

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Research RESOURCE GUIDE





Overview

RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN OB/GYN

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology in partnership with the Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health (CRRWH) is committed to advancing research in women's health through basic, translational and clinical investigation, and training the next generation of physician-scientists and clinical investigators in the field. We work together to provide an infrastructure and create an environment that promotes collaborative and transdisciplinary research.

This guide is intended to provide you with an overview of our major research programs to assist you in selecting a project and a research mentor as well as describe some of the resources available to you to provide support on your research project.

To obtain more detailed information on individual faculty research, ongoing projects, available data sets and biospecimens, please visit www.med.upenn.edu/crrwh/training.html.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our leadership team, research staff and research program directors are available to discuss your research ideas, help you find a research mentor, identify potential funding sources or collaborators, provide career advice.

Kurt Barnhart, MD, MSCE

Vice-chair for Clinical Research

✉ kbarnhart@obgyn.upenn.edu

Michal Elovitz, MD

Vice-chair for Translational Research

✉ melovitz@obgyn.upenn.edu

Anuja Dokras, MD, PhD

Resident Research Director

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Mary Sammel, PhD

Associate Resident Research Director

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FAMILY PLANNING

DIRECTOR: **Courtney Schreiber, MD, MPH**

- Early pregnancy
- Miscarriage management
- Contraceptive technology development
- Family planning health policy research
- Long-acting reversible contraception
- Postpartum contraception
- Public health
- Healthcare innovation
- Contraceptive Clinical Trials Network (CCTN)

RESEARCH CONTACT: Arden McAllister

☎ 215.662.3532 ✉ Arden.Mcallister@uphs.upenn.edu

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

CLINICAL TRIALS | DIRECTOR: **Robert Burger, MD**

OVARIAN CANCER RESEARCH CENTER | DIRECTOR: **Ron Drapkin, MD, PhD**

POPULATION SCIENCE | DIRECTOR: **Emily Ko, MD, MSCR**

- Ovarian Cancer
- Drug development
- Immunotherapy
- Cancer genomics
- Cancer stem cells
- Endometrial cancer
- NRG cooperative clinical trials

RESEARCH CONTACT: Cathi Ybarra

☎ 215.614.0234 ✉ Cathi.Ybarra@uphs.upenn.edu

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

DIRECTOR: **Michal Elovitz, MD**

- Preterm birth
- Preeclampsia
- Cardiovascular outcomes
- Developmental origins of adult disease
- Perinatal diabetes
- Placental imaging/function
- Reproductive immunology
- Precision medicine and obstetrical outcomes
- Smoking and drug use in pregnancy
- Perinatal epidemiology
- Microbiology in maternal and child health
- Optimal obstetrical management
- Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network (MFMU)
- March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center

RESEARCH CONTACT: Valerie Riis

☎ 215.498.9099 ✉ Valerie.Armendariz@uphs.upenn.edu

REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY AND INFERTILITY

ASSOCIATE CHIEF FOR RESEARCH: **Kurt Barnhart, MD, MSCE**

- Epigenetics
- Ectopic pregnancy and PUL
- Endometriosis
- Gamete biology
- Reproductive toxicology
- Fertility preservation
- Ovarian aging
- ART Outcomes
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Fibroids and Adenomyosis
- Reproductive Medicine Network (RMN)
- Oncofertility

RESEARCH CONTACT: **Beth Steider**

☎ 215.615.4203 ✉ Elizabeth.Steider@uphs.upenn.edu

UROGYNECOLOGY

CHIEF: **Lily Arya, MD**

- Overactive bladder
- Brain imaging for bladder and bowel control
- Fecal incontinence
- Pelvic Floor Disorders Network (PFSN)
- Pelvic floor muscle anatomy and physiology
- Physical activity and urinary incontinence
- Urinary and fecal incontinence in older women
- Prevention of urinary incontinence

RESEARCH CONTACT: **Lorraine Flick**

☎ 215.615.6569 ✉ Lorraine.Flick@uphs.upenn.edu

QUALITY AND SAFETY

VICE-CHAIR FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY: **Sindhu Srinivas, MD, MSCE**

- Assessment of the use of innovation and technology to improve care delivery
- Opioid use in pregnancy
- Early Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathway implementation
- Assessing quality metrics in OB
- Evaluation of implementation of Obstetrical interventions (postpartum hemorrhage, hypertension, surgical site infections)

RESEARCH CONTACT: **April Romanos**

✉ April.Romanos@uphs.upenn.edu

Women's Health Clinical Research Center

The Women's Health Clinical Research Center (WHCRC) under the leadership of the Vice-chair for Clinical Research, Dr. Barnhart, can help with the design and conduct of clinical research studies. Specifically, the WHCRC staff can provide assistance with:

- Communication with regulatory offices within the University including Office of Regulatory Affairs and Office of Human Research
- IRB preparation, continuing renewals, amendments and adverse event reporting
- Setting up a study binder and need for study monitoring
- Biostatistical support for pilot or investigator initiated projects
- Study design and feasibility
- Identifying research opportunities
- Submission of grant applications
- Budgets
- Recruitment of research personnel

Beth Steider, Director of Operations

☎ 215.615.4203 ✉ Elizabeth.Steider@uphs.upenn.edu

Bridget Nolan, Director of Regulatory Affairs

✉ Bridget.Nolan@uphs.upenn.edu

Center for Research and Reproduction and Women's Health (CRRWH)

The CRRWH administrative staff resides on the 13th floor of the Biomedical Research Building (BRB II/III) and is available to provide assistance with grant submissions and budgets. The staff, under the direction of Bill Stauffer, also manages our grant portfolios.

The Vice-chair for Translational Research, Dr. Elovitz, is available to assist with:

- Study design
- Supervision and oversight as needed
- Identify collaborators and opportunities for translational research
- Preparation of internal and external grant submissions
- Setting up protocols and processes for biospecimens collection and processing
- Biobanking opportunities to assist with collection to train others on established protocols and to help assist in setting up biobanks in other programs

Valerie Riis, Director of Operations, MCHRC

☎ 215.498.9099 ✉ Valerie.Armendariz@uphs.upenn.edu

There are a number of opportunities in the department to apply for funding for pilot grants (*see below*). We also encourage our fellows to consider applying for extramural funding opportunities offered by our professional organizations (i.e. ACOG, ASRM, SMFM, AUGS, etc.). We recommend you review this with one of the vice-chairs for research, research program director or research mentor in advance to assist you with writing a competitive application. These proposals must be submitted through the CRRWH and in many cases require a letter of support from the chair. Requests for divisional or departmental support for research are considered on a case-by-case basis; to apply please submit a brief proposal and description of the study, budget and budget justification to the research program director and/or departmental chair.

The George and Emily McMichael Harrison Fund

This fund was established to promote promising research in obstetrics and gynecology within the University of Pennsylvania Health System. This fund supports one to two clinical and translational research projects a year with a budget up to \$45,000. The grant is open to faculty and trainees to accelerate the pace of research and provide pilot data for larger grants and career development. Request for applications are sent in January or February with a deadline for submission of April 1st.

March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center Pilot grants

The Pilot Project Program is aimed at funding new directions in spontaneous preterm birth research. Pilot Projects can be used to fund collaborative research that may become a component of a multi-investigator award, the development of technologies that may benefit other Center investigators, and to take the Center into new directions. The Pilot Project Program serves to attract junior investigators and established faculty new to preterm birth research to the Center. For more information, contact Dr. Rebecca Simmons (rsimmons@mail.med.upenn.edu).

Bench Research

The Department has high quality research space with adjacent offices for investigators on the 12th and 13th floors of the Biomedical Research Building (BRB) in the CRRWH (16,235 net square feet). The investigators share common space for tissue culture, animal work, microscopy, etc.

Clinical Research

Clinical research space is integrated into our clinical practices wherever possible. This model facilitates clinical research and recruitment of study participants. We also have designated clinical research units for Maternal Child Health on Silverstein 2, Gynecologic Oncology on PCAM 3, and Reproduction and the Women's Health Clinical Research Center at 3701 Market Street, 8th floor. As new clinical space becomes available, each program will have designated clinical research space.

ANNUAL RESEARCH EVENTS

Resident Research Day

The chief residents and residents who have completed their research project present their findings to the department each spring. The PGY-2 residents present their project proposals followed by the John Rock lecture by a visiting professor.

CRRWH Research Symposium and Cuozzo Lecture

The Center encourages postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows, residents and students to present their research at an annual research symposium. Abstracts are submitted in advance and will be selected for either an oral or poster presentation, followed by the annual Cuozzo lecture by an invited professor.

March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center Retreat

The Center hosts an annual research retreat with presentations and discussion by funded investigators who are working to identify the causes of preterm birth. The retreat is open to members of the Penn community.