

# Obstetrics & Gynecology Endowments

Thank you for your steadfast support of our work in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) at MetroHealth. Your generosity helps our patients receive the best care possible, and it helps provide tomorrow's caregivers with invaluable experience. Thank you for your partnership in making this possible.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

#### Dierker/Biscotti Women's Wellness Endowment

Supports medical education, scientific or clinical research, and the recruitment of key personnel in women's wellness at MetroHealth.

- Provides support for the Resident Simulation Program.
- Supports educational coursework for graduating fellows and residents in training to prepare for national board certification exams.
- A book club focusing on diversity and inclusion has been convened for faculty and residents.
- Fourteen physicians attended and/or presented on OB-GYN and women's health issues at the following conferences: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics World Congress, North American Menopause Society, International Society for Study of Women's Sexual Health, Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology, Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Addictive Medicine in Pregnant Women Conference and International Society for the Study of Vulvovaginal Disease World Congress.
- Tuition for Surgical Education Scholars through
  The Association of Professors of Gynecology and
  Obstetrics, Essentials in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic
  Surgery On-Line Course Review, and Preterm Birth
  International Collaborative.

Jamil I. Ramahi Memorial Endowment – Provides an annual award to an OB-GYN resident or fellow committed to enhancing the physician-patient relationship by researching social, political, financial and judicial influences. Dr. Chelsea Zhu was honored in 2023 for adeptly addressing patients' social drivers of health and working effectively with colleagues, which resulted in exemplary patient care.

November Family Endowment - Women's Health & Wellness Endowment – Honors the November family and supports the Women's Health & Wellness Professorship in OB-GYN with the purpose of supporting research, education and the recruitment of key personnel in OB-GYN.

• Dr. Sarah Kane was the Leon Mann Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2024.





## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Women's Health Fair – The MetroHealth Multicultural Women's Health Fair & Empowerment Expo, held in collaboration with the Vernon Family Foundation in September 2023, drew thousands of attendees. Women from all stages of life and from every background came together with their sisters, mothers, daughters, aunts and neighbors for a day to feel cared for, heard and seen.

Midwifery Program takes shape – Launching this summer, the Midwifery Program is poised to diversify and expand the OB provider workforce. The addition of certified nurse midwives elevates MetroHealth as a comprehensive birthing center. Amy Lowell, CNW, Director of the Midwifery Program, recently joined the staff, and recruiting is underway for four additional midwives. The strategic emphasis of the program is to help eradicate obstetric health disparity outcomes that adversely impact women of color.

Sexual Health Program keeps transgender patients healthy – Focusing on urology issues relating to sexual health and geared toward transgender people of all ages, this program allows patients to receive comprehensive care from a nutritionist, psychologist and both a urological and gynecologic surgeon. Additionally, a nurse practitioner offers follow-up appointments for all sexual abuse/trauma patients.



**Vulvar Clinic** – Patients receive specialized care from a dermatologist/OB-GYN for issues related to the vulva.

### The Moms House locations at capacity

This program provides pregnant and postpartum women in drug and alcohol recovery and their children with a healthy, clean and safe living environment. Three women and one house mother reside in each of the two houses, which are both located near MetroHealth's Main Campus. Both are currently full.

**OB-GYN staff grows** – Several staff positions were added in 2023 and 2024:

- Dr. Alex Berra, Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Emily Biehl, Advanced Practice Nurse, Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Dr. Lauren Coombs, OB-GYN Generalist
- Dr. Carley Cost, OB-GYN Generalist
- Heather Jimenez, Advanced Practice Nurse, Urology/ Gynecology
- Dr. Taidine Lopes Bedney, OB-GYN Generalist
- Amy Lowell, CMW, Director of Midwifery Program.
   Midwives who will soon be joining the staff include Amy Coleman, CNM; Katie Lamb, CNM; and Julie McCarthy, CNM.
- Dr. Mohamed Mitwally, Division Director of Reproductive Endocrinology, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Dr. Connie Moreland, OB-GYN Generalist
- Dr. Sarah Sears, Urologist/Gynecologist
- Matilde Sharber, RN, Coordinator, Clinical Practice
- Dr. Sareena Singh, Gynecologic Oncologist
- Dr. Ivana Vettraino, Maternal Fetal Medicine



Thank you again for your role in making these activities possible through your marvelous support. The echo of your generosity can be heard for years to come, and for that, we are infinitely grateful.

With gratitude,

Donald W. Wiper III, MD Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology