



# Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

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# Message from the Chair



## Dr. Jon Barrett

F.L. Johnson Chair in Women's  
Reproductive Health Research  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Obstetrics and  
Gynecology  
McMaster University

Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to reflect on an extraordinary year of achievements within our department. As we look back, we see remarkable milestones that not only highlight our department's continued growth and impact but also highlight the incredible dedication and passion of our faculty members, staff, students, and partners. This is the first annual report that we have had within our department in many years. I want to have the ability to showcase and share all the great work that we do each year within our department and with this, we have the ability to share our success and plans for the upcoming year with our team in the department and with the University. It can also be shared with members within our networks and our community. I am so proud of the work that we do that I would like the opportunity to have it shared as widely as possible.

Our department undertook a strategic planning process in 2021-22, focusing on collaboration, health equity, and inclusion to shape a high-impact future. The "McMaster Model of Care," evolved through the department's culture of person-centred, interprofessional care, health equity, accessibility and inclusion, the integration of medical practice, midwifery and the full spectrum of research, and the next evolution of problem-based learning. It is our goal that this model of care will be recognized as the global standard in care by 2030. Our strengths include a culture of collaboration, wellness, innovative

training, interdisciplinary care, research, and leadership within each division within our department. In this report you will see the strategy we developed, the progress we have made, and a look to the future.

This past year has been a transformative period for our department, characterized by remarkable achievements across education, research, clinical care, and global health leadership. Some of the success highlighted in this report include new team additions, award-winning publications, award-winning team members, and national recognition for expertise in maternal health. As a department, we have made a significant impact with our research – including receiving substantial funding for major projects addressing women's

**"It is our goal that this model of care will be recognized as the global standard in care by 2030."**

health and equity in maternal care. We have also made a significant impact globally – we were honoured to be invited by the Ministry of Health in Guyana to join their Maternal Mortality Review Committee as recommended by the Minister of Health. This is just one example of our growing international influence.

As we reflect on a year filled with historic milestones and exceptional progress, we stand



Dr. Bryon De France



Dr. Susan Ellis

poised to achieve even greater heights. Together, we are redefining the standards of care in obstetrics and gynecology, shaping a future that prioritizes innovation, equity, and global collaboration.

As we move forward, our vision remains clear: *The McMaster Model of Care will reset global expectations for gynecology, pregnancy, and prenatal care.* We have been working to expand our impact through excellence in clinical care, groundbreaking research, and global health leadership. We are shaping the future of obstetrics and gynecology and improving the health and lives of women and families around the world.

All this of course, would not be possible without the help of the two Chiefs, Dr. Bryon De France, and Dr. Susan Ellis – the three of us work together in a unique tripartite leadership model. Much gratitude for your partnership and leadership within this department.

## "Recognition of our National and International leadership on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality."

In the year ahead, let us continue to build on our successes, fostering groundbreaking research, delivering world-class education, and expanding our impact on a global scale. Thank you to all our team members for your unwavering dedication and the profound difference you make each day. Together, we are creating a legacy of excellence and compassion that will transform lives for generations to come.

## Department Highlights

- Graduation of the first three students from the Master of Science in Midwifery program
- Innovative treatments in Gynecologic Oncology such as systemic therapies, immunotherapy, and minimally invasive surgery.
- Development of STITCH, a simulator for managing postpartum hemorrhage
- Adding two-week rotations for all undergraduate students
- Graduation of first fellow in Urogynecology/Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery
- Successful PGME accreditation of all postgraduate programs
- Recognition of our National and International leadership on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality
- Launch of CanOSS, a nationwide study aimed at reducing severe adverse pregnancy events
- CIHR funding to advance equity in maternal and perinatal care in Canada
- Juravinski Research Institute grant to study severe maternal morbidity (SERENE)
- CIHR grant for a national multicentre study on endometriosis diagnostic biomarkers
- Establishment of a Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynaecological Surgery





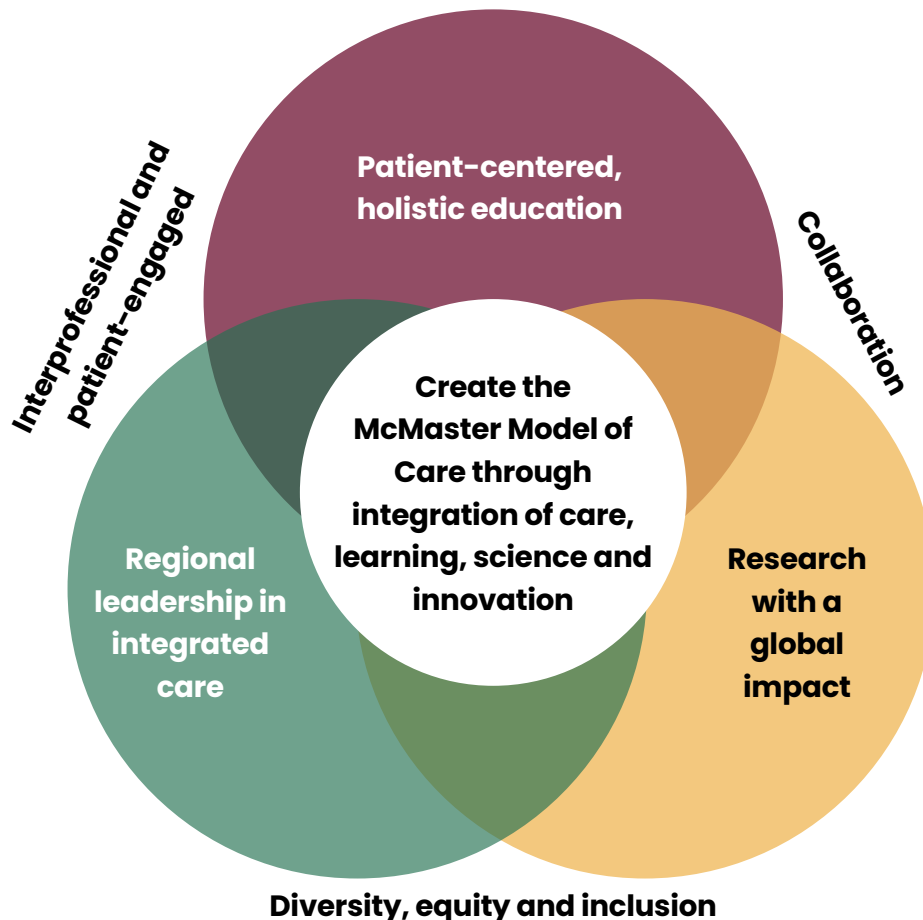
# Looking Back, Forging Ahead

*It's hard to believe that 2021 was the year that we all came together to produce ideas and feedback to shape the strategic plan of the department.*

Thank you to all who participated during the strategy hives guided by the Potential Group to provide input, ideas, and feedback around your thoughts on the strategic plan. Some of the topics that we discussed included what we need to do as a department to create a sustainable, thriving research community, what McMaster can uniquely contribute to the field of OB/GYN, learning in the region, and facilitated discussions around what

**"The McMaster Model of Care will reset global expectations for gynecology, pregnancy and prenatal care."**

else is happening in the environment we should be paying attention to. With your feedback and input along with my vision for where the department can be – all this information was transformed into our strategic plan. Now that we are a few years into the strategic plan, I believe that our department has been moving in the right direction and we have been living up to the priorities and goals that were outlined in the strategic plan.





## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IN INTEGRATED CARE

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Within our network, we have key stakeholders invested in and advocating for improved and equitable care. I, along with the Chief at Hamilton Health Sciences and the Chief at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton are a tripartite with a common vision and shared values. We collaborate with other Chiefs and key personnel within the region. We have formed the Southern Ontario Maternal Child and Youth Network (SOMCHYN) where we all understand that quality of care is one of the most important aspects of the job at hand. This committee allows for a greater opportunity for brainstorming different ideas as there is a diverse background of experience that can contribute to a stronger network connection between us. With this connection, we will leverage ideas from across the network to build a better future.

## RESEARCH WITH A GLOBAL IMPACT

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One of the major steps towards a global impact includes Dr. Rohan D'Souza's work with developing the Canadian Enhanced Obstetrical Surveillance System (EOSS), which will include reporting severe maternal morbidity (SMM) events. Dr. D'Souza, who is a Tier-II Canada Research Chair in Maternal Health, and his team are currently working on conducting a qualitative research study to gain a better understanding of the current practice of SMM case review in Southwestern Ontario, to then design and pilot an EOSS in the region. In Canada, we use vital statistics to inform decisions about maternal care. However, this data is known to underestimate rates of maternal morbidity and mortality. The establishment of a Canadian EOSS would facilitate the identification of contributing

factors of SMM, and the development, implementation, and evaluation of targeted recommendations to reduce SMM. This is just one example of the work that our department members are doing to move the needle on global impact for our department.

## PATIENT-CENTERED HOLISTIC EDUCATION

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We pride ourselves in this department on how we value our time with learners. I believe that we have a deep understanding of how important it is to provide a learning environment that allows learners to flourish and the guidance we provide them will serve them well within their careers and in-turn will translate into exceptional care within their communities. Providing an inclusive and supportive environment is an important aspect of our role and I believe this will continue in the years to come.

These themes are threaded throughout the report and each division provides a deeper dive into the progress that has been made within their respective areas as we move closer to achieving our goal. Not only are we surviving, but we are thriving as a whole and I am proud of our continued success.

It is important to mention the fiscal responsibility of the department. We could not have done what we have achieved without faculty who, for the first time in department history, supported a department Tithe – putting their own money to support the department vision. Thank you all.

## THE FUTURE

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I wanted to speak about the future and how close we are to achieving our vision. We are currently working on the formation of a new McMaster

**"A huge accomplishment for the year is the successful accreditation of all of our department's postgraduate training programs."**



Centre in Reproductive Health and Development to bring all these strengths together. I look forward to sharing this success with you when it is up and running. Filling this gap for women and children's health is a step in the right direction and I am excited for the good that will come out of this initiative.

I am happy to share in this report the work that our team has been doing to drive the direction of the department. Focusing on our priorities has been instrumental in achieving our vision: "The McMaster Model of Care will reset global expectations for gynecology, pregnancy and prenatal care." Our department has been working with this vision in mind and it will continue to shape the direction of our department.

## We offer many types of Fellowships

- Obstetric Hospitalist Fellowship
- Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
- Maternal Fetal Medicine



# Hamilton Health Sciences OBGYN Department



Division Lead:

**Dr. Bryon F. De France, BSc, MD, MSc, FRCS(C)**

Chief Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Division Head Maternal Fetal Medicine,  
Hamilton Health Sciences

Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics  
and Gynecology &

Department of Diagnostic Imaging  
McMaster University, Hamilton

*As we reflect on the past year in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, we celebrate our many accomplishments, including significant achievements, innovative improvements, and the unwavering dedication of our staff.*

This year has been marked by advancements in patient care and operational efficiency, all of which have laid the foundation for an exciting future ahead.

#### **Strengthening Communication and Leadership**

In our ongoing effort to enhance communication, we introduced the O&G Weekly Brief and established one-on-one staff meetings with the Chief, along with clinical leadership sessions. These initiatives have fostered a culture of transparency and collaboration, improving team dynamics and ensuring alignment with our strategic goals.

#### **Innovative Procedures and Reduced Wait Times**

We reached a historic milestone with the launch of the first Pediatric Gynecology OR on April 22, 2024, underscoring our commitment to providing specialized care for younger patients. With the expansion of our gynecology team, we've made notable progress in reducing wait times for gynecological services, maintaining our leadership position in HHS for minimizing cases exceeding target wait times. Our capacity to meet patient needs has grown significantly, with an increase in our surgical blocks from 5 to 9.5 per week. Additionally, our national leadership in endometriosis care was formally recognized through a third-party review of the MIGS program, supported by HHS, and we continue to advocate for enhanced capital support from the Ministry of Health.

#### **Addressing Increasing Demand for Obstetric Services**

Since 2021, obstetric volumes have been steadily increasing, primarily driven by higher referrals to the Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) program. This has placed pressure on all aspects of the service, from ultrasound and clinics to labor and delivery. The Midwifery Care Unit (MCU) has played a key role in alleviating these pressures, and we continue

to assess and refine our approach to meet the growing demand. The recruitment of Hospitalist Midwives, Physician Assistants, and Obstetric Hospitalist Fellows has become an essential resource in maintaining quality care across our obstetric services.

### **WLMH Build – Planning for Future Growth**

A major highlight of this year has been the planning for new O&G facilities at the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH), scheduled to open in spring 2025. This expansion will enhance patient experience and provide our healthcare professionals with a more efficient, modern environment. The design prioritizes spacious patient areas and advanced medical technologies, key components in supporting our evolving service model.

### **Expanding Our Team**

In July, we welcomed our third full-time OBGYN at WLMH and are currently recruiting a fourth, which will significantly enhance our ability to deliver comprehensive care. We've also expanded our team with the addition of an additional MIGS specialist, strengthening our position as one of the province's leaders in endometriosis care. Additionally, we've recruited a Pediatric Adolescent Gynecologist, and two generalists at MUMC, alongside further additions to the Maternal-Fetal-Medicine service.

We have also created a new Head of Service position for Midwifery at MUMC, with additional funding secured to support this role.

### **Celebrating Excellence in Nursing**

Our nursing team continues to demonstrate exceptional care and commitment, as evidenced by the Nursing Excellence Awards. This year, we proudly recognize nominations and wins in Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Care Centre (SADV), Labour and Delivery (L&D), and 2F clinic, and the Women's Health clinics at MUMC, as well as Obstetrics at WLMH.

### **Recognizing Excellence in Education**

Our commitment to education and mentorship was highlighted by Sarah Saliba, who received the MSA Outstanding Resident Award. This achievement exemplifies the high standards of training and support provided within our department.

### **Looking Ahead**

As the medical challenges of the pandemic subside, we now face the fiscal constraints and restrictions that come with a post-pandemic healthcare environment. These challenges will test our resolve and demand even more of the creativity and efficiency that have always been central to our department. Despite operating with fewer resources than other tertiary care centers, we have consistently provided exceptional care. Going forward, we remain committed to advancing patient care even as we navigate these historic fiscal pressures.

### **Summary**

Despite the significant fiscal challenges facing the healthcare sector, we have successfully introduced new services and expanded our teams. While the road ahead may be difficult, particularly with financial constraints, our commitment to delivering uncompromised care to our patients remains steadfast. We will continue to seize every opportunity for growth and improvement. The dedication of our team is the cornerstone of our success, and we are poised to further enhance our services in the year to come. We are deeply grateful to all who contribute to our mission, and together, we will continue making a meaningful impact on the lives of the women and families we serve.





