

Obstetrics & Gynecology NEWSLETTER

SCIENCE FEATURE:

Medical College of Wisconsin Selected as a Maternal Health Research Center of Excellence by National Institutes of Health (NIH)

These Centers of Excellence are a key part of the NIH's larger vision for the Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative, which supports research to reduce pregnancy-related complications and deaths and to promote maternal health equity.

The Center's lead primary investigator is Anna Palatnik, MD, Associate Professor and the Patrick J. and Margaret G. McMahon Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The overarching goal of the MCW Research Center is to Address key Social-structural risk factors for raCial disparities in matErnal morbiDity in Southeastern Wisconsin- the name of our center is **ASCEND WI**. The focus of her research is reducing health disparities in birthing people experiencing pre-eclampsia and gestational diabetes, as well as improving health outcomes both during and after pregnancy.

"Wisconsin has the highest infant mortality rate in the nation for infants born to non-Hispanic Black birthing people. Further, Black birthing people in Wisconsin are nearly eight times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than Hispanic women and five times more than White women," said Dr. Palatnik. "Being selected as one of only 10 research institutions in the country to establish a Maternal Health Research Center of Excellence is a unique opportunity for the Medical College of Wisconsin to directly impact those statistics and improve maternal health outcomes in our area."

NEW GRANTS:

- **Anna Palatnik, MD:** *National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) (U54) - 1U54HD113408—Addressing Key Social-Structural Risk Factors for Racial Disparities in Maternal Morbidity in Southeastern Wisconsin*
- **Janet Rader, MD:** *Advancing Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) - Addressing Maternal Health Disparities from Preconception to Postpartum (a multi-PI grant)*
 - Project 1: Prevention of pregnancy and preparation for pregnancy through education (Rader/Kaljo)
 - Project 2: Prenatal and postpartum care via a mobile care unit to increase access to pregnancy care within Milwaukee. (Peterson)
 - Project 3: Trauma informed care training for obstetric providers at Froedtert and the MCW (Peebles/Graettinger)
 - Project 4: Improving maternal health with the focus on the 4th trimester (Palatnik)
- **Anna Palatnik, MD:** *Advancing Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) - Food For Healthier Birth Outcomes*
- **Anupama Nair, PhD:** *Advancing Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) - The Role of G3BPI in Cancer Progression and Chemoresistance*
- **Sonam Mittal, PhD:** *Advancing Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) - Exploring the Oncogenic Mechanisms of NAR10 in Ovarian Cancer*
- **Stephanie Gunderson, MD:** *Advancing Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Increasing Equitable Access to Fertility Preservation Care in AYAs with a New Cancer Diagnosis*

GRANT HIGHLIGHT

AHW Directs Nearly \$3 Million of Federal Funding to Projects Focused on Maternal and Child Health. This includes 5 projects in our department:

- 1) Prevention of pregnancy and preparation for pregnancy through education
- 2) Prenatal and postpartum care via a mobile care unit to increase access to pregnancy care
- 3) Trauma informed care training for obstetric providers at Froedtert and the MCW
- 4) Improving maternal health with the focus on the 4th trimester

PIs and Co-PIs include:

- Janet Rader, MD
- Kristina Kaljo, PhD
- Abbey Kruper, PsyD
- Allie Linton, MD
- Garrett Fitzgerald, MD
- Erika Peterson, MD
- Anna Palatnik, MD
- Meredith Cruz, MD, MPH
- Kristine Graettinger, MD
- Jacqueline Peebles, MD
- Sarah Mess, CNM

NEW CLINICAL TRIALS:

- **PI: Anna Palatnik, MD—Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy (CHAP) Maternal Follow-up Study:** This project is a follow-up to the original randomized controlled trial (RCT) investigating chronic hypertension management of moderately elevated blood pressures during pregnancy. Study participants who enrolled in the original RCT are until five to ten years after their participation in the original CHAP trial. The goal is to determine whether treatment of mild chronic hypertension (CHTN) in pregnancy influences maternal risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and to evaluate the long-term effect of superimposed preeclampsia on CVD outcomes in women who had CHTN.
- **PI: Anna Palatnik, MD—Social Risks-Focused Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Preeclampsia (SAIL):** Randomized control trial to determine group prenatal care (focused on preeclampsia prevention through stress management, stress reduction techniques, resource navigation, and problem solving) effects on incidence of preeclampsia. Aim is to determine efficacy of social risks-focused lifestyle interventions on preeclampsia risk and reduce overall rates of preeclampsia in nulliparous, African-American women living in the inner city of Milwaukee.
- **PI: Anna Palatnik, MD—Preeclamptic Postpartum Antihypertensive Treatment (P-PAT):** A Randomized Controlled Trial for Postpartum Antihypertensive Treatment of Women with Preeclampsia .

