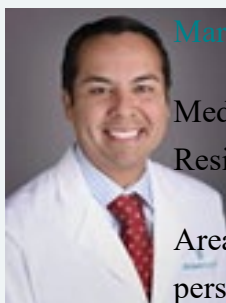
Sasha Sabir, MD

Academic Specialist

Medical School: St. George's University

Residency: State University of New York

Areas of interest: Female sexual dysfunction, gynecologic care for women with mobility challenges, accessible care

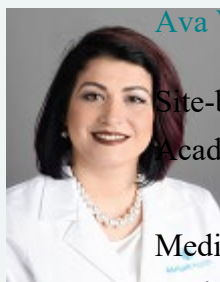


Marcos Sosa, MD

Medical School: University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Residency: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

Areas of interest: Forceps, vaginal hysterectomy, medical education with a historical perspective



Ava Ventura-Braswell, MD

Site-based Medical Director, Atrium Health Myers Park OBGYN

Academic Specialist

Medical School: University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

Residency: San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium

Areas of interest: Community women's health, Centering Pregnancy



Rachel Zigler, MD, MSCI

Division Director, Academic Specialists in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Director, Family Planning

Academic Specialist

Medical School: University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Residency: Washington University

Fellowship: Family Planning, Washington University

Areas of interest: Family planning,
miscarriage management, complex contraception, medical education

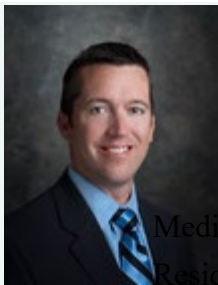
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Urogynecology and Advanced Pelvic Surgery

The Division of Urogynecology and Pelvic Surgery consists of 6 faculty members with a wide range of expertise, one of whom is cross-appointed with the Department of Urology. Faculty use the state-of-the-art technology to perform laparoscopic and robotic, in addition to vaginal, approaches to address issues associated with pelvic floor support and female urinary incontinence. Starting as PGY2, residents participate in patient care in an ambulatory setting, introducing them to staging pelvic prolapse with the POP-Q exam as well as basics behind the urodynamic testing and pelvic physiotherapy. Residents also participate in pessary fittings, cystometry, and interpretation of multichannel urodynamics. In the operating room, residents take an active part in assisting in laparoscopic and robotic-assisted pelvic reconstruction, abdominal pelvic reconstruction, vaginal obliterative procedures, and placement of suburethral slings. The Division recently moved all of its surgical cases to the Main campus. During the weekly pre-op conferences, case reviews, and didactic sessions, residents are encouraged to formulate management plans for their patients under guidance of fellows and faculty. The FPMRS fellows further enhance the residents' educational experience and engage in one-on-one training. Graduating residents average 120 operative laparoscopy procedures. The program offers residents the option of becoming robotically-certified and faculty are encouraged to provide real-time feedback for each robotic case. The Carolinas Simulation Center is a great resource where residents have the ability to complete robotic modules as well as practice their laparoscopic surgery skills. All residents are required to become FLS-certified during their second year.

[Kevin Stepp, MD](#)

Division Director, Urogynecology and Advanced Pelvic Surgery



Medical School: Wayne State University

Residency: Case Western Reserve And Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Fellowship: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Areas of interest: Pelvic prolapse, urinary incontinence, fibroids, endometriosis, complicated gynecologic surgeries.

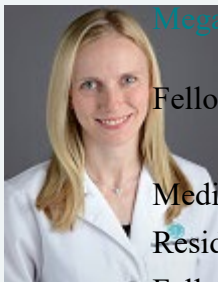


Erinn Myers, MD

Medical School: University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Fellowship: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Megan Tarr, MD

Fellowship Director, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

Medical School: Indiana University

Residency: University of Chicago

Fellowship: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Loyola University

Areas of interest: Pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, pelvic reconstruction, urogynecology, robotic surgery, laparoscopic surgery



G. Bernard Taylor, MD

Medical School: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Fellowship: Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Northside Hospital Atlanta

