

USU School of Medicine  
Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics

# Annual Report

Academic Year 2024 - 2025



SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE



Uniformed  
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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE



I am honored to present the second annual report of the Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics. We remain committed to strategic development and expansion of partnerships throughout the Military Health System (MHS), with a clear emphasis on optimizing healthcare delivery for our patients and accelerating the educational advancement of our students and residents. The Department is steadfastly focused on providing comprehensive obstetric and gynecologic care to all individuals while enhancing

the readiness of our service members and their families. Our commitment to our mission and vision has been pivotal to our continued success and growth. We are pleased to continue our collaboration with the Gynecologic Cancer Center of Excellence, the Center for Health Services Research, the Department of Pediatrics; and our distinguished partners at the University of Pittsburgh, Kansas University, Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Japan's National Defense Medical College, and our national faculty within the MHS. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the diligent work and dedication of all members of our department in their pursuit of scientific advancement, educational excellence, and the improvement of care and readiness.

**Monica A. Lutgendorf, MD FACOG, CAPT, MC, USN**  
**Maternal-Fetal Medicine Physician**  
**Professor and Chair**  
**Department of Gynecologic Surgery & Obstetrics**



## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Women represent nearly 20% of active duty service members, and over half of the 4.4 million members of the military community (which includes service members, spouses, and children). The sheer number of military and military-connected women makes women's health a priority in military medicine, and we are proud to lead the way in women's health education, research, and innovation. The School of Medicine is also exceedingly grateful to Dr. Monica Lutgendorf for her dedicated service as GSO Chair. Under her leadership, the

Department excelled in medical education, research, and clinical care, significantly advancing maternal-fetal medicine and shaping the future of military obstetric care. Her contributions include developing cutting-edge simulation training programs, securing over \$3 million in research funding, leading groundbreaking studies on maternal-fetal health and reproductive healthcare, and playing a key role in improving maternal healthcare quality and patient safety across the Military Health System. Her dedication to mentorship and innovative training methodologies has also ensured the continued growth of military medical professionals. We wish her fair winds and following seas in her post-USU career, and extend a warm welcome to her successor, Lt Col Andrew Thagard.

**Eric Elster, MD, FACS, FRCS Eng (Hon.)**  
**CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.)**  
**Dean, School of Medicine**  
**USU Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs**  
**Professor of Surgery**  
**Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology**

## ABOUT GSO

### MISSION

GSO's mission is to lead advocacy for and provide the highest quality patient-centered care emphasizing readiness, education, training, and research for our specialty; and to prepare our students, staff, and faculty to operate in every environment in which the MHS deploys. We will build leaders in women's healthcare with the patient as the center of every effort.

### VISION

As the recognized leader in Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics, we will ensure excellence in women's health education, mentorship, and innovative research.

## INCOMING CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I am delighted to succeed CAPT Monica Lutgendorf as the eighth chair of the Uniformed Services University Department of Gynecologic Surgery & Obstetrics. As this annual report demonstrates, GSO is a dynamo in medical education, clinical and translational research, and academic medicine, helping to train future clinicians in the field of women's health with military relevant skills and ensuring our service members receive the very best in obstetrics & gynecology care.

**Andrew Sloane Thagard, MD, FACOG**

**Lt Col, USAF, MC**

**Maternal-Fetal Medicine Physician**

**Professor and Incoming Chair, Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics**

## GSO FOOTPRINT

With 13 clerkship locations and 9 graduate medical education (GME) sites, GSO is training medical students and residents in military treatment facilities around the United States.

### GSO Footprint: Clerkship Locations



### GSO Footprint: Graduate Medical Education Sites





## GSO BY THE NUMBERS

### GSO by the Numbers, AY 2024 - 2025

#### Publications



- 27 GSO publications
- 23 GYN-COE publications

#### Presentations



- 42 GSO presentations
- 33 GYN-COE presentations

#### Research Funding



- \$9.9 million GSO
- \$9.2 million GYN-COE

#### Faculty



12 Billeted  
252 National

#### Academic Year Promotions

- Assistant Professor - 26
- Associate Professor - 6
- Professor - 7

#### Students



#### 2025 GME Graduates

- 11 Army
- 12 Air Force
- 11 Navy

6 Class of 2025 students matched to GSO

#### VICE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND OPTIMIZATION



**Jill Brown, MD, MPH, MHS**  
**Professor and Vice Chair of the Department**  
**Director, Women's Health Clinical Outcomes and Optimization**  
**Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics**

As Vice Chair of GSO and Director of Women's Health Clinical Outcomes and Optimization Division, I am pleased to report on the Department's progress over the past year. We have continued a rich lectureship series featuring outside speakers, including nationally renowned speakers on menopause medicine and female pattern hair loss. Our clinical research presence continues to grow: we have increased the number of clinical research publications and collaborations, expanded our IRB-approved research protocols, and mentored over 30 medical students and residents on various research projects with presentations at national and regional meetings. Additionally, we have proudly contributed more than 20 original research presentations at scientific conferences, highlighting our commitment to advancing women's health and fostering an environment of academic excellence and innovation.

## RESEARCH

### GSO VICE CHAIR OF RESEARCH



**William H. Catherino, MD, PhD**  
**Professor and Vice Chair of Research**  
**Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics**

The Research Division continues to advance military-relevant research goals within the Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics Department. Decades of research on important topics have led to substantial progress, focusing on uterine leiomyomas, uterine leiomyosarcomas, and hypothalamic responses to traumatic brain injury and other chronic stressors. With increasing organization within the Military Health System (MHS) and particularly within the obstetrics and gynecology sites throughout the MHS, future goals include the ability to build and nurture basic, translational, and clinical research efforts across the MHS to better serve the active duty service members and their families within the uniformed services.

### 2024 - 2025 PUBLICATIONS

#### 2025

1. Berkley HH, Lutgendorf, MA, Kully G, Raiciulescu S, Stortz SK, Hinz E, Hofler LG, Averbach S. "Pain With Early Postpartum Intrauterine Device Placement." *O&G Open*. 2025;2:1-7. <https://doi:10.1097/og9.0000000000000088>
2. Flerlage WJ, Simmons SC, Thomas EH, Gouty S, Tsuda MC, Wu TJ, Armstrong RC, Cox BM, Nugent FS. "Effects of Repetitive Mild Traumatic Brain Injury on Corticotropin-Releasing Factor Modulation of Lateral Habenula Excitability and Motivated Behavior." *J Neurotrauma*. 2025. 42(9-10):832-850. <https://doi:10.1089/neu.2024.0184>
3. Hunkler K, Boedeker D, Gill E, Simpkins K, Shvartsman K, Brown J, Drayer S. "Second Trimester Abortion: A Dilation and Evacuation Simulation for Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics Residents." *MedEdPORTAL*. 2025;21:11489. [https://doi.org/10.15766/mep\\_2374-8265.11489](https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.11489)
4. Janvrin ML, Banaag A, Brown J, Shvartsman K, Koehlmoos TP. "Menopausal hormone therapy use among active duty service women." *Menopause*. 9900:10.1097/GME.0000000000002469. <https://doi:10.1097/gme.0000000000002469>
5. Lehto A, Cherikh L, Susi A, Shvartsman K, Peterson L, Nylund C, Brown J. "Female Permanent Contraception in the Military Health System After the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Decision." *O&G Open* 2(3):p e079, June 2025. <https://doi:10.1097/og9.0000000000000079>
6. Lutgendorf MA, Haischer-Rollo G, Ryals TR, Plowden TC, Blevins EM, Spalding CN, Drumm CM, Vereen RJ, Wyatt-Nash B, Fuller SM, Musilli MG, Konopasky A. "Perinatal healthcare inequities: A qualitative causal network analysis." *Pregnancy*. 04 May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pmf2.70021>