## OBSTETRIC METRICS AT HHSC SITES

McMaster Site	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Total
Total Deliveries	290	324	292	315	304	264	283	291	325	308	318	328	3642
Number of C-Sections	126	141	124	133	112	113	115	134	140	147	145	149	1579

West Lincoln Memorial Hospital	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	Jun 24	Total
Total Deliveries	35	38	48	38	39	36	38	27	40	30	41	35	445
Number of C-Sections	11	9	13	7	9	6	12	8	13	10	11	8	117

Values included for all discharges between 1st June, 2023 and 30th June, 2024

Data Source: DAD – July '23 to June '24

Prepared by: Susie Bojko, Senior Performance Advisor/Sehaj Chauhan, Analyst

NOTES: Total deliveries includes – successful deliveries, fetal demise or neonatal demise

Site	Service	Cases	# of Patients
MUMC	Gynecology	1,090	1,046
Juravinski	Gynecology - Oncology	660	616

HHSC Gynecology and Oncology Cases and Unique Patients (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

Source: Epic

# St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton OBGYN Department



Division Lead:

**Dr. Susan Ellis, B.Sc.(Hon), MD, FRCSC**

Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton

Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

McMaster University, Hamilton

*Our advocacy as a Department to broaden the portfolio from Women's and Infants' to Women's Health celebrates the excellence in both obstetrical and gynecologic care we provide.*

The SJHH OBGYN Department is in the portfolio of Women's Health, Newborn and Pediatric Care at SJHH. Operationally we now have a Director to advance innovative programs and a strategic vision in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and are working with communications and public affairs on branding.

# 3,200

**Deliveries a year**

We are 12 OBGYNs. Our hospital does approximately 3200 deliveries a year and our group perform approximately 1500 gynecologic surgeries per year with a technicity rate of over 90% for hysterectomies. Our ambulatory clinic includes 10 OBGYNs and approximately 37,000 visits per year.

**"Our collaboration and partnerships across disciplines is our strength."**

Program Highlights:

1. Robust Quality of Care Committees including maternal, neonatal, joint maternal/neonatal and gynecology. Multi-disciplinary, just culture, systems review lens, distribution of lessons learned to all stakeholders, generation of Quality Improvement Initiatives (QIPs)
2. Fetal Health Surveillance: Interdisciplinary, every two years, MOCOMP accredited
3. In Situ Simulation Curriculum: Interdisciplinary, identification systems issues, communication gaps, latent safety threats. Distribution of lessons learned, drive policy and procedures, QIPs, Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle to determine improvement in communication and decrease in latent safety threats
4. Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic: Nurse Lead Physician supported, guided by Health Quality Ontario Standards and Bill 141, which is an act to require research to be undertaken and programs to be developed for pregnancy loss and infant death and to proclaim October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day. ED divergence, rapid access to compassionate, individual care

- Dedicated OBGYN ultrasound group, providing 13-14 000 scans per year, including sonohystograms, 3D imaging, ultrasound guided procedures and building capacity for complex deep pelvic endometriosis ultrasounds

# 37,000

Visits per year to our ambulatory clinic

- MIGS Program – In July 2025. We are excited to be welcoming our first fellow into our new MIGS fellowship program in July 2025. Our MIGS program is a robust multi-disciplinary program with 4 fellowship trained MIGS surgeons and involving radiology, colorectal surgery, urology, thoracics, pelvic floor physio, and anaesthesia, and the addition of robotis in Fall 2024
- Menopause and Mental Health – subspecialty complex menopause care, active hub of research, collaboration and outreach education to address knowledge gaps and increase comfort with first line menopausal care
- Multidisciplinary partnership for substance use in pregnancy care and caring for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Highlights

include our partnerships with PROSPR (The Program for Substance Use in Pregnancy) led by our family medicine colleagues at the Maternity Centre of Hamilton

- The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St Joseph's Hospital is actively engaged in global women's health. Several of our members are in key leadership positions in St Joseph's International Outreach program, MacGlobas (McMaster's Global Surgery collaboration), and Save the Mothers

# 1,500

Gynecologic surgeries per year

Our collaboration and partnerships across disciplines is our strength. Post COVID we look forward to a year of updating our strategic plan, vision and branding in alignment with the university, hospital and community. It is an honour and privilege to lead a truly amazing, compassionate and committed group of physicians who can always trust in each other and focus both on excellence and innovation and wellness within the group.



DIVISION REPORTS

# Division Reports

FEMALE PELVIC MEDICINE & REPRODUCTIVE SURGERY

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY

MIDWIFERY

GYNECOLOGIC REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY  
AND INFERTILITY

MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE





# Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery



Division Lead:

**Dr. Ola Malabarey, MBBS, FRCSC**

Associate Professor

Division & Fellowship Director, Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery

McMaster University

*The Division of Urogynecology/ Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at McMaster proudly graduated its inaugural fellow, Dr. Suhaila Al Wahaibi.*

Dr. Suhaila Al Wahaibi, graduated in September 2023. She is doing great work back in Oman with out-reach programs. Currently, Dr. Kaylee Clark is in her second year of fellowship and is expected to graduate in June 2025. We accepted our next Fellow, Dr. Shikha Kuthiala for a start date of July 2025.

Dr. Sarah Saliba, a resident at McMaster, presented our randomized control trial at SOGC and it was nominated as best of four oral presentations. Dr. Saliba and Dr. Malabarey are Principle Investigators and the submission is currently in the process of study to the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada (JOGC). Dr. Malabarey is currently a co-applicant for a CIHR grant to support the long term follow up of patients who have been recruited and received their surgeries as part of the: Composite Outcomes of MESH vs suture Techniques for prolapse repair (COMET).

## Best of Oral Presentations

Dr. Sarah Saliba presented our randomized control trial at SOGC and it was nominated as best of four oral presentations.

She also continues to recruit for the COSM POP-AI study which will eventually aid with custom pessary support for patients.

The Urogynecology Division continues with very high load surgical teaching and enriching the residents and fellows exposures. We look forward to continued success in the upcoming year!

# Gynecologic Oncology



Division Lead:

**Dr. Waldo Jimenez MD, MSc**

Associate Professor

Division Head of Gynecologic Oncology

Juravinski Cancer Centre,  
McMaster University

*The Division of Gynecologic Oncology at McMaster University is composed of six members who are active in clinical practice, research and education.*

This year, Dr. Eiriksson will be in France on a sabbatical, working on her PhD thesis and pursuing research with the Lyon Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasia (GTN) group. Her goal is to establish a national GTN registry here at McMaster! Dr. Vanessa Carlson is leaving our group as of September 2024. She has gone back to BC to lead the newly established gynecologic oncology team in Kelowna. We are so excited to be welcoming Dr. Sarah Mah to the group as a permanent faculty member. Dr. Mah has an excellent track-record in education, research and quality improvement, and top-notch surgical and clinical skills. We were very fortunate to recruit her to the Juravinski. Welcome Dr. Mah!