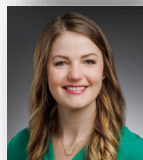
CLINICAL TRIAL HIGHLIGHT:**Intensive Postpartum Antihypertensive Treatment to Improve Women's Cardiovascular Health (IPAT) Study****—PI: Anna Palatnik, MD**

The objective of this study is to pilot test a randomized controlled trial of pharmacological therapy for six weeks postpartum and healthy lifestyle education through one year postpartum among sixty patients with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP). We will determine IPAT feasibility and its potential to ameliorate cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk following HDP. Given racial disparities in HDP and CVD, oversampling of Black patients with HDP will be done to ensure they comprise 50% of study participants. The IPAT study will provide necessary data to plan a large-scale trial focused on reducing chronic hypertension and CVD risk following HDP. Since the rate of cardiovascular events among young reproductive age women is low, this study will identify cardiovascular biomarkers that will be most reflective of BP change postpartum and could be used as surrogate end points for CVD in the future large-scale multisite RCT.

- **PI: William Bradley, MD—NRG-GY026:** This phase II/III trial tests whether adding trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-oysk (Herceptin HylectaTM) or pertuzumab, trastuzumab and hyaluronidase-zzxf (PhesgoTM) to the usual chemotherapy (paclitaxel and carboplatin) works to shrink tumors in patients with HER2 positive endometrial serous carcinoma or carcinosarcoma .
- **PI: William Bradley, MD—NRG-GY028:** This study is being done to answer if we can lower the chance of endometrial cancer growing or spreading by adding the drug ipatasertib to treatment with a hormonal drug. The study is divided into two portions, a Phase I portion and a Phase II portion. In the phase I portion of this trial, we want to test the safety of a drug called ipatasertib, by testing different doses of the drug to see which dose is safer for people when given in combination with a fixed dose of a drug called megestrol acetate (MA). The dose of the usual treatment drug stays the same while the dose of the additional drug can be adjusted to determine the best dose. In the Phase II portion of the study we can test how safe the treatment is and how well it works.
- **PI: William Bradley—NRG-GY027:** A Phase 1 study to test adding ipatasertib with the initial standard of chemotherapy, will have a better result in treating the patients with newly diagnosed ovarian cancer. The safety, side effects, and best dose of ipatasertib will also be determined in this study.
- **PI: Libby Hopp, MD—GOG-3081-PRESERVE-004-MK3475:** The study compares two doses of ONC-392 in combination with a fixed dose of pembrolizumab in participants with ovarian cancer who are resistant to platinum-based chemotherapy and have disease progression on line of therapy containing bevacizumab. Results from this study will be used to inform the study design, patient population, and dose selection for future studies in advanced ovarian cancer.
- **PI: Denise Uyar, MD—OBG-IIT-UYAR-HPV-MISP-61451:** To measure levels of HPV antibodies in pre-renal organ transplant and renal transplant recipients who have gotten the HPV9 vaccine and compare to control antibody levels.

WELCOME:

Prerna Pandya, MD —Assistant Professor in Urogynecology, joining us from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



Elizabeth Ball, PA-C —Certified Physician Assistant in Urogynecology, joining us from Kaldas Center for Fertility, Surgery, & Pregnancy, SC, Appleton



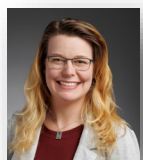
Kendal Follmer, NP —Nurse Practitioner in General Obstetrics & Gynecology, joining us from Froedtert Moorland Reserve Health Center



Jessica Chung, MD —Fellow in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, joining us Vermont Medical Center



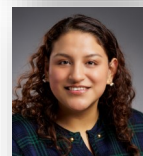
Camilla Dagum, MD —Fellow in Gynecologic Oncology, joining us from Montefiore Medical Center

Staff

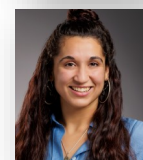
Alison Brodersen — Research Grants Coordinator



Natasha Griffin — AHW Project Manager/Navigator



Netzali Pacheco Rojas — Research Coordinator



Kiran Sehgal — Research Coordinator



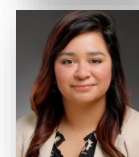
Alyssa Hernandez — AHW Project Manager



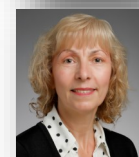
Joharah Bayazid —Research Coordinator



Amandla Stanley — Research Coordinator



Zaira Peterson — Research Coordinator



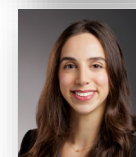
Maia Terashvili, PhD —Research Coordinator

Postdoctoral Fellows

Erica Marion, PhD — Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Palatnik



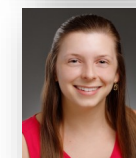
Chandrima Dey, PhD — Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Pradeep



Nadine Sunji, PhD — Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Palatnik



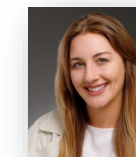
Roshan Kumar, PhD — Postdoctoral Fellow with Drs. Ojesina and Rader



Brittany McCloud — Clinical Program Coordinator



Sandy McKeon — Administrative Coordinator

Genetic Counselors

Rachel Sundstrom, CGC —Genetic Counselor in NICHE



Phebe Lemert, CGC — Genetic Counselor in Cancer



Maggie Hackl, CGC — Genetic Counselor in Cancer

✓ MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**April 10, 2024: Eleanor Delfs, MD**
Lectureship for Pioneers

Sloane York, MD, MPH —Residency Program
Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology; Associate
Program Director, Complex Family Planning Fellowship
Rush University Medical Center

April 19, 2024: Annual Women's
Health Conference

Harley Davidson Museum

June 19, 2024: Resident and Fellow
Research & Alumni Day

Tiffany A. Moore Simas, MD, MPH, MEd—Donna M.
and Robert J. Manning Chair in Obstetrics and
Gynecology, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology;
Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Population & Quantitative
Health Sciences

Umass Memorial Medical Center

*"Importance, a path of advocacy and research to new
resources and guidance"*

June 21, 2024: Resident and Fellow Graduation

To support our department in research or
education, visit our website at

<https://obgyn.mcw.edu/about/donate/>
or call (414) 955-4711 to donate.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

- **Anupama Nair, PhD** received AHW's postdoctoral fellowship for project "The role of G3BP1 in cancer progression and chemoresistance"
- The Word on Medicine: "Urinary Incontinence in Women" featured **Dr. Emily Davidson**, Rachel Borchard (RN), **Carissa Aboubakare (NP)** and two grateful patients willing to share their stories
- **Anna Palatnik, MD** spoke at International Conference on authored paper in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Endometriosis: The Word on Medicine. Featured **Drs. Benjamin Beran**, Timothy Ridolfi, and **Camila Bomtempo**, as well as two patients who shared their stories
- **Jasmine George, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow of Pradeep Chaluvaly-Raghavan, PhD, received the inaugural postdoctoral fellowship grant from the Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center for her research on "Chemoresistance Mechanism Orchestrated through FXR1 in Ovarian Cancer"
- **Jessica Smith, MD**, speaker at Children's Wisconsin's Fetal Innovations—Conversation with the Experts.
- **Kate Schoyer, MD**, recorded a podcast for UW OB/GYN Women's Healthcast podcast.

DEPARTMENT NEWS Cont'd.

- The word on medicine: Infertility in Women and Men featured **Drs. Jayme Bosler, Shunping Wang** and Peter Dietrich, along with Sonia Aviles and Jody Schwoerer, both andrologists from the Reproductive Medicine Center Laboratory.
- **Dr. Ben Beran** is the inaugural Division Chief for Complex Gynecology. This new division name reflects a national change for the Fellowship of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, which will now be known as Complex Gynecology. The change highlights that this specialty is not just focused on an approach to surgery but carries expertise in a distinct body of knowledge particularly endometriosis, uterine fibroids, abnormal uterine bleeding, and chronic pelvic pain.
- **Anna Palatnik, MD**, has been named the inaugural holder of the The Patrick J. and Margaret G. McMahon Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology, for her significant contributions to advancing research
- **Dr. Seema Menon** awarded the inaugural NASPAG SERVICE AWARD
- The Word on Medicine “Pregnancy as The Road Trip to Childbirth” featured **Dr. Kate Dielentheis, Sarah Mess, CNM**, a lactation specialist and nurse midwife, Rachel Bona and Shelly Hansen, OB/Gyn nurse coordinators, and DeAnna Tharpe, CEO of Wisconsin Doulas of Color Collective Inc
- Our Nurse practitioner, **Carissa Aboubakare**, is now a certified (NAMS) menopause practitioner—the only one in the department
- **Sonam Mittal, PhD**, received AHW’s postdoctoral fellowship for project “Exploring the Oncogenic Mechanisms of NAT10 in Ovarian Cancer”

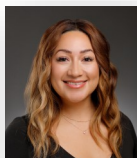
- **Sunila Pradeep, PhD**, received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award in recognition of your service to the Professionalism Enrichment Committee

IN THE NEWS

- **Jayme Bosler, MD**, featured on TMJ4 for “Local clinic offers treatment for PCOS; new research shows diagnosis spike in Hispanic and Black women”
- **Christina Wichman, MD** recorded a podcast on Milwaukee Philanthropic Community Radio Show on “Moms Mental Health Initiative & Periscope Project”
- AHW Directs nearly \$3 million of Federal Funding to 10 Community Projects Focused on Maternal and Child Health.
- The Medical College of Wisconsin was selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to be a Maternal Health Research Center of Excellence—as highlighted by Wisconsin Health News and Forbes.

**Stay in touch and
follow us!
Have something to share?
Send it our way!**



CLASS OF 2027 RESIDENTS:

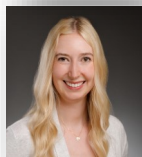
Daniela Castellanos, MD
Chicago Medical School - Rosalind Franklin



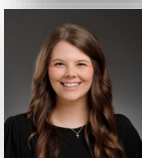
Brittany Derynda, DO
Nova Southeastern University



Janayah McClellan MD
Chicago Medical School - Rosalind Franklin



Lauren Stippich, MD
Medical College of Wisconsin



Amy Ticknor, MD
Creighton University

ALUMNI CORNER:

We'd like to hear from you! Please send us your updates to:

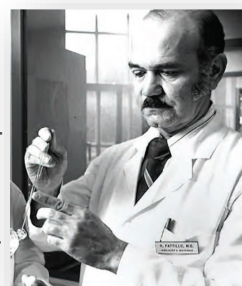
obgynresidency@mcw.edu

ALUMNI NEWS:

- **Dr. Gloria Halverson** featured in the MCW Magazine for celebrating the 50th Class Reunion and proudly wore the graduation robe of her beloved OB/GYN mentor, Eleanor Delfs, MD, who, in 1963, became the medical school's first woman to attain the rank of full professor.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Roland A. Pattillo, MD, GME '64, died on May 3, 2023. He was a strong force in women's health for five decades and the first African American faculty member at MCW's predecessor institution. Dr. Pattillo, who served on the MCW obstetrics and gynecology faculty from 1968 to 1995, received MCW's Distinguished Service Award in 1994. This award is the highest honor that MCW bestows on a faculty or staff member. He also received an honorary degree from MCW in 2018. Dr. Pattillo was an expert on gynecologic and trophoblastic (placental) cancers and stem cell research, and he led a team of physicians who successfully cultivated cervical tissue cells outside the body to develop a vaccine for the human papilloma virus (HPV).



Julian De Lia, MD, former MCW professor of obstetrics and gynecology, died on November 28, 2022. He began his career in academic medicine in 1978 at the University of Utah, where he investigated Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS), a condition with high morbidity and mortality at the time. In 1991, he joined MCW where he went on to develop a pioneering laser treatment of TTTS and document a significant nutritional aspect of the disease, resulting in the saved lives of hundreds of babies.

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Celebration of Employees:

- **Erin Briesath—20 years**
- **Chelsea Bodoh—10 years**
- **Morgan Depas—10 years**
- **Michelle Malicki—5 years**
- **Sarah Mess, CNM—5 years**
- **Anjali Geethadevi, PhD—5 years**
- **Allison Genchanok, CGC—5 years**

Faculty Promotions:

- **Ben Beran, MD**—Associate Professor; Inaugural Division Chief of Complex Gynecology
- **Jayne Bosler, MD**—Associate Professor
- **Emily Davidson, MD**— Division Chief of Urogynecology
- **Kate Dielentheis, MD**—Associate Professor
- **Kim Gecsi, MD**—Associate Chief Medical Officer; Interim Ambulatory Specialty Chief Medical Officer
- **Tim Klatt, MD**—Associate Chief Medical Officer, Patient Safety Froedtert Hospital; Team Lead, Supporting our Staff; Lead, Radiology Safety Net Froedtert and Medical College Physicians
- **Anna Palatnik, MD**—Inaugural Patrick J. and Margaret G. McMahon Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Jacqueline Peebles MD**— Department Patient Safety and Quality Officer; Division Chief of Generalist Division