7. MacKinnon R, Brown J, Dunn E, Wheat J, Shvartsman K. "Virtual Learning in Obstetrics and Gynecology (VLOG): A Four-Day Distance Learning Course for Clerkship-Level Medical Students." 2025. *Cureus*. 10.7759/cureus.83471
8. Musilli MG, Fuller SM, Wyatt B, Ryals TR, Haischer-Rollo G, Drumm CM, Vereen RJ, Plowden TC, Blevins EM, Spalding CN, Konopasky A, Lutgendorf MA. "Qualitative Analysis of the Lived Experience of Reproductive and Pediatric Health Care in the Military Health Care System." *Mil Med* 2025;190(1/2):333-341. <https://doi:10.1093/milmed/usae238>
9. Shvartsman K, Abuhamdeh SA, Dong T, Lutgendorf M, Peterson L, Ulfers A, Durning S. "Are Age, Sex, or Race and Ethnicity Associated With Performance on the OBGYN NBME Exam and Clerkship?" *Journal of Surgical Education*, Volume 82, Issue 4, April 2025, 103440. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsurg.2025.103440>
10. Lutgendorf MA, Tyagi R, Edwards S, Deering S, Raiciulescu S, Walton RB, Pates JA, Napolitano PG, Ieronimakis N. "Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Pregnancy Outcomes." *O&G Open* 2(1):p e060, February 2025. <https://doi:10.1097/og9.0000000000000060>
11. Wyatt B, Vereen RJ, Ryals TR, Blevins E, Haischer-Rollo G, Drumm CM, Spalding CN, Plowden TC, Fuller SM, Musilli MG, Konopasky A, Lutgendorf MA. "Experiences of Birthing Individuals Receiving Perinatal Behavioral Health Care in the Military Health System and Civilian Care With TRICARE Insurance." *O&G Open* 2(1):p e055, February 2025. <https://doi:10.1097/og9.0000000000000055>
12. Friedland B, Gundacker H, Achilles S, Chen B, Hoesley C, Richardson B, Kelly CW, Piper J, Johnson S, Devlin B, Steytler J, Kleinbeck K, Dang B, Friend C, Song M, Mensch B, van der Straten A, Jacobson C, Hendrix CW, Brown J, Blithe D, Hiller SL; MTN-030/IPM 041 and MTN-044/IPM 053/CCN019 Protocol Teams for the Microbicide Trials Network and the Contraceptive Clinical Trials Network. "Acceptability of a dapivirine levonorgestrel vaginal ring in two Phase 1 trials (MTN-030/IPM 041 and MTN-044/IPM 053/CCN019): Implications for multipurpose prevention technology development." *PLoS One*. 2025;20(1):e0312957. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0312957>
13. Johnson ES, Balzano F, Barbier H, Kikuchi J, Vaccaro CM, Welch EK, Dengler KL. "Use of ChatGPT to generate informed consent for surgery in Urogynecology." *Urogynecology* 17 Jan 2025. PMID: 39823203. doi: 10.1097/SPV.0000000000001638. Epub ahead of print.
14. Manetz KE, Ahmed AE, Witkop CT, Hamrick JE, Mancuso JD. "Counseling and other factors associated with contraceptive use among active duty US military servicewomen." *J Health Serv Res Policy*. 2025 May 21:13558196251344866. doi: 10.1177/13558196251344866. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40398398.
15. Tarney CM, Tian C, Randall LM, Hussain SA, Javadian P, Cronin SP, Drayer S, Chan JK, Kapp DS, Hamilton CA, Leath CA 3rd, Benbrook DM, Washington CR, Moore KN, Bateman NW, Conrads TP, Phippen NT, Maxwell GL, Darcy KM. "Long-Term Survival in Patients With Low-Risk Cervical Cancer After Simple, Modified, or Radical Hysterectomy." *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025 May 1;8(5):e2510717. doi: 10.1001/Jama Network Open .2025.10717. PMID: 40372751; PMCID: PMC12082373.



2024

1. Mathess JM, Karlson K, Chatfield L, Shvartsman K. "What Military Applicants Value When Choosing a Residency in Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics." *Mil Med*. Published online October 25, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usae472>
2. Shields AD, Vidosh J, Minard C, Thomson B, Annis-Brayne K, Murphy M, Kavanagh L, Roth C, Lutgendorf MA, Birsner ML, Rahm SJ, Becker LR, Mosesso V, Schaffer B, Streitz M, Bhalala U, Gresens A, Phelps J, Sutton B, Wagner R, Melvin L, Zacherl K, Karowski L, Behme J, Hoeger A, Nielsen PE. "Obstetric Life Support Education for Maternal Cardiac Arrest: A Randomized Clinical Trial." *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;7(11):e2445295. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.45295>
3. Stark CM, Sorensen IS, Royall M, Dorr M, Brown J, Dobson N, Salzman S, Susi A, Hisle-Gorman E, Huggins BH, Nylund CM. "Neonatal Health Risks Among Children of Female Military Aviation Officers." *Aerosp Med Hum Perform*. 2024 Nov;95(11):815-820. <https://doi.org/10.3357/AMHP.6417.2024>
4. Brown J, Shvartsman K, Bulaklak J, Witkop C, Lutgendorf, M. "Addressing the Menopause Health Needs of Military Service Members: A Call to Action." *Obstet Gynecol*. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000005801>
5. Gill EA, Zeng W, Lamme JS, Kawakita T, Lutgendorf MA, Richard P, Brown JE. "Decision and economic evaluation of abortion availability in the United States military." *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2024 Sep 9:S0002-9378(24)00906-2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2024.09.003> Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39260534.
6. Stark CM, Sorensen IS, Royall M, Dorr M, Brown J, Dobson N, Salzman S, Susi A, Hisle-Gorman E, Huggins BH, Nylund CM. "Maternal and fetal health risks among female military aviation officers." *Aerosp Med Hum Perform*. 2024; 95(9):675–682. doi: 10.3357/AMHP.6416.2024
7. Echague C, Malik M, Driggers P, Catherino WH. "Coenzyme Q-10 reduced the aberrant production of extracellular matrix proteins in uterine leiomyomas through transforming growth factor beta 3." *Fert Stert Sci* 2024, 5:342-51. PMID [39004304]
8. Lehto A, Susi A, Prabhakar S, Chokshi B, Rajnik M, Nylund C, Brown J. "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Pelvic Inflammatory Disease Encounters in a United States Uniformed Service Female Beneficiary Population." *Mil Med*. 2024. doi:10.1093/milmed/usae431
9. Schwartz A, Malik M, Driggers P, Catherino WH. "Relugolix reduces leiomyoma extracellular matrix production via the transforming growth factor-beta pathway." *Fert Stert Sci* 2024, available electronically. PMID [39733929]
10. Teng J, Prabhakar S, Rajnik M, Susi A, Hisle-Gorman E, Nylund C, Brown J. "Impact of the COVID- 19 Pandemic on the Delivery of Congenital Syphilis Care in the Military Health System." *Mil Med*. 2024. doi:10.1093/milmed/usae392
11. Wright D, Boedeker D, Ulfers A, Peterson L. "Pilot Study: Developing Curriculum to Prepare Fourth-Year Medical Students Applying for OBGYN Residency Within the Defense Health Agency", *Military Medicine*, 2024;, usae224, <https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usae224>