## Our Practice

- Initial assessment and diagnosis of cancer
- Treatment
- Survivorship
- Palliative and end-of-life care

Our team provides comprehensive gynecologic cancer care to patients across the Hamilton, Brantford, Niagara, and Haldimand regions, as well as Burlington, parts of Kitchener-Waterloo region, Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. Our practice extends from initial assessment and diagnosis of cancer, treatment, survivorship, and palliative and end-of-life care. We are recognized as national leaders in the areas of surgery and systemic therapy, including emerging immunotherapy, radical procedures for advanced gynecological cancer as well as minimally invasive surgery. Our Division provides all lines of systemic therapy, including chemotherapy and novel targeted agents, for patients with

## Our Goals

- Continue providing excellent care for our patients
- Establish a robotic gynecologic oncology program
- Establish a heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) program

neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and recurrent disease indications. We provide ongoing care for high risk patients after their initial medical or surgical therapy, including surveillance for recurrence, palliative treatments (surgical and/or systemic therapy), and end-of-life care.

Our goals and vision for the next year is to continue providing excellent care for our patients, to establish a robotic gynecologic oncology program and a HIPEC (heated intraperitoneal chemotherapy) program for patients with advanced ovarian cancer.

## TRAINING PROGRAM

Our Royal College accredited fellowship program attracts high quality applicants from Canada and abroad. We received very positive feedback from our recent Royal College review, with full accreditation of our program.

We currently have three fellows in our program: Dr. Anne Marie Bergeron (PGY-8), Dr. Latteefah Al Naeem (PGY-7) and Dr. Serena Wang (PGY-6).

## AWARDS OR HONOURS

**Sarah Mah** 2024 John Mazurka surgical award



Dr. Sarah Mah

## ABSTRACTS & POSTERS

A list of Abstracts and Poster Presentations (publications and Grants not included )

1. *Canadian survey of surgeons' knowledge and attitudes towards opportunistic salpingectomy during non-gynecologic surgery.* Canadian Surgery Forum 2024. Stuart H, Bergeron A, Hanley G, Yang I, Bogach J, Nguyen L, Reade C, Eiriksson L, Morais M, Mah SJ.
  - a. Oral presentation: Canadian Surgery Forum 2024 September 2024

- b. E-Poster, 2024 IGCS Annual Global Meeting Oct 2024
2. *Predictors of specialist palliative care access and impact on aggressiveness of end-of-life care: a population-based study of gynecologic cancer decedents in Ontario, Canada from 2006-2018.* Mah SJ, Carter Ramirez D, Eiriksson L, Schnarr K, Gayowsky A, Seow H.
    - a. Oral presentation: GOC 45th Annual General Meeting June 14, 2024
    - b. Featured Printed Poster, 2024 IGCS Annual Global Meeting Oct 2024
  3. *Identifying modifiable risk factors for surgical site infection following gynecological oncology surgery: a quality improvement project.* Manett J, Jones B, Reade C, Nica A, Mah SJ. McMaster Department of Oncology 18th Annual Student Research Day June 2023
    - a. Oral presentation
  4. *Impact of timing of palliative care initiation on end-of-life quality metrics and health resource utilization.* Mah SJ, Eiriksson LR, Carter Ramirez D, Schnarr K, Gayowsky A, Seow H.
    - a. Oral plenary presentation: Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer March 2023: Scientific Plenary X (Tampa, USA)
    - b. Gynecologic Oncology of Canada 40+ Annual General Meeting June 9, 2023
  5. *Adverse events in patients with gynecologic malignancies treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors: a systematic review and meta-analysis.* Submitted to GOC AGM 2024. Bergeron A, Comeau C, Mah SJ, Carlson V, Reade C, Eiriksson L, Nguyen J, Jimenez W, Nica A.

# DIVISION REPORTS

- a. GOC 45th Annual General Meeting June 14, 2024
6. *Identifying modifiable risk factors for surgical site infection following gynecological oncology surgery: a quality improvement project.* Manett J, Jones B, Reade C, Nica A, Mah SJ. Medical student Program, SOGC Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference June 9, 2023
7. *Patterns of palliative care use by women with gynecologic malignancies in Ontario, Canada: a 13-year population-based retrospective analysis.* Mah SJ, Eiriksson L, Carter Ramirez D, Schnarr S, Seow H.
  - a. Gynecologic Oncology of Canada 40+ Annual General Meeting June 9, 2023
  - b. ESGO 23rd Congress October 2023
8. Bergeron AM, Kisiel M, Lavecchia M, Carlson V, Reade C, Eiriksson LR, Jimenez WG, Nguyen JMV, Nica A. *Adverse events in patients with gynecologic malignancies treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors: A systematic review and Meta-analysis.* Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada Annual General Meeting, Edmonton, MB., Canada. Jun, 2024
9. Bergeron AM, Kisiel M, Lavecchia M, Carlson V, Reade C, Eiriksson LR, Jimenez WG, Nguyen JMV, Lytwyn A, Nica A. *Quantifying platinum sensitivity as a marker for response to PARP inhibition in patients with advanced ovarian cancer.* International Gynecologic Cancer Society Annual Meeting, Seoul, South Korea, Korea, D.P.R.O. Nov, 2023.
10. Bergeron AM, Kisiel M, Lavecchia M, Carlson V, Reade C, Eiriksson LR, Jimenez WG, Nguyen JMV, Lytwyn A, Nica A. *Quantifying platinum sensitivity as a marker for response to PARP*

*inhibition in patients with advanced ovarian cancer.* Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada Annual General Meeting, Ottawa, ON, Canada. Jun, 2023.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

### Sarah Mah

1. Striving for equity, diversity and inclusion in Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology across Canada SOGC CME Concurrent Session Speaker, November 29, 2024 (Toronto, ON)
2. Post-SGO Updates speaking engagement, April 3 and 15, 2024 (two talks given to Medical Oncologists in Sault Ste Marie and Gynecologic Oncology teams in Hamilton/ Trillium Health Partners with GSK)

### Andra Nica

1. Nica A. A review of immunotherapy in advanced and recurrent endometrial cancer. A review of immunotherapy in advanced and recurrent endometrial cancer. Jan 15, 2024 and Feb 27 2024.
2. Nica A. Updates in Systemic Treatment of GYN malignancies from SGO 2024. Updates in Systemic Treatment of GYN malignancies from SGO 2024. Apr 03, April 15 2024.
3. Nica A. HPV Implementation. HNHB Region Colposcopy Community of Practice, Canada. Oct 16 and 24, 2023.
4. Nica A. Diagnosis and Management of Vaginal Intraepithelial Neoplasia. Ontario Colposcopy Day, Toronto, Canada, Nov 17, 2023.

### Waldo Jimenez

Onco Summit Panama Oct, 5-7.

1. It's a reality to expect OC cure in the era of PARPi?



2. Management of the most frequent AE with PARPi

3. Evolving Treatment Landscape of 1L EC

**“We are recognized as national leaders in the areas of surgery and systemic therapy ...”**



# Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery



Division Lead:

**Dr. Lea Luketic, BSc, MSc, MD, FRCSC**

Obstetrics and Minimally Invasive Gynecology,

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Associate Professor, McMaster University

Lead, Division of Minimally Invasive Gynecology, McMaster University

Co-chair, McMaster Obstetrics and Gynecology Quality Improvement Committee

*The last year has been a busy one for the MIGS Division at McMaster University.*

We are located at two sites – McMaster University Medical Centre and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and provide excellence in advanced surgical gynecology. We focus on surgical management of endometriosis, fibroids, fertility sparing surgery and complex benign gynecology. Our fellowship currently has three fellows, and we had two graduates this spring. We welcomed Dr. Jay Tigdi into our Division this year.



Dr. Jay Tigdi

**Program highlights include:**

1. Development of City Wide MIGS Journal Club. Occurring 4 times a year (depending on the articles chosen) we have had the participation of our colleagues and learners from other Divisions, such as the GREI Division.
2. Development of City-Wide Multidisciplinary Rounds. Occurring ever 2 months, we have seen great success and uptake on our Multi-D rounds, discussing complex surgical cases and making plans for these cases with input from each other, and in addition from colleagues in general surgery, radiology and urology.
3. St. Joseph's Healthcare Specific highlights
  - a. Leadership from Dr. O'Leary in the

- development of an outpatient minor procedure room
  - b. Development of a Robotic Surgery Program
  - c. MIGs resident teaching rounds for residents rotating at St. Joseph's
4. McMaster specific highlight
  - a. Leadership from Dr. Tigdi in outpatient hysteroscopy suite
  - b. Development of Gyn Ultrasound fellowship with Dr. Leonardi
  - c. Performance of first ever Gyn-led ultrasound-guided adnexal cyst drainage and uterine mass biopsy
5. Strong research participation. We had a strong presence at numerous conferences this past year (Annual CanSage Conference, AAGL, SEUD, ISUOG, WES, SRI to name a few) with multiple publications across many sites.
6. Growing global presence with invited talks at numerous regional/national meetings (e.g. Colombia, Portugal, India, Norway).
7. Participation in our 2nd annual MIGS triathlon- our Division had 3 relay teams at the Guelph Lake triathlon! We once again represented McMaster University MIGS Division and had an amazing afternoon with a large cheering squad.

While our Division is a relatively new Division at McMaster University, we have a lot of important things going on and are excited for what the next year brings.

# Midwifery



Division Lead:

**Dr. Liz Darling, RM, Msc, PhD**

Director/Assistant Dean, Midwifery Education Program

Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Associate Member, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact

Adjunct Scientist, ICES McMaster

*The Midwifery Division runs the undergraduate Midwifery Education Program (MEP), the Master of Science in Midwifery degree, the McMaster Midwifery Research Centre (MMRC), and continuing education offerings.*

In the 2023-24 academic year, we had 165 students enrolled in our undergraduate program and 41 students enrolled in our master's degree program.

## EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year, the midwifery master's program had it's first three graduates at the May 2024 convocation.

# 165

**Students enrolled**

Rebecca Hautala, Lynne-Marie Culliton, and Claire Portigal made history as the first graduates from a graduate degree in midwifery in the country!

At the same convocation, 37

undergraduates graduated. Graduating midwifery student Kai Montgomery received the Enkin Award, which is awarded to a midwifery student who "exemplifies superior achievement in the humanitarian, professional and academic domains of midwifery practice". Kai was also the recipient of a President's Award, which is awarded to students who demonstrate "outstanding leadership qualities and whose achievements have benefitted other students and contributed to the betterment of the University community".

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023-24 has been a time of quite a lot of change in faculty members considering the small size of our team. Founding faculty members Helen McDonald and Patty McNiven, who were both appointed in the Department of family medicine, retired at the start and the end of this year, respectively, leaving big shoes to fill! Kathi Wilson, who was one of the first MEP graduates in 1996, and most recently an Assistant Professor also retired at the end of this academic year.

Dr. Karen Lawford joined the Division as an Associate Professor in September 2023, and also became a Centre Scientist with the MMRC. Dr. Ginny Brunton, whose primary academic appointment is at Ontario Tech University also joined the MMRC as a Centre Scientist.



## DIVISION REPORTS

### First graduates from a graduate degree in midwifery in the country!

MSc in Midwifery graduates (L to R)  
Lynne-Marie Culliton,  
Claire Portigal, and  
Rebecca Hautala;

Photo: Keith Hautala.



## AWARDS OR HONOURS

Faculty member Dr. Liz Cates was the recipient of the MMRC's Early Career Researcher Award (\$30,000) for her project "Assessments of the mental health of midwifery students and needs for wellness programming".

Midwife and HRM graduate student Vanessa Hébert was awarded the MMRC Graduate Research Award (\$25,000) for her doctoral project "Investigating routine Pitocin prophylaxis for postpartum hemorrhage prevention following physiologic birth".

Assistant Dean, Midwifery, Dr. Liz Darling was promoted to Professor effective July 1, 2024.



Midwifery Division faculty and staff.

# 141

Students in  
Masters degree  
program

## ABSTRACTS & POSTER PRESENTATION

Karen Lawford, PhD and Rebekah Ingram, PhD. (November 2, 2023). Mapping desired health and care for Indigenous Peoples in Ontario, Canada. Polar Data Forum V. The British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK. 20.

Carol Couchie, BHSc, Lisa Boivin, PhD, Arthi Jeyamohan, MA, Melanie Murdock, MA, Sarah Durant, BA, Jacob Barry, MA, Erika Campbell, PhD(c), Karen Lawford, PhD. (June 11-14, 2023). Making visible the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic on pregnant indigenous peoples in Ontario who experience mandatory evacuation for birth [Poster]. 33rd International Confederation of Midwives, Bali, Indonesia.

Murray-Davis B. Insights into Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Screening and Counselling in Ontario: Exploring views of patients and providers. Oak Valley Health Alongside Midwifery Unit Rounds. November 2023;

Murray-Davis B, Ruby E. Patient Perspectives on GDM Screening. Association of Ontario Midwives Webinar. September 2023;

Murray Davis B. Midwives experiences within Canada's first alongside midwifery unit: impacts and implications for midwifery practice. McMaster Midwifery Research Centre Symposium. May 2023

Hadid D, Correia R., Greyson D., Kuyvenhoven C., Carruthers A., Mniszak C., McDonald SD, Darling E., Kandasamy S., Jones A., Howard M., Vanstone M.

Impact of COVID-19 on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus screening in Ontario: A mixed-methods study. Poster presentation. Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) Annual Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. May 14-16, 2024. (Poster, National)



Roberts N, Nath T, Walker M, Ray J, D'Souza Rohan, Shah P, Edwards W, Lavin Venegas C, Cook J, Barrett J, Darling E, Dore S, Dzakpasu D, Kasman N, Sprague A. (2024, June 2-7). Maternal Mortality in Ontario Hospitals between 2002/03-2021/22. CNPRM 2024 / DOHaD Canada 2024. Vancouver, BC. June 2-6, 2024 (Poster, National).



Hebert V, Darling E, Muraca G. Severe maternal morbidity by mode of delivery in the second stage of labour: a retrospective population-based cohort study of nulliparous people in Ontario, Canada 2013-2021. CNPRM 2024 / DOHaD Canada 2024. Vancouver, BC. June 2-6, 2024 (Poster, National).

Hadid D, Correia R, Greyson D, Kuyvenhoven C, Carruthers A, Mniszak C, McDonald SD, Darling E, Kandasamy S, Jones A, Howard M, Vanstone M. Impact of COVID-19 on



## DIVISION REPORTS

Gestational Diabetes Mellitus screening in Ontario: A mixed-methods study. Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Annual Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. May 14-16, 2024. (Poster, National).

Correia R, Bayrampour H, Greyson D, Pahwa M, Kirkwood D, Darling, L, Jones A, Howard M, Kuyvenhoven C, Liauw J, Vanstone M. (2024, May 14-16). New perinatal mental health diagnoses during COVID-19: A population-based, retrospective cohort study of birthing people in Ontario Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Annual Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. May 14-16, 2024. (Poster, National).

Correia R, Greyson D, Carruthers A, Kuyvenhoven C, Kirkwood D, Jones A, Howard M, Darling E, Davis A, McDonald S, Mniszak C, Kandasamy S, Vanstone M. Length and experience of staying in hospital postpartum during COVID-19: A convergent parallel mixed-methods study. Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research Annual Conference. Ottawa, Ontario. May 14-16, 2024. (Poster, National).



Dr. Liz Darling and Kai Montgomery, recipient of the Enkin Award and the President's Award.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS



Demers K. Rh-ally Important: The ABC of antibody screening in pregnancy, May 14, 2024. Alongside Midwifery Unit, Oak Valley Health Rounds.

Murray-Davis B. Service user experiences of continuity of midwifery care in Ontario Canada. Invited Keynote Speaker, University of Groningen Research Symposium, June 2024.

Lawford, K. (2024, June 5). Whose ethics? Academic research, white settler institutions, and Indigenous Peoples. McMaster Midwifery Graduate Program, McMaster University (Virtual).

Lawford, K. (2024, May 9). Bringing our babies from the stars: Returning to Indigenous midwifery. McMaster Midwifery Research Centre, McMaster University (Virtual).

Lawford, K. (2024, March 27). Indigenous birthworkers and Indigenous futures: Truth before reconciliation. Inaugural Speaker, Indigenous Speakers Series. Memorial University Department of Anthropology in partnership with The Rooms, St. John's, Newfoundland. <https://www.events.therooms.ca/Events/details/id/00004784>

Couchie, C., Leason, J., & Lawford, K. (2024, March 13). Resist, resurge, renew: Advancing the health

and wellness of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit birthing persons, children, and communities (Plenary). Eighth International Meeting on Indigenous Women's Health Stronger Together: Resilience and Healing. Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Lawford, K. (2024, February 27). Journeying through maternity care: Unveiling risks and recommendations for First Nations in Ontario. National Council of Indigenous Midwives National Forum (Virtual).

Durant, S., & Lawford, K. (2024, January 23). Conceptualizing risk for pregnant Indigenous Peoples' accessing maternity care in Canada. Global Council of Indigenous Midwives Hui, Waimārama Marae, Aotearoa.

Lawford K., Darling EK. (November 17, 2023). Accessing Prenatal and Postnatal Care from Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities. Northern Women's Health Conference, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Lawford K. (September 22, 2023). The Land as Kin: Indigenous Midwifery, Reconciliation, and a Return to Desire. Community Health Science College of Medicine-Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Bold Ideas Colloquium Series, The Pat Kaufert Memorial Lecture. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



## COURSES AND WORKSHOPS DIRECTED

Kathi Wilson taught several emergency skills workshops and neonatal resuscitation provider courses. Kate Demers also taught many neonatal resuscitation provider courses, as well as fetal health surveillance, and contraceptive care courses. Midwifery organized an ALARM course which ran in April 2024 and was attended by undergraduate midwifery students and obstetrics & gynecology residents.



# Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility



Division Lead:

**Megan F. Karnis, MD, FRCSC,**

Associate Professor and Division Head GREI  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
McMaster University

*GREI is operating clinically and academically from ONE Fertility, Burlington.*



We were fortunate to add a new academic/clinical team member, to our physician team, Dr. Karen Kteily. She comes to us most recently from the Royal College accredited GREI residency program at the University of Montreal. Prior to that, she completed a GREI fellowship in Brussels, Belgium. There are now five physicians at ONE Fertility, all with GREI subspecialty training and all active academically and clinically.

From an educational perspective, we continue to train GREI residents and currently have three, one of whom is on maternity leave. We have an internal review in October, for the GREI residency program and the Program Director, Dr. Mehrnoosh Faghih, has worked tirelessly to prepare for it and has done an excellent job. The residents report to us that they are very happy with the program. We continue to train residents in the Obstetrics and Gynecology program from McMaster as well as elective Ob/Gyn residents from other universities. We also teach McMaster Endocrinology residents, McMaster medical students and McMaster midwifery students, all on an elective basis.

New this year, we have started accepting students in McMaster's Physician Assistant program, during

their clinical rotations. We have had two PA students rotate through, each for a month. Each of them was excellent and we look forward to a long relationship with the program.

**New this year, we have started accepting students in McMaster's Physician Assistant program, during their clinical rotations.**

Our clinical and lab team remains very active in research. Highlights include two grants from the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society. Dr. Vasilias Vastis, PGY-7 in GREI and Dr. Lara Des Roches, PGY-7 in GREI each received a CFAS Training Grant for their respective research projects. Our Division had several presentations at the CFAS annual meeting; both oral and poster. In addition, Dr. Vastis was recognized at RT Weaver day with an award. Our Division also has many ongoing research projects with residents in the Ob/Gyn program. Our extensive list of research projects for the last year is below.



# ONE Fertility Research Papers

## Accepted Abstracts

- 1. Air pollution exposure effects on in vitro fertilization outcomes.** Dayan R, Deniz S, Amin S, Karnis MF, Holloway A, Neal MS, Adams M, Faghieh M.  
- Poster presentation at the PCRS meeting March 20-24, 2024.
- 2. Impact of transferring a collapsed blastocyst at FET on clinical outcomes.** Hickey K, Niazi H, Malik Z, Deniz S, Amin S, Karnis MF, Neal MS, Faghieh M.  
- Poster presentation at the PCRS meeting March 20-24, 2024.
- 3. Day of blastulation correlates with ploidy status and serves as a useful noninvasive parameter for ranking embryos from non-PGT-A patients for transfer.** Willoughby K, Neal T, DiPaolo L, Tovar M, Amin S, Deniz S, Faghieh M, Karnis M, and Neal MS  
.- Poster Presented at the apha IVF scientists meeting May 31-June 2, 2024 – Lisbon, Portugal.
- 4. The impact of sperm DNA fragmentation on ICSI outcomes.** Vastis V, Amin S, Deniz S, Faghieh M, Karnis M, and Neal MS.  
- Poster Presented at the Midwest Reproductive Symposia International (MRSI) – June 5-7, 2024 – Chicago, Illinois.
- 5. Assessing the relationship between estradiol oocyte ratio (EOR) and euploidy rates in women undergoing fertility treatment.** Kalpakis E, Becker B, Davis O, Deniz S, Amin S, Karnis MF, Faghieh M, Neal MS, Madan P.  
- Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) – Toronto – September 21-23, 2023 – Toronto.
- 6. The impact of a mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) program on patients seeking infertility treatment: a pilot randomized control trial.** Dayan R, Curran S, Ngo A, Neal MS, McGowan K, Gholiof M, Faghieh M. - Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) – Toronto – September 21-23, 2023 – Toronto.
- 7. Patient-Centred Care at the Fertility Clinic: A Focus Group.** Buwembo A, Deniz S, Amin S, Karnis MF.  
- Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) – Toronto – September 21-23, 2023 – Toronto.
- 8. Genetic and epigenetic effects of bisphenol exposure and polycystic ovarian syndrome in human granulosa cells.** Gallo JF, Sabry R, Rooney C, Amin S, Faghieh M, Karnis M, Neal MS, Favetta LA.  
- Poster presented at the annual Graduate Research Student Day – OVC, University of Guelph – Aug 16, 2023.
- 9. Sperm selection methods reduce DNA fragmentation index in samples with high initial values.** Paredes BJ, Hernández-Avilés C, Ramirez L, Favetta LA, Ribeiro ES, Diel Amorim M, Neal MS, Love CC, Chenier T.  
- Poster presented at the International Symposium of Equine Reproduction – Brazil – July 9-15, 2023.
- 10. Blastocoele expansion at time of FET effects clinical outcomes following vitrification on day 5 vs 6 of. Human embryos.** Niazi H, Malik Z, Hickey K, Amin S, Faghieh M, Karnis M, Neal MS.  
- Poster presented at the Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Canada Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference – Ottawa – June 6-9, 2023.
- 11. Vastis V, Neal MS, Amin S, Deniz S, Karnis M, and Faghieh M. Air Pollution and IVF Outcomes in the Burlington-Hamilton area: a retrospective study**  
-Submitted to the annual CFAS meeting – September 12-14, 2023, Vancouver

# DIVISION REPORTS

## ONE Fertility Research Summary – July 2023 – June 2024 cont'd

12. Shirani K, Faghiih M, Deniz S, Amin S, Karnis M, Neal MS. **Comparison of pregnancy outcomes in Ovulatory Frozen Transfer cycle with or without trigger and Non-Ovulatory FET cycles: a Retrospective Study**  
- Submitted to the annual CFAS meeting – September 12-14, 2023, Vancouver
13. Gray K, Smrzlic M, Amin S, Deniz S, Karnis M, Faghiih M, Neal MS. **Exploring patient and provider perceptions of patient-centred care**  
-Submitted to the annual CFAS meeting – September 12-14, 2023, Vancouver

### Ongoing Research Projects

Title: **Feasibility of wearable technology to collect biometric data compared with monitoring endocrinological profile(s) to predict ovulation and early pregnancy / pregnancy loss in women seeking infertility treatment: a pilot study.**

Local PI: M. Faghiih<sup>1,2</sup>

Co-investigators: V. Vastis<sup>1,2</sup> (fellow), J. Barrett<sup>1</sup>, M. Neal<sup>2</sup>, K. McGowan<sup>1</sup>, T. Chahine<sup>3</sup>, J. Chow<sup>3</sup>, M. Am<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>McMaster University, <sup>2</sup>ONE Fertility, <sup>3</sup>Myant.

- REB approved from Veritas
- Recruitment Phase

Title: **Creatinine rich dietary supplement to improve mitochondrial function in Human sperm.**

Local PI: M. Faghiih<sup>1,2</sup>

Co-investigators: M. Neal, M.Tarnopolsky, M. Nilsson, C. Evans, S. Amin, S. Deniz, M. Faghiih, M. Karnis

<sup>1</sup>McMaster University, <sup>2</sup>ONE Fertility

- Patient recruitment underway.

Title: **Molecular profiling of follicular fluid microRNAs of women taking SSRI medications while attempting a pregnancy with IVF.**

Principle Investigator(s): A. Buwembo, ONE Fertility

Co-investigators: M. Neal, A. Holloway, S. Amin, S. Deniz, M. Faghiih, M. Karnis

- Provisional REB; response in process.
- Manuscript in preparation

Title: **Air Pollutants and IVF Outcome Study**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Vasilisa Vastis<sup>1,2</sup>

Supervisor: Dr. Mehrnoosh Faghiih<sup>1,2</sup>

Co-Investigator(s): Meagan Quigley<sup>3</sup>, Natalia Feria<sup>2</sup>, Michael Neal<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>McMaster University, <sup>2</sup>ONE Fertility

- Data-mining complete and submitted to Dr. Adams for analysis.
- Manuscript in preparation



## ONE Fertility Research Summary – July 2023 – June 2024 cont'd

### Upcoming projects being developed

1. Morphological assessment of competence (“MAC”) scoring system to assess oocytes – Dr. A. JanMohammed.
2. Social media influencers: Who they are and about their REI content – Dr. L. Des Roches.
3. Validation of a Rapid Warming Method of vitrified human embryos – Lab Team Project.
4. Increasing the use of conventional IVF in appropriate patient populations – Dr. N. Reaka.



# ONE Fertility at the 70th Annual CFAS Meeting

70th Annual Meeting  
of the Canadian  
Fertility and  
Andrology Society  
Vancouver Sept. 12-14, 2024

## Winners of the 2024 CFAS Training Grants

Congratulations to our fellows for being recognized for their research proposals by each being awarded a CFAS training grant:




**Project Title:**

Feasibility of wearable technology to collect biometric data compared with monitoring endocrinological profile(s) to predict ovulation and early pregnancy/pregnancy loss in women seeking infertility treatment: a pilot study. WIIT.

**Vasilia Vastis, MB, BCH, BAO, FRCSC**  
GREI Fellow  
McMaster University/ONE Fertility

**Dr. Vasilia Vastis**  
Wearables In Infertility Treatment (WIIT) study





**Project Title:**

Trans female sperm parameters prior to gender affirming hormone therapy compared to WHO sperm reference standard; a retrospective, descriptive cohort study

**Lara Des Roches, BScN BA MD FRCSC**  
GREI Fellow  
McMaster University

**Dr. Lara Des Roches**  
Study investigating trans female sperm parameters


**Comparison of Pregnancy Outcomes in Ovulatory Frozen Transfer Cycle With or Without Trigger and Non-Ovulatory FET Cycles: A Retrospective Study**  
Kusha Shirani<sup>1</sup>, Mehrnoosh Faghghi<sup>2,3</sup>, Stacy Deniz<sup>2,3</sup>, Shilpa Amin<sup>2,3</sup>, Megan Karnik<sup>2,3</sup>, Michael S. Neal<sup>2,3</sup>

1. Department of Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Science, McMaster University;  
2. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McMaster University, Hamilton;  
3. ONE Fertility Clinic, Burlington, Ontario.

**BEST NURSING PAPER**

Kelly Gray (RN, BSN, MSN), Maja Smrzlic (RN, BSN) and Michael Neal (BSc, MSc)

Project Title: Exploring patient and provider perceptions of patient-centred care



**Kelly Gray is awarded the Best Nursing Paper Award.**





Laura A. Favetta, PhD  
Associate Professor  
University of Guelph

Project Title:  
Bisphenols, AMH and sperm  
fertilization capability

Dr. Veronika Magdanz  
Systems Design Engineering  
University of Waterloo

Project Title:  
Quantum sensing of human  
semen for direct oxidative

Dr. Faghieh and our two award-winning Fellows

### Winners of the 2024 CFAS Training Grants

We are collaborators listed for both of the 2024 CFAS SEED Grants awarded.

**1.** PI: Dr. Laura Favetta, OVC, University of Guelph  
Co-investigator: M. Neal, ONE Fertility, McMaster University

*Impact of bisphenols and endocrine disrupting chemicals on sperm function.*

This is an extension of our ongoing collaboration with the Favetta Lab in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph.

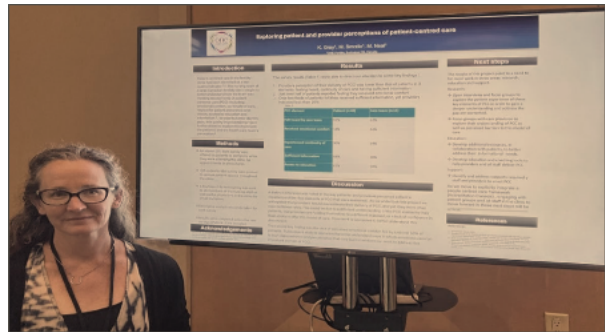
**2.** PI: Dr. Veronika Magdanz, Systems Design Engineering, University of Waterloo

Co-investigator: M. Neal, ONE Fertility, McMaster University

*Quantum sensing of human semen for direct oxidative stress detection.*

This is an exciting new collaboration with a new faculty member in the Department of Engineering at the University of Waterloo who is exploring real-time diagnostic evaluation of sperm.