Areas of interest: Reconstructive female genital surgery, genitourinary fistula, robotic and laparoscopic surgery, transgender medicine, and gender affirming surgery

Smitha Vilasagar, MD

Medical School: Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine



Residency: University of Rochester

Fellowship: AAGL/SRS Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery/Chronic Pelvic Pain,
University of Rochester

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Gynecologic Oncology

The division of Gynecologic Oncology is composed of six gynecologic oncologists who are committed to resident education. Residents are involved in every aspect of patient care, including outpatient care, treatment planning, and complex surgery. The faculty lead a busy practice and perform over 1,200 surgeries and evaluate more than 1,300 new patients annually. Residents are an integral part of the team starting in PGY-1 and receive hands-on surgical coaching as first assist and primary surgeons on a variety of laparoscopic, robot-assisted, open abdominal, and vulvar procedures. Residents attend clinic where they learn how to manage patients throughout the course of their gynecologic cancer evaluation and treatment. Acting interns and medical students also rotate on the gynecologic oncology service and actively participate in the team. The division is dedicated to education and involves the residents in a weekly patient planning conference, daily teaching rounds, oncology didactics, and journal club. Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute is nationally ranked in US News and World Report, and the faculty are known nationally and internationally with extensive publication and society leadership positions; faculty are excited to share related opportunities with the residents. The research activity is robust, as Atrium Health is a primary site for NRG clinical trials and industry trials, and both translational and clinical research output is extensive. The faculty are committed to mentoring residents, and multiple residents each year design and complete research projects in gynecologic oncology resulting in national resident presentations and peer-reviewed publications. We have 100% match rate for residents who wish to pursue a fellowship, and by completion of training, residents are fully prepared to enter fellowship, academics, or private clinical practice.



Jubilee Brown, MD

Division Director

Medical School: University of Cincinnati

Residency: University of Maryland

Fellowship: Gynecologic Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Areas of interest: Minimally invasive surgery, rare ovarian tumors, granulosa cell tumors, personalized medicine

[Wendel R. Naumann, MD](#)



Areas of interest: Advanced laparoscopy, phase I drug development, immunotherapy in cervical cancer, clinical trials, endometrial cancer

Erin Crane, MD



Director of Education
Fourth Year Clerkship Director

Medical School: SUNY Upstate Medical University
Residency: University of Virginia
Fellowship: Gynecologic Oncology, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Areas of interest: Minimally invasive surgery, robotic surgery, chemotherapy, gynecologic cancers



David Tait, MD

Vice Chair

Medical School: University of Tennessee, Memphis
Residency: Regional Medical Center, University of Tennessee
Fellowship: Gynecologic Oncology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Areas of interest: Care of patients with gynecologic malignancy, biomarkers in cancer, cancer genetics



Allison Puechl, MD

Medical School: University of South Carolina
Residency: Duke University
Fellowship: Duke University

Areas of interest: Gynecologic cancers, gestational trophoblastic disease, palliative care.

Brittany Lees, MD

Medical School: Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Residency: University of Alabama - Birmingham



Fellowship: University of Wisconsin – Madison

Areas of interest: Quality improvement, cancer survivorship

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Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility



[Brad Hurst, MD](#)

Areas of interest: Fertility care, assisted reproduction, reproductive endocrinology



[Michelle Matthews, MD](#)

Site-based Medical Director, Atrium Health Women's Institute

Medical School: Northeastern Ohio University

Residency: Summa Health System

Fellowship: Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center

Areas of interest: Infertility, fertility preservation



[Rebecca Usadi, MD](#)

Medical School: Duke University

Residency: Memorial Health University Medical Center, Mercer University

Fellowship: Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Areas of interest: Infertility, PCOS, clinical research

[Ashely Eskew, MD](#)

Medical School: University of Louisville School of Medicine



Residency: Carolinas Medical Center

Fellowship: Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility, Washington University School of Medicine

Areas of interest: Infertility, PCOS, Fertility Preservation, Mullerian Anomalies

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