12. Dolmans MM, Petraglia F, Catherino WH, Donnez J. "Pathogenesis of uterine fibroids: current understanding and future directions." *Fertil Steril* 2024;S0015-0282(24)00169-9. PMID [38454042]
13. Britten J, Roura-Monllor JA, Malik M, Moran S, DeAngelis A, Driggers P, Afrin S, Borahay M, Catherino WH. "Simvastatin induces degradation of the extracellular matrix in human leiomyomata: novel in vitro, in vivo, and patient level evidence of matrix metalloproteinase involvement." *Fert Stert Sci* 2024;5:80-91. PMID [38043603]
14. Brooke ZS, Husson CM, Watkin RL, Swats K, Moran NA, Raiciulescu S, Witkop CT, Durning SJ. "Military Medical Student Specialty Preferences During the DHA Transition: A Retrospective Analysis." *J Spec Oper Med.* 2024 Oct 2;24(3):18-23. doi: 10.55460/IEOC-FFKO. PMID: 39243404.
15. Bateman, N.W., Abulez, T., Tarney, C.M., Bariani, M.V., Driscoll, J.A., Soltis, A.R., Zhou, M., Hood, B.L., Litz, T., Conrads, K.A., Jackson, A., Oliver, J., Ganakammal, S.R., Schneider, F., Dalgard, C.L., Wilkerson, M.D., Smith, B., Borda, V., O'Connor, T., Segars, J., Shobeiri, S., Phippen, N.T., Darcy, K.M., Al-Hendy, A., Conrads, T. & Maxwell, G.L. "Multi-omic analysis of uterine leiomyomas in self-described black and white women: molecular insights into health disparities." *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2024 Sep;231(3):321.e1-321.e11. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2024.04.051. Epub 2024 May 7. PMID: 38723985.

## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

### 2025

1. Lahm K, Pombier K, Brown J, Hamlin L. "Advancing Military Women's Health: Research to Impact." Military Health System Conference, Cleveland, OH. May 2025.
2. Borgia, L. "On Duty, In Transition: Preliminary Qualitative Analysis of Barriers to Perinatal Mental Health Care." USUHS Research Day, May 2025.
3. Borgia L. "Infertility Among Married and Cohabiting Women Aged 18-44 Years in the U.S. Military and Civilian Populations." USUHS Research Day, May 2025.
4. Lutgendorf MA, Ryals TR, Blevins EM, Haischer-Rollo G, Drumm C, Plowden TC, Spalding CN, Vereen RJ, Wyatt-Nash B, Fuller SM, Musilli MG, Konopsky A. "Perinatal Healthcare Inequities: A Causal Network Analysis." Poster Presentation at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, 2025.
5. Li HJ, Lindner PG, Poch AM, Flannagan K, Hill MJ, Devine K, Romanski PA, Spitzer T. "Blastulation day is more predictive of live birth than morphologic grade in single embryo transfers, regardless of age or PGT-A testing." Pacific Coast Reproductive Society 2025 Annual Meeting, Indian Wells, CA, 19-23 March 2025.
6. Saito-Tom L, Lutgendorf MA, Olson H. "Finding your North Star: Applying Educator Assessment to Advance the Learning Environment." Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Faculty Development Seminar, 2025.

7. Doherty M, Malik M, Otsuka Y, Bateman N, Catherino WH. "Uterine leiomyosarcoma disease heterogeneity characterized in a novel orthotopic tumor model." Society for Reproductive Investigation, Charlotte, NC, 2025.
8. Brown J, Huynh R, Wright-Terrell D. "Adventures in advocacy education – think globally, act locally!" Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Faculty Development Seminar, Honolulu, HI. Jan 2025.
9. Peterson L, Ulfers A, Keyser E. "Sailors and Soldiers and Airmen (Oh My!): Navigating the Military Match as a Student Advisor." Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Faculty Development Seminar, Honolulu, HI, January 2025.
10. Ulfers A, Shvartsman K, Peterson L. "Beyond 'A Pleasure to Work With': A Rubric-Based Approach to Eliciting Useful Narrative Feedback." Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Faculty Development Seminar, Honolulu, HI, January 2025.
11. Maloney T, Dunn A, Hawksworth D, Spitzer T. "Semen parameters and exposures risks in military males (SPERMM)." 2025 Society of Government Service Urologists, Memphis TN, 15-19 Jan 2025.
12. Spitzer T. Grand Rounds: "Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia and Fertility," OB/GYN Departmental Grand Rounds, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Jan 15, 2025.
13. Wu TJ. "Sex-Dependent Effects of Mild Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury on the Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis". Invited talk, 2025 Pan American Neuroendocrine Society, Santos, Brazil.
14. Catherino WH. Grand Rounds speaker, Montefiore-Einstein Medical Campus, "Uterine Fibroids: Novel Therapies, Future Advances", Bronx, NY, 2025.
15. Witkop C, Anckner S. "Updated Breast Cancer Screening & New Patient Navigation Recommendations from the Women's Preventive Services Initiative" AMCHP Annual Conference, March 18, 2025, Washington DC.
16. Hunt AL, Randall J, Mansukhani MM, Nyberg K, Nutchareon A, Davis J, Corgiat B, Mueller C, Melvin S, Sharma M, Johnston L, Swain W, Abulez T, Bateman NW, Maxwell GL, Deeken J, Benyounes A, Petricoin EF, Cannon TL, Conrads TP. "Real-time functional proteomics enhances therapeutic targeting in precision oncology molecular tumor boards." NPJ Precis Oncol. 2025 Apr 15;9(1):111. doi: 10.1038/s41698-025-00868-y. PMID: 40234655; PMCID: PMC12000509.

## 2024

1. Dimmick A, Zeidan K, Heaton J. "Assessing medical students' omissions of critical information using IPASS during transitions of care on labor and delivery." Armed Forces District 2024 Annual District Meeting OCT 2024, McClean, VA.
2. Goldstein M, Shvartsman K, Lutgendorf MA, Heaton J. "A Mobile Application Checklist for use in Obstetric Emergencies." Armed Forces District 2024 Annual District Meeting OCT 2024, McClean, VA.



3. Hunkler K, Boedeker D, Spitzer T. "Trends in utilization of pre-implantation genetic testing for aneuploidy (PGT-A) Pre and Post Dobbs Decision in Restrictive and Protective States." ASRM Congress meeting, Denver, CO. 20-23 Oct 2024.
4. Hunkler K, Boedeker D, Spitzer T. "Implementation of a Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility case-based learning curriculum for resident physicians and medical students improves knowledge and confidence." ASRM Congress meeting, Denver, CO. 20-23 Oct 2024.
5. Dunn A, Spitzer T. "Semen parameters and exposures risks in military males (SPERMM)." ASRM Congress meeting, Denver, CO. 20-23 Oct 2024.
6. Dunn A, Spitzer T. "Impact of family planning decisions among women in the U.S. military." ASRM Congress meeting, Denver, CO. 20-23 Oct 2024.
7. Boedeker D, Hunkler K, Spitzer T. "Comparison of artificial intelligence- generated patient education fertility content with respect to gender." ASRM Congress meeting, Denver, CO. 20-23 Oct 2024.
8. Lutgendorf MA, Ryals T, Blevins E, Haischer-Rollo G, Drumm C, Plowden T, Spalding C, Konopasky A. "Perinatal Healthcare Inequities: A Causal Network Analysis." Oral Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
9. Thompson B, Lutgendorf MA. "Personal Reflections on Race-based Medicine: Narrative Analysis of a Case Study Using a Situated Lens." Oral Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
10. Gill EA, Lutgendorf MA, Brown JE. "Decision and economic evaluation of term labor induction with unfavorable cervix." Oral Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
11. Gill EA, Zeng W, Lamme JS, Kawakita T, Lutgendorf MA, Richard P, Brown JE. "Decision and economic evaluation of abortion availability in the Military Health System." Oral Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
12. Berkley H, Lutgendorf MA, Averbach S. "The Effect of Early Postpartum Intrauterine Device Placement on Bleeding and Pain with Insertion." Oral Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
13. Penkwitz I, Viera E, Campedelli A, Lutgendorf MA. "Prenatal Detection of Congenital Heart Disease: A Systematic Review." Poster Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
14. Lutgendorf MA, Walker KC, Yuan T, Weis KL. Building Resilient Military Families: "Pregnancy Peer Support Experiences." Poster Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.
15. Mahr NM, Snell AG, Lutgendorf MA, Thagard AS. "Provider Staffing Models on Military Labor & Delivery Units: A Cross-sectional Study." Poster Presentation at Armed Forces District Meeting of ACOG, Tysons Corner, VA, 2024.

16. Sands-Foster A, Kumwong S, Cue L, Ulfers A, Martingano FX, Martingano D. "Non-hormonal Treatments for Vasomotor Symptoms in Menopausal Patients." District II of the American College of Obstetrician Gynecologists Annual Meeting, Brooklyn, NY, September 2024.
17. Hawksworth D, Spitzer T, Maloney T, Smith J. "Environmental Exposures in Men Pursuing Semen Analysis Testing." Mid-Atlantic Section, AUA 2024 Annual Meeting, White Sulphur Springs, WVa, 7 September 2024.
18. Stark CM, Sorensen IS, Royall M, Dorr M, Brown J, Dobson N, Salzman S, Susi A, Hisle-Gorman E, Huggins BH, Nylund CM. "Maternal and fetal health risks among female military aviation officers." Military Health System Research Symposium, Kissimmee, FL, Aug 2024.
19. Sturek C, Hunkler K, Chae-Kim J, Raiciulescu S, Spitzer T. "Fertility preservation knowledge, perceptions and expectations among military healthcare students." 2024 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS), Kissimmee, FL, 26 Aug 2024.
20. Borgia L, et. al. "Profiles of Infertility Among Married and Cohabiting Women Aged 18-49 Years in the United States: NHANES 2013-202." USUHS Research Day, July 2024.
21. Roura-Monllor JA, Driggers P, Malik M, Catherino WH. "FOX M1 protein is overexpressed in uterine leiomyosarcoma compared to leiomyoma and myometrium." Society for Reproductive Investigation, Vancouver, Canada, 2024.
22. Echague CG, Malik M, Driggers P, Catherino WH. "Coenzyme Q-10 reduces the aberrant production of extracellular matrix proteins in uterine leiomyomas through its effect on the transforming growth factor beta 3 pathway." Society for Reproductive Investigation, Vancouver, Canada, 2024.
23. Schwartz A, Malik M, Driggers P, Catherino WH. "Relugolix inhibits leiomyoma extracellular matrix production via the TGF beta pathway." Society for Reproductive Investigation, Vancouver, Canada, 2024.
24. Driggers P, Malik M, Catherino WH. "Activated myofibroblasts may support neurogenesis in fibroids under hypoxic conditions." American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Denver, CO, 2024.
25. Catherino WH. Invited Speaker, Society for Reproductive Investigation. "SRI Mid-Career Luncheon", Vancouver, Canada, 2024.
26. Catherino WH. Invited Speaker, University of Vermont, "Manuscript Submission and Review: Methods and Opportunities", Virtual, 2024.
27. Catherino WH. Invited Speaker, University of Connecticut, "Manuscript Submission and Review: Methods and Opportunities", Virtual, 2024.
28. Catherino WH. Invited Speaker, Cornell University, "Manuscript Submission and Review: Methods and Opportunities", Virtual, 2024.

#### OTHER NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS (E.G., BOOK CHAPTERS)

1. Peterson L, Duncan J, Hawks M, Moores L. “Longitudinal Assessment in Medical Education.” *Handbook on Medical Student Assessment and Evaluation*, 2ed. Alliance for Clinical Education. Gegensatz Press, 2025.
2. Peterson L. “A 25-Year-Old with Elevated Hemoglobin A2 on Initial Prenatal Labs- Hemoglobinopathies in Pregnancy”. *Pregnancy Complications: A Case-Based Approach*. Society of Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology. Cambridge University Press, 2025.
3. Peterson, L. “Case of a 31-year-old with pregnancy of unknown location.” *Aquifer Obstetrics and Gynecology Course*. 2025. [www.aquifer.org](http://www.aquifer.org)
4. Peterson L. “Case of an uncomplicated pregnancy with induction of labor, cesarean delivery, and postpartum endometritis.” *Aquifer Obstetrics and Gynecology Course*. 2024. [www.aquifer.org](http://www.aquifer.org)
5. Lutgendorf MA, et. al. Ch. 19 Gynecological Trauma and Emergencies. *Emergency War Surgery*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Borden Institute. 2025.
6. Roth CK, Lutgendorf MA, Wasickanin M. Chapter 17 Obstetric Hemorrhage. *AWHONN High-Risk and Critical Care Obstetrics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wolters Kluwer 2026:234-236
7. Cypher RL, Hickey MT, Lutgendorf MA. Chapter 28 Postpartum Care of the High-Risk Obstetric Patient. *AWHONN High-Risk and Critical Care Obstetrics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wolters Kluwer 2026:234-236



## GRANTS

GSO grant funding totaled over \$9.9 million, with an additional \$8 million in GYN-COE grant funding.

<b>Effects of a Prenatal Mental Health Support Intervention on Maternal and Fetal Physiologic Response</b>	Percent Effort:	10%
	Funding Agency:	Military Women's Health Research Program (USUHS GRANT # HU0001-12-22-0065; PROJECT#: MWHR-85-12344)
	Period of Funding:	2022-2026
	Total Cost:	\$1,071,305
<b>Contraceptive use patterns amongst active-duty service women pre- and post-implementation of walk-in contraceptive services at military treatment facilities</b>	Percent Effort:	10%
	Funding Agency:	Military Women's Health Research Program (GSO-85-13140)
	Period of Funding:	2023-2026
	Total Cost:	\$531,220
<b>Advanced Tele-robotic Surgery for Combat Casualty Care</b>	Percent Effort:	10%
	Funding Agency:	ONR
	Period of Funding:	2024-2026
	Total Cost:	\$5,000,000
<b>Characterization of Human Leiomyosarcoma Cell Lines in 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional Culture for Identification of Unique Critical Signaling Pathways and Biomarkers.</b>	Funding Source:	Gynecologic Oncology Center of Excellence
	Duration of Award:	2024-2026
	Amount:	\$50,000
<b>Overcoming Racial Health Disparities with Interventions for Physical and Emotional Pain in the DoD and VA due to Uterine Fibroids</b>	Funding Source:	Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Military Women's Health Research Grant
	Duration of Award:	2022-2025
	Amount:	\$825,000

<b>Microglial Breakthroughs in Longevity, Aging, &amp; Senescence after TBI (MicroBLAST)</b>	Percent Effort:	10%
	Funding Agency:	CDMRP
	Period of Funding:	2024 - 2028
	Total Cost:	\$1,118,290
<b>NeuroImmunoEndocrine Interface: Exploring a Unifying Axis for Precision Care in PH &amp; TBI (NEXUS)</b>	Percent Effort:	10%
	Funding Agency:	CDMRP
	Period of Funding:	2022 - 2026
	Total Cost:	\$771,081
<b>Acute and long-term impact of stressors on the stress axis and cognitive performance</b>	Funding Agency:	ONR
	Period of Funding:	2023 - 2026
	Total Cost:	\$599,998

## MEDICAL AND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH



### 2D LT MEGAN DOHERTY

My PhD research in Dr. William Catherino's lab aims to advance therapeutic strategies for uterine leiomyosarcoma (uLMS), a rare and deadly gynecologic cancer with a 30-40% five-year survival rate. Standard chemotherapy is largely ineffective, with response rates around 20%. To address this, I am investigating whether DNA damage response inhibitors can enhance the efficacy of first-line chemotherapies. Additionally, we are developing a novel orthotopic uLMS tumor model by implanting tumor xenografts into the uterine horns of immunocompromised mice. This model more closely mimics human disease progression and allows us to evaluate tumor growth and drug treatment response compared to the traditional subcutaneous tumor model. I am incredibly grateful to my mentors and USU for the opportunity to contribute to this work.

### ENS TRACY LORD

My qualitative research explores the birthing experiences of Indigenous people within the US military to understand their unique story, which is particularly important given the higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in this population. Thematic analysis reveals a strong connection to culture and family as central to their experience. We are analyzing the interviews and themes to determine opportunities to improve maternal care throughout the Military Health System. The most rewarding aspect of my research in GSO is its contribution to a field where we have the opportunity to improve maternal and infant health care. This research addresses a critical gap in the literature, and has the potential to drive improvement in prenatal and maternal care.

## 2D LT EMILY VIERA

I led a comprehensive narrative review on bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (BSO) in patients using therapeutic testosterone, synthesizing data on fertility preservation, hormone management, cancer risk, and long-term metabolic and bone health. Our work fills a critical gap in the literature and provides actionable guidance for clinicians navigating complex counseling scenarios. As a medical student, it has been an incredible experience to lead a high-impact project that not only informs safer surgical decision-making, but also elevates the standard of care for an often-overlooked population. Being involved in this work as a medical student has shown me how meaningful and impactful GSO research can be.

## INNOVATION

The GSO department developed the OB Emergencies app, which offers provider checklists and other useful resources. Key features include:

- ✓ Emergency Checklists: Covers OB emergencies such as Amniotic Fluid Embolism, Anaphylaxis, Breech Delivery, Cardiac Arrest, Cord Prolapse, Eclampsia, Hemorrhage, and Hypoxia.
- ✓ Programmable Phone Numbers: Allows users to program 17 critical hospital phone numbers directly into the app for quick access, aiming to save time and improve communication during emergencies. Examples of pre-listed numbers include Obstetrical Emergency, Code Blue, Blood Bank, and L&D Charge.
- ✓ Debrief Checklist: A debrief checklist is available at the end of every emergency checklist. This debriefing tool is designed to be completed after an event with all team members in a constructive, open manner. It includes fields for date, time code was called and stopped, participants, and a summary of the case. The debrief checklist can be edited and emailed for easy reporting of lessons learned to the hospital.



The app is **FREE** and compatible with Apple and Android devices. Search OB Emergencies or scan one of the QR codes below.



OB Emergencies,  
Apple App Store



OB Emergencies,  
Google Play Store

## GYNECOLOGIC CANCER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (GYN-COE)

LTC Christopher Tarney, MC USA

Over the past year the Gynecologic Cancer Center of Excellence produced 56 impactful knowledge products—including 25 posters, 8 oral presentations, and 23 peer-reviewed manuscripts—advancing precision oncology and force readiness. A key milestone was our *JAMA Network Open* publication (“Long-Term Survival in Patients With Low-Risk Cervical Cancer After Simple, Modified, or Radical Hysterectomy”) demonstrating that simple or modified hysterectomy provides comparable long-term survival to radical hysterectomy in patients with low-risk cervical cancer. This finding has significant implications for the care of female Service members by supporting surgical de-escalation strategies that reduce perioperative morbidity, shorten recovery times, and facilitate faster return to duty without compromising oncologic outcomes. Adoption of less invasive procedures can preserve physical readiness, improve quality of life, and maintain deployability—critical factors for force sustainment.

