

OB/GYN Residency Newsletter

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“...for your hard work taking care of our patients... to the faculty for your commitment to resident education”

A word from the Program Director

As you know, 2020 has presented a unique set of challenges between the COVID-19 pandemic to the tumultuous racial events that have affected our nation. We are proud of how Cooper University Hospital has addressed the pandemic and we are optimistic about the current Covid-19 statistics in our hospital. As to the racial disparities in our country, there is a lot of work yet to be done, which is why our Department has made this a priority.

The Department of ObGyn at Cooper University Hospital pledges to work to:

- Increase awareness among colleagues, residents and staff about the prevalence of racial and ethnic disparities and its effect on health outcomes
- Expand our implicit bias testing
- Increase access to care through telemedicine visits for our postpartum patients
- Continue our community outreach with fundraising for local women's shelters, and preeclampsia prevention through support of the Preeclampsia Promise Walk
- Implement our Visiting Student Elective Scholars Program to increase diversity in our residency program
- Promote Quality Improvement projects that identify cultural barriers to care and test these interventions to address these barriers

Thank you to the residents for all of your hard work taking care of our patients and to the faculty for your commitment to resident education. Special thanks to Dr. Stephanie Kass for our outstanding ObGyn residency Instagram account. We have had a successful AY 2019-2020. Attributable to the dedicated faculty from Gyn Oncology, Urogyn and General ObGyn, and despite postponement of “nonessential” surgeries, all of our graduates met the required number of minimally invasive hysterectomies. The residents' QI/PI projects were very impressive and we have implemented the improvements into clinical practice. Thank you to the mentors for guiding them. We have also seen the transfer of all Gyn cases to the Main OR. Below is our Action Plan for 2020-2021:

- Diversity Plan - (outlined above)
- Refine the process of completing Gyn floor consults
- Explore the opportunities around a complement increase
- Create a structure for teaching and rounding to the Gyn core rotation
- Improve the REI rotation
- Expand Family Planning services
- Avoid duty hour violations

Spotlight on Resident, Dr. Tieg Beazer



Where did you relocate from?

My hometown is Teaneck, NJ. I lived in Jersey City, NJ for 2 years prior to moving to Camden for residency.

How have you adjusted to life at Cooper?

It's taken all four years of residency, but I feel like I'm starting to get the hang of creating a healthy work/life balance. When I'm not at work, I prioritize spending time with my fiancé and both of our families. I've learned not to feel guilty about indulging in self care - my co residents know I love a good blow out, manicure/pedicure, and margaritas!

What do I enjoy the most about Cooper?

I enjoy the patients the most. Our patients have taught me how to be a compassionate physician which involves listening, having patience (although that's still a constant work in progress), and to be grateful to be able to learn from them and be a part of their health care. I'm a fierce patient advocate because without them, I wouldn't have a challenging, well rounded, fulfilling residency experience.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy long distance running and high intensity interval training workouts (Barry's Bootcamp, Ripped PHL). I hope to run a marathon before graduating from residency.

What is your favorite or funniest residency memory so far?

There are so many to count! One in particular occurred during a Sunday call shift my intern year on April Fool's Day with Dr. Mama and Lauren Spivack. We had a couple who was so excited for their baby girl to be born. In between pushes the mom told us about her elaborate gender reveal and how the nursery was painted and decorated just in time for their baby girl. Well, upon delivery we congratulated them on their BABY BOY! The mom had a look of disbelief/horror when we showed her the baby boy parts! Dad was standing in a corner trying to hide his excitement about his surprise baby boy. We confirmed to several family members over FaceTime that it was not a cruel April Fool's Day joke and that the mom had a baby boy rather than the baby girl they were expecting. I guess they had to change the nursery...



Cooper University Hospital was designated as one of Newsweek's
Best Maternity Care Hospitals 2020!