Additional accomplishments include the deployment of real-time proteomics in molecular tumor boards to enhance precision treatment selection, AI-assisted laser microdissection to enable high-resolution spatial multiomics, and application of the ProteoMixture tool for immune cell deconvolution across pan-cancer datasets.

The recent acquisition of next-generation instrumentation—including the timsTOF AIP and Astral Zoom mass spectrometers—will allow us to launch high-throughput, high-sensitivity pipelines for serum biomarker discovery and validation. These platforms will be coupled with our optimized SEER Proteograph XT biofluid preparation workflows, allowing for deep and reproducible profiling of circulating proteins at scale. These capabilities position the GYN-COE to accelerate biomarker-driven diagnostics, improve early detection strategies, and deliver deployable solutions to enhance survivability, return-to-duty outcomes, and overall readiness across the force.



## EDUCATION

### VICE CHAIR OF EDUCATION



**Logan Peterson, MD, FACOG**

**Assistant Professor and Vice Chair of Education  
Department of Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics**

The Education Division provides comprehensive women's health education throughout the curriculum, with 13 clinical rotation sites across the United States. Billeted University faculty also serve as site directors at two clerkship locations, San Diego and Walter Reed, thereby enriching the educational experience for students. Education faculty actively participate as leaders and members on both institutional and national committees, fostering collaboration and contributing to innovative educational practices that enhance the curriculum.

Through the GSO Applicant Development Committee, the faculty have continued to optimize residency match outcomes for students applying to GSO programs. Each committee member provides one-on-one mentorship to students throughout the application process, offering guidance on personal statements, CVs, research projects, and interviews. Our faculty members are nationally recognized, and are frequently selected to lead workshops at prestigious meetings, such as the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Faculty Development Seminar and APGO/CREOG Annual Meeting, underscoring USU's influence in the field of women's health education.

Finally, the Division continues to offer professional and research mentorship, hands-on workshops, and innovative lectures through the GSO student interest group and the capstone program. These initiatives are designed to educate and inspire the next generation of leaders in women's health.

## STUDENT INTEREST GROUP

The GSO Student Interest Group (GSOIG) is off to a strong start with two very well-attended events at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. The GSOIG leadership and GSO faculty representative were on-hand for the USU Interest Group Fair which captured over 30 students who desired additional contact and participation in the group. The students hold regular hands-on training with demonstrations by GSO faculty. Ongoing efforts include pairing students with faculty members and generating shadowing opportunities in the clinic setting for interested students, and helping students find faculty mentors for research.

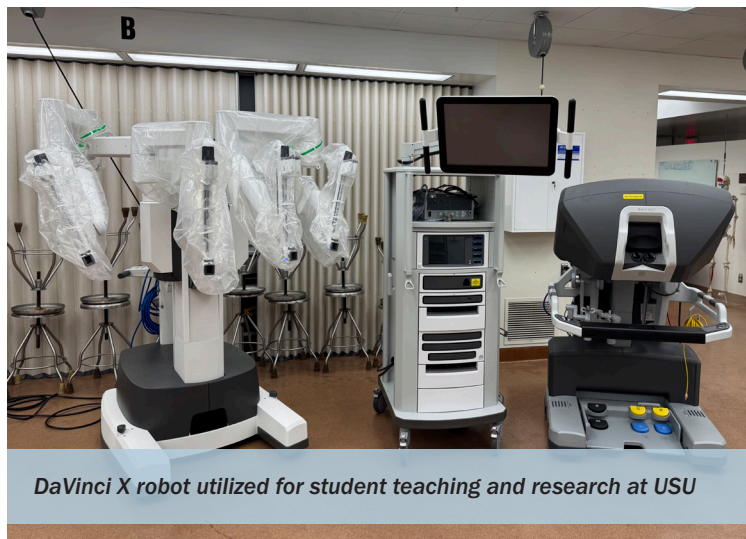


"I love GSO because it uses medicine to assist in women's health and I think it's a unique and more powerful space to interact with female patients than in other specialties. Being able to learn from specialists and the hands-on GSOIG events we have had have made me love the field even more. My advice to students especially if you love the field of GSO is educate yourself on not just the medicine but the policies and constant pressures women's health takes on. Cultivating sensitivity and soft skills will take you very far in the field."

2LT Maansa Kavuri, MC USA  
Class of 2028 medical student and GSOIG Group Leader

## INNOVATIVE EDUCATION

In June 2025, Dr. Ernest Lockrow, DO, COL USA (Ret.), Professor Emeritus, taught a DaVinci Robot demonstration to prospective med students during the USU Summer Scholars Program "Suturing 101" class. A student writes, "It was an incredible experience to see the precision and control the system offers, and it gave me a much deeper appreciation for how robotics is transforming the field of surgery, and how robots like Da Vinci can help expand the limits of human dexterity, precision, and minimally invasive procedures."



*DaVinci X robot utilized for student teaching and research at USU*

## SERVICE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

GSO is proud to support Operation Bushmaster, the culminating field training exercise held each year in Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. Faculty members provide clinically and operationally relevant training in gynecologic surgery and obstetrics, an important part of comprehensive care in a forward deployed setting.

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

USU GSO continues to have a productive partnership with the Japan National Defense Medical College. Dr. Yuka Otsuka, MD, LCDR, JMSDF, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Defense Medical College, worked in Dr. Catherino's lab from 2024-2025, and we are excited to host Dr. Taira Hada, MD, LCDR, JMSDF, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Defense Medical College from 2025-2026.



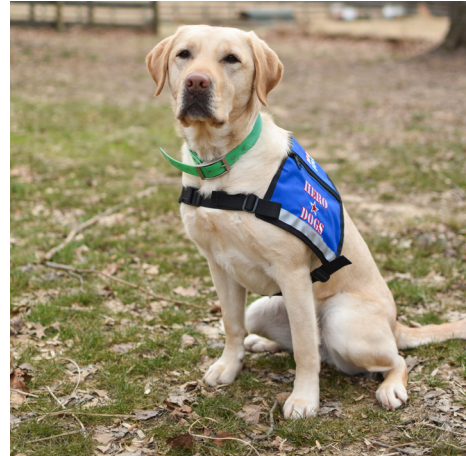
**CAPT Monica Lutgendorf, MC USN, and LCDR Yuka Otsuka, MD, JMSDF at Operation Bushmaster 2024 (3rd and 2nd from right, respectively). Fort Indiantown Gap, PA**



## FROM SCRUBS TO SNUGGLES: A FACILITY DOG'S ROLE IN GSO WELLNESS

Meet Kelly & Dr. Lindsey Borgia

**Lindsey Borgia, MD MHS FACOG Assistant Professor, GSO**



USU's facility dog program began in 2021, when the University welcomed LCDR Shetland, a Golden Retriever, now retired with his custodial family. Shetland was replaced by SSG Grover, now 2LT Grover, a black Labrador. SrA Kelly, a young yellow Lab, is USU's first Air Force facility dog. Students, faculty, and staff all report significant benefits from the facility dog program, including reduced stress and a stronger sense of community.

Kelly's custodian, Dr. Lindsey Borgia, reports that Kelly "loves to share smiles and cuddles. She adores her best friend, Grover, as well as any big stick she can find, swimming, stealing socks and her human sister's stuffed animals, and discovering the coziest places to nap."

## GSO RESIDENCY PROGRAMS - SNAPSHOTS

MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, TACOMA, WA



**MAJ Emily D. Sheikh, MD, PhD; Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Program Director, OB-GYN Residency**

The people make the program. While I can brag about our CREOG scores, I'm most proud of the community we continue to grow. From going on a group run, to chatting over coffee and a book, to being shoulder-to-shoulder in the OR, I know I'm among family.

My advice to students: Take advantage of your remaining time in medical school to explore the specialties and electives that you haven't yet had a chance to work in, and that you may not be exposed to during residency. Soak in the variety and diversity of medicine; you never know when you'll need to call upon that experience again.



**#1 of 291 OB/GYN Residency Programs  
(civilian and military) in the U.S.A!**

**Madigan Army Medical Center Residency, #1 CREOG (Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology) Scores in the nation.**



## NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER PORTSMOUTH, PORTSMOUTH, VA



### **Julie Whittington, MD, FACOG, CDR, MC, USN**

I love that our program is a big family. The residents all really like each other and look out for each other. I also like that our program is adaptable to change. We've had many changes recently, and we have been able to work through them together! As a result, we have new rotations and experiences for our residents.

My advice to prospective residents? Figure out where you fit best in a program. Location doesn't matter as much as the people you will be spending all your time with! Enter residency knowing it is supposed to be hard, and to be grateful for the opportunity to care for the best patients in the world!



NMCP Residency Graduation 2025



## NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO



**Margo Z. Smith, MD FACOG; CDR MC USN;  
Residency Program Director**

Our program is working to focus more on the operational aspect of women's health and Navy Medicine. Residents have contributed to advancing knowledge by speaking at events like the San Diego Women's Health Symposium and the Female Aviator Career Training Symposium, addressing the unique health needs of active-duty women. They also gain hands-on experience by attending pier-side USNS Mercy exercises, participating in simulated mass casualty events, and preparing for humanitarian deployments.

I advise new residents to show us what makes you, "you." While academic and research achievements are important and visible on paper, what truly stands out are the personal connections you make

during rotations or interviews. We don't expect you to be an expert in Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics right now—that's what residency is for! Instead, focus on showcasing the unique qualities, perspectives, and experiences that you can bring to enrich our department and program.



**Residents at Naval Medical Center San Diego**

## SAN ANTONIO UNIFORMED SERVICES HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM



**Samantha Simpson, MD, Lt Col, USAF MC  
Program Director, SAUSHEC Obstetrics &  
Gynecology Residency  
Associate Professor, Uniformed Services  
University, Department of Gynecologic  
Surgery & Obstetrics**

Training at SAUSHEC has incredible advantages that will set you up for success: it's the largest DOD GME training hospital but there are NO OB-GYN Fellows so you do all the surgeries yourself; it's the only military level one trauma center; it's in sunny, affordable San Antonio; we have had a 100% board pass rate for 5 years, and we routinely win a majority of the research awards at the Armed Forces District ACOG meeting.

Your co-residents become your family, and our residents often choose to spend time with each other after hours. Choose a place where you feel at home! More practical – look up common interview questions and prepare answers to all of them – your interview might be your only face time with the program director.





## TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER



**LTC Emily Penick, MD, FACOG**  
**Tripler Army Medical Center**  
**Residency Program Director, Gynecologic**  
**Surgery & Obstetrics**  
**Gynecologic Oncologist**

Tripler stands out for its beautiful island location and strong sense of Ohana. Our supportive team fosters growth through diverse military and civilian rotations, including Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan. Residents actively teach USU students and engage in meaningful research, all while thriving in our unique environment.

My advice to new residents: Be curious, stay open-minded, and never hesitate to ask questions. Residency is a time of intense growth and preparation is important. The more you engage, the more you'll gain. Every patient and experience is an opportunity to learn.



*Tripler Army Medical Center Residency Graduation 2025*



## WALTER REED NATIONAL MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER



### **Heather M. Barbier, MD, MPH, Col, USAF, MC Residency Program Director**

We have the best residents and faculty. We work together as a team to take excellent care of patients and to educate high-caliber residents. Our program is unique in that it is the only tri-service GSO residency program. Our department also supports 4 fellowships, which brings in a wealth of experience in research and contributes to robust resident and faculty scholarly activity.

My advice to prospective residents is to be open to new experiences and look for ways to challenge yourself so that you continue to get better. Never stop learning. Take care of the people around you – both your patients and your fellow team members. And don't accept the status quo if it doesn't make sense. Challenge everyone around you to be better versions of themselves.



*Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Residency Program Resident Research Day 2025*



## NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE



**Samantha A. Medla, MD FACOG, MAJ, USAF, MC**  
**Gynecologic Surgeon and Obstetrician (GS&O)**  
**Staff Physician**  
**GS&O Military Residency Program Director**  
**Nellis AFB, NV**

The GSO residency at Nellis is unique because it is joint military-civilian. This offers our residents the opportunity to encounter diverse and complex patient populations at higher acuity and higher volume civilian hospitals they may not otherwise experience in a military residency. It also fosters a close resident community that is very supportive of one another.

My advice to new residents: Be ready to show you can handle juggling a busy floor, that you are willing to jump in and learn. The residents really appreciate those who want to be a part of their community!

## WOMACK ARMY MEDICAL CENTER



**Dr. Christopher Crellin, MD, FACOG**  
**MAJ, USA, MC**  
**Staff Gynecologic Surgeon and Obstetrician**  
**Program Director, OB/GYN Residency**  
**Womack Army Medical Center, Ft. Bragg, NC**

Our program's intimate class size fosters exceptional mentorship and close camaraderie among residents. This creates a supportive environment where we tackle our high-volume, fast-paced service together. The personalized attention from faculty and strong peer relationships make us feel like a family working as a team rather than just another resident in a large program.

My advice to new residents: Focus on finding your best fit - consider what learning environment helps you thrive, and which program culture resonates with you. Look beyond prestige to evaluate specific opportunities that align with your goals, whether that's subspecialty training, research, or military service. Don't be afraid to ask current residents honest questions about their experience. Trust your instincts during interviews.