Research Division News

- The department has hired a new OB/GYN manager of clinical research to replace Elena Safronova who moved on to her residency. Donald “Jeff” Bush, BSN, RN, Ph.D. will assist residents with the IRB submissions of their research projects.
- A study sponsored by Siemens has been given approval to evaluate markers for diagnosis of pre-eclampsia. The goal of the study is assay validation for prognostic value and early intervention. The target populations are women diagnosed with pre-eclampsia, women with suspected or ruled-out pre-eclampsia and normotensive women past 20 weeks of gestation. We are looking to enroll in Triage and at the Jaffe Women’s Care Center and need assistance screening and enrolling patients.
- One of our own research studies is investigating a potential association of hypertensive disorder of pregnancy (HDP) with sleep-disordered breathing (SDB). Cessation of respiration in SDP is thought to result in hypoxemia, activation of the stress response, sleep interruption, and increases in blood pressure, all deleterious to mother and baby. Effective management should avoid vital signs and medications more frequently than every four hours at night if feasible. The target populations are women admitted with a diagnosis of pre-eclampsia and women admitted with other conditions as a control group. Participation in these two studies is encouraged. Please contact the PI, Meena Khandelwal, MD, or the study team, Jeff Bush at extension 1007547, or Alex Santangelo at extension 1002473.
- A Pfizer-sponsored phase 3, RCT is seeking approval to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine in infants born to women vaccinated during pregnancy is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of maternal immunization against medically attended lower respiratory tract illness (MA-LRTI) in infants. The target population is women between 24 and 36 weeks gestation with singleton uncomplicated pregnancy on the day of vaccination and infant participants. Patient recruitment will be happening soon and screening and enrollment assistance is needed from motivated residents at Triage, at Jaffe WCC, Washington Twp and Cherry Hill. Contact PI, Dr. Peter Chen, or Jeff and Alex on the study team for details.

Welcome to the Team!



Donald “Jeff” Bush, BSN, RN, Ph.D
OB/GYN Manager of Clinical
Research

Outside of work, I enjoy ice hockey, investing, home improvement projects, professional development, spending time with my wife and children, wine tasting and exploring new farm stands or shops in the quaint little Victorian towns of south Jersey and advocacy and community service projects through my church.

Welcome Class of 2024!

Hailey Hutcheson

Hailey earned her MD from Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. She enjoys running, hiking, scuba diving and finding the best slice of pizza in the Greater Philadelphia area!



Kyle Le

Kyle earned his MD from Thomas Jefferson University (SKMC). Kyle enjoys traveling, spending time with family, hiking, playing video games, cooking and being a foodie!

Blaire Nasstrom

Blaire earned her DO from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She enjoys anything outdoors, including cycling, hiking, fishing, skiing, traveling and learning about different cultures!

Danielle Schenker

Danielle earned her MD from Drexel University College of Medicine. She enjoys cooking, DIY home improvement projects, running, and being outside in general!

Welcome Fellows!

Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery



Devon Smith, DO

Residency: Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital



Jasjit Beausang, MD

Residency, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Gynecologic Oncology



Diego Aviles, MD

Residency, Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Spotlight on Faculty Member, Dr. Kristina Williams

Where did you go to medical school and do residency?

I went to Harvard Medical School. I did my residency at Pennsylvania Hospital.

What do you look forward to the most about teaching residents?

I look forward to seeing the growth of residents over time and knowing that I have helped to shape the excellent OB/GYN physicians that Cooper produces!

How do you de-stress? Do you have any hobbies?

Relaxation = de-stress. A spa mani/pedi or massage is great. I also love movies. A great rom/com or drama is perfect!

What books are you currently reading?

I am currently reading "Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty" by Dorothy Roberts.

What is your favorite restaurant?

My favorite restaurant is El Vez. I am always looking for a good margarita!

What do you like most and least about medicine?

The thing I like most about medicine and specifically women's health, is being able to educate patients about their body and their medical issues and helping them to become healthier individuals. What I like least is all of the red tape - why should an insurance company determine what diagnostic studies and/or treatments are important enough to warrant coverage??



Kristina Williams, MD

Clerkship Director, OB/GYN

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

"...that I have helped to shape the excellent OB/GYN physicians that Cooper produces."

Resident Skills Day

Our residents participated in simulation training to increase knowledge and confidence in obstetric and gynecological related procedures.



Our Furry Friends!