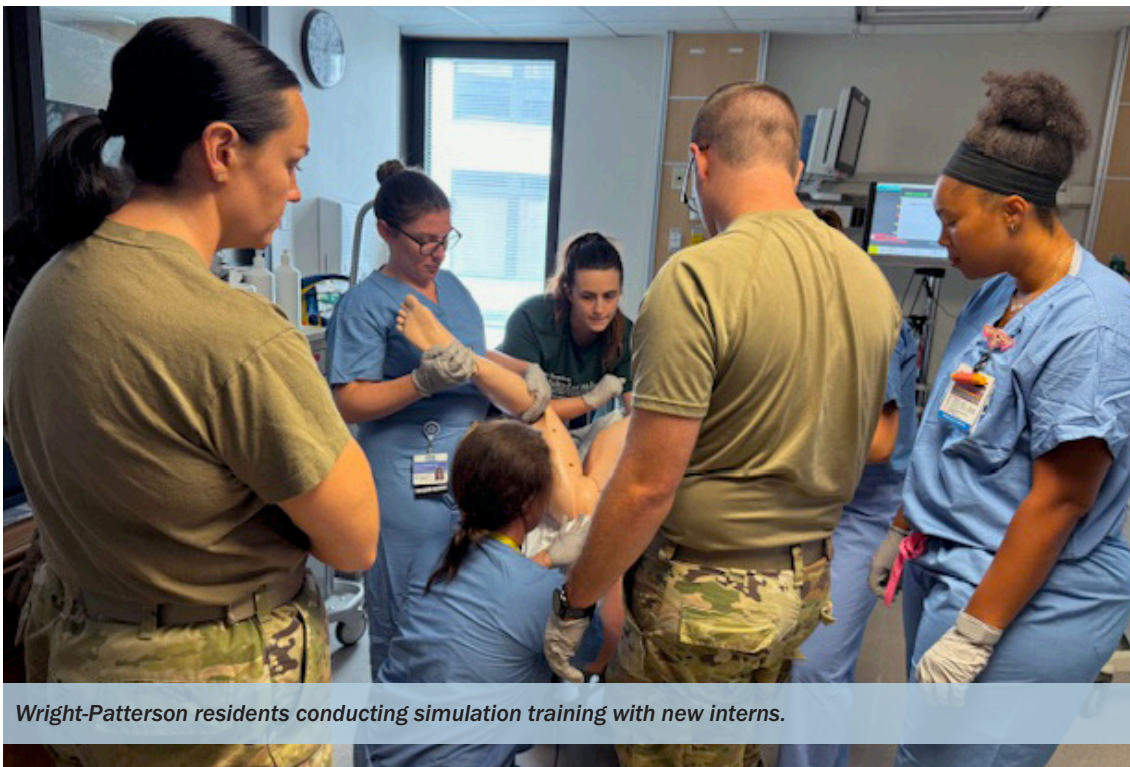
## WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE



**McKayla J. Riggs, MD**  
**Maj, USAF, MC**  
**Gynecologic Oncologist**  
**GS&O Military Program Director-**  
**Wright Patterson Air Force Base/**  
**Wright State University**

At one of the Air Force's few civilian-military hybrid OB/GYN programs, residents gain experience practicing in both fast-paced, high-volume civilian settings as well as the military treatment facility, preparing them for any arena regardless of their long-term career goals. Residents have dedicated research support, cadaver labs, increased subspecialty exposure, and amplified surgical volume. Our environment attracts a diverse group of residents and faculty, fostering a supportive culture of mentorship and resident-centered education.

I advise prospective residents choosing a program to look for a place that fits who you are. The military programs provide stellar training. Residency hours are long and being surrounded by people you mesh well with will make the time enjoyable. Look for mentors – both residents and faculty alike – who can help guide you on the career path you envision for yourself. Training is temporary, but the relationships you build during that experience will last a lifetime!



*Wright-Patterson residents conducting simulation training with new interns.*

## AWARDS

**GSO Chair CAPT Monica Lutgendorf, MC USN**, received the ACOG District X (Armed Forces District) Robert A. Ross Award, 2024, Navy Section award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the knowledge of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Dr. Ernest Lockrow, DO, Professor Emeritus** received the The Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award honours individuals who have demonstrated leadership, excellence and longevity as a distinguished expert and pioneer in minimally invasive surgery, with dedication of over 30 years to advancing the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

<https://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/514094/marquis-whos-who-honors-ernest-g-lockrow-do-for-expertise-in-education-and-minimally-invasive-surgery>

Dr. Lockrow was also featured on the cover of Millenium Magazine

[https://marquismillennium.com/18th\\_Ed/ernest-lockrow/](https://marquismillennium.com/18th_Ed/ernest-lockrow/)

## FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

Please join us in saying farewell to the following faculty and staff who are departing or retiring from the department after this year, including Col Barbier, CAPT Lutgendorf, Col Spitzer, Dr. Shvartsman, and Ms. Donna Tatham. Although we will miss them, we celebrate their accomplishments and wish them the best in their future endeavours.



## LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY



**CAPT Monica A. Lutgendorf, MD,  
USN, MC**  
*Professor and Chair*



**Jill E. Brown, MD, MPH**  
*Professor and Vice Chair  
Director, Women's Health  
Clinical Outcomes*



**Katerina Shvartsman, MD**  
*Associate Professor  
Vice Chair for Education*



**Logan Peterson, MD**  
*Assistant Professor  
Director of Clinical Clerkships*



**Major Alexander K. Ulfers, DO,  
USAF, MC**  
*Assistant Professor  
Assistant Director, Clinical Clerkships*



**Dr. Jason Heaton**  
*Associate Professor*



**Dr. Lindsey Borgia, MD FACOG**  
*Assistant Professor  
Medical Student Clerkship Site  
Director NCC*



**Colonel Trimble Spitzer, MD,  
USAF, MC**  
*Associate Professor  
Co-Reproductive Endocrinology  
Module Director*

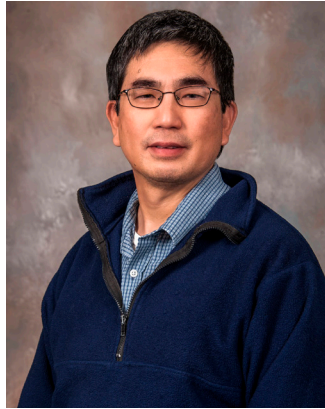


**Colonel Heather M. Barbier, MD,  
USAF, MC**  
*Associate Professor  
Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics  
Residency Program Director, Walter  
Reed National Military Medical Center*

## LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY (CONT.)



**William H. Catherino, MD, PhD**  
*Professor*  
*Vice Chair for Research*



**T. John Wu, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Minnie Malik, PhD**  
*Professor*



**Ernest G. Lockrow, DO**  
*Professor Emeritus*



**William Haffner, MD**  
*Professor Emeritus*



## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



**Ms. Tracy Smith**  
*Administrative Officer*



**Ms. Tanya Harris**  
*Clerkship Coordinator*



**Ms. Donna Tatham**  
*GSO Department*



**Ms. Reilly Taylor**  
*National Faculty Coordinator*



*Back cover images: 3D Cell Growth of uterine myometrium (top left, bottom left) and uterine leiomyoma (top right, bottom right). In leiomyoma cultures, red demonstrates dysregulation of cell alignment and growth, and green demonstrates increased expression of extracellular matrix proteins.*