Katie & Murphy (Eileen)



Daisy (Dr. Kass)



Cooper (Dr. Kim)



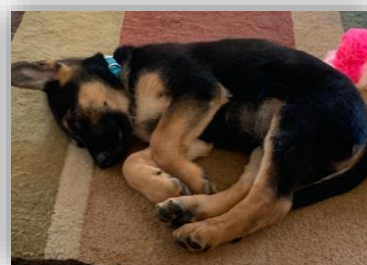
Marley (Dr. Adriance)



Mirena (Dr. Brunozzi)



Tiger Lily & Milo (Marielis)



Jake (Dawn Maziarz)

Proud Parents & Grandparents



Dr. Fischer's grandson,
Oliver Fischer



Dr. Hewlett's grandson,
Ellis Hewlett



Dr. Westover's granddaughter,
Rosie Westover-Nell



Dr. Mitchell-Williams's granddaughter
Camryn DePew



Dr. Khandelwal's
granddaughter,
Amal Sahana Agarwal



Dr. Elshoreya's daughter,
Lena Elshoreya



Congratulations Dr. Adriance and her husband,
Mike on the arrival of their son, Jack!

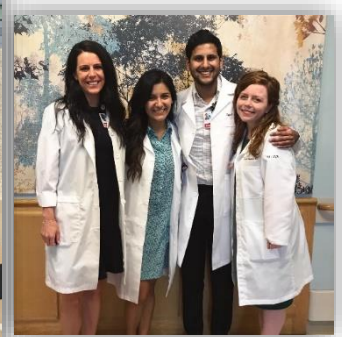


Farewell Class of 2020!

We congratulate you on your hard work and amazing growth, and wish you the very best in you next adventures!



Intern year!



Chief year!

Devon • Laura • Leona • Sagar • Annie



Graduation Celebration!



Welcome New Faculty!



Victoria Guerrero Gorman, MD
Division of General Obstetrics and
Gynecology

Dr. Guerrero Gorman went to medical school at Ponce Health Sciences University in Ponce, Puerto Rico and completed her residency at Virginia Tech-Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia. Her interests include pediatric and adolescent gynecology, breast feeding, and affordable contraception especially in the postpartum period. When she's not working, she likes to spend time with her family and travel.



Rashida Merchant, MD
Division of General Obstetrics and
Gynecology

Dr. Merchant went to medical school at The Commonwealth Medical College and completed her residency at the University of Maryland. My interests include family planning, contraception, and adolescent health. When she's not working she likes to cook, travel, hike, and paddle boarding.

Farewell Dr. Westover!

Dr. Westover will be leaving Cooper in October after 26 years of service and partnership. He will be moving on to lead the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Capital Health. We wish him the best of luck and happiness in his new role!

We thank him for sharing his career with us at Cooper!



Congratulations to the newlyweds!



Hilary Hinton, DO



Katherine Flores, RN - JFWCC



Rashida Merchant, MD

Congratulations to the 2020 Graduation Ceremony Award recipients!

Resident Awards

- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Resident Award for Excellence In Obstetrics: **Tieg Beazer, DO**
- AAGL Resident Award for Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology: **Devon Smith, DO and Samantha So, MD**
- Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Award: **Devon Smith, DO**
- AUGS Award for Excellence in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery: **Samantha So, MD**
- ASCCP American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology: **Bianca Hall, DO**
- Department Awards:
 - Professionalism: **Amanda Malik, MD**
 - Community Service: **Tieg Beazer, DO**
 - Resident Teacher of the Year: **Annie Masterson, MD and Dominique McKeever, MD**
 - Resident of the Year: **Annie Masterson, MD**

Faculty Awards

- APGO Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Medical Education: **Kathleen Obanion, MD**
- CREOG Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education: **Meredith Duffy, MD**

Special Announcements!!

Dr. Dominique McKeever - Gellhaus Fellow for 2020 and the first ever ACOG NJ Section Junior Fellow Advocacy Chair

Dr. Sabrina Brunoizzi - new Junior Fellow District III Vice Chair

Dr. Amanda Malik - elected by her peers to serve as a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee for AY 2020-2021

Dr. Stephanie Kass - NJ Section Junior Fellow Vice Chair

Important Dates:

September 15 & 29	Virtual Meet & Greet
October 9	Virtual Junior Fellows Day
Oct 12 - Oct 23	Virtual OBGYN Elective for URM MS4
October 13	Virtual Meet & Greet
October 30	Resident Wellness
November 20	Residency Interviews
Dec 4, 11, 18	Residency Interviews
January 8, 22	Residency Interviews
January 14, 15	CREOG In-training Exam

We encourage you to send in updates so we can keep everyone apprised of current happenings in their personal and professional lives. Please send your updates and newsworthy information as well as any comments and suggestions to lopez-marielis@cooperhealth.edu