Kelly Gray and Dr. Vastis present their research at the Poster session!



# Maternal Fetal Medicine



Division Lead:

**Dr. Bryon F. De France, BSc, MD, MSc, FRCS(C)**

Chief Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Division Head Maternal Fetal  
Medicine, Hamilton Health  
Sciences

Associate Professor, Department  
of Obstetrics and Gynecology &  
Department of Diagnostic  
Imaging

McMaster University, Hamilton

*The Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) Division continues its long tradition of leadership across the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.*

Notable examples include Dr. Sapna Sharma (Residency Program Director), Dr. Michelle Morais (Faculty Development Lead and Chair of the Wellness Committee for the Residency Program), Dr. Bryon De France (Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Hamilton Health Sciences), Dr. Gharid Nourallah (Program Director, Obstetric Hospitalist Fellowship Program), Dr. Jon Barrett (Chair, McMaster University Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology), and Dr. Ali Marseu (Chair, QA Committee for Obstetrics).



Dr. Michelle Morais

This year, Dr. Eran Ashwal assumed the role of MFM Lead for Fetal Diagnostic Services, and Dr. Michelle Morais took on the role of MFM Lead for General Clinical Services, succeeding responsibilities previously held by Dr. Ali Marseu during her temporary leave. Their

leadership is instrumental in streamlining departmental processes and ensuring continued success. Additionally, Dr. Gharid Nourallah, as

Program Director of the MFM Fellowship, continues to attract and train outstanding candidates, producing top-tier specialists sought after nationally and internationally.

Under Dr. Nourallah's stewardship, the division also launched Canada's first Obstetric Hospitalist Fellowship Program, designed for internationally trained obstetricians and gynecologists. This fellowship



Dr. Gharid Nourallah Bekdache

enhances McMaster's global reputation and supports Global Health Education initiatives, including a two-year high-risk obstetric fellowship tailored to the needs of the Guyana community. This year, the program welcomed Dr. Ademola Biala, who brings valuable experience from Guyana, where he worked as an attending specialist after completing his Master's degree.

Dr. Eran Ashwal spearheaded multiple innovations, including restoring fetal rounds and obtaining RCOG accreditation, which significantly enhanced program credibility. Dr. Swati Agrawal developed expertise in neurosonography and partnered with Dr. Eran Ashwal leading to monthly fetal-neuro rounds and weekly case reviews with neurology, neuroimaging, and pathology. Together, they authored eight protocols, introduced a neurosonogram protocol, and trained

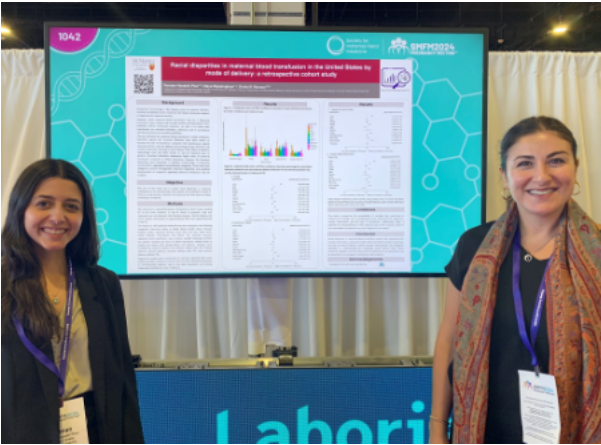


“...the division also launched Canada’s first Obstetric Hospitalist Fellowship Program, designed for internationally trained obstetricians and gynecologists.”

sonographers, advancing clinical practice and multidisciplinary care.

The Division’s success would not be possible without the unwavering dedication and expertise of our outstanding team of physician assistants, genetic counselors, and nursing staff. Their tireless efforts, day in and day out, are the foundation of all our achievements.

In summary, the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division has had an outstanding year of leadership, innovation, and recognition. We eagerly anticipate continued growth and success in the coming year.



### Remarkable Achievements

The division celebrated a number of particularly remarkable achievements this year:

- At the **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) Pregnancy Meeting** in February 2024, our team showcased cutting-edge science in obstetrics through workshops, presentations, and scientific forums.
- **Dr. Michelle Morais** received the **Carl Nimrod Educator Award** from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) in November 2023, honoring her excellence, innovation, and leadership in education.
- **Dr. Sarah McDonald** was recognized with the **National Excellence in Research Award** at the SOGC’s 80th Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference in June 2024, acknowledging her outstanding contributions to scientific leadership and maternal-fetal medicine research. She also participated in a **Canadian Neonatal Network and EPIQ panel discussion** on cord management at birth, demonstrating her influence on neonatal care standards across Canada. Dr. McDonald has continued adding to her outstanding research as evidenced by her additional publications.
- **Dr. Rohan D’Souza** has also continued an enviable performance in Grant awards and publications beyond the scope of mention here; for more on his prolific achievements and that of **Dr. McDonald** and the rest of the Division see the section on Research and Publications.

# Administration Report



Director:

**Frances C. Roesch, B.P.R., M.H.A., FACHE**

Director of Administration,

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Business Manager,

Hamilton Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Associates

*Our administrative staff support the academic, research, and clinical work of the department.*

We have a talented, dedicated team, that continues to grow in tandem with the recruitment of faculty and success of the department. In the years following the Covid-19 pandemic, we have maintained a hybrid work environment for staff. It has been a request of staff continuing with the department and for new recruits to our team. Regardless of where we are working, our focus continues to be a strong service philosophy. This was a central theme for our department staff retreat, including sessions on gratitude and empathy – how we show up in the workplace and how this impacts those around us. Gathering for the retreat from all sites fosters collaboration and gives us time together in person.

We continue to support development for our team members. To augment the continuing education and tuition benefits for McMaster employees, the department has implemented a staff development benefit. This provides each continuing staff member who has completed their probation period with up to \$200 annually for textbooks, memberships or other learning materials not included in the McMaster benefits.

We also encouraged research staff to take OCAP training through the First Nations Information Governance Centre. The course explores the importance of First Nations Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession of First Nations data and we had 10 department members successfully complete the training this year.

Our department research administration team has grown this year. With the increase in grant funding (Tri-council and other) for our faculty, the need for research support has also grown. We now have three department research staff members who provide support in the pre-award phase, and can be retained for specific projects post-award. This model creates attractive continuing positions for staff and excellent support for our faculty's research programs.

***“Regardless of where we are working, our focus continues to be a strong service philosophy.”***

I would like to extend special recognition to two teams that had some significant staffing challenges this year. Our medical admins in the 2F area were exceptionally short-handed for many months. Thank you to Jennifer Laframboise and Jennifer Corine for taking on additional duties to ensure patient care was not disrupted and our

faculty were supported. Thanks to Shannon–Leigh Chandler in our MFM medical admin team for lending a hand to assist her 2F colleagues. The education team also had multiple departures and recruits in a short period of time. Eliot Rwatirera, Heather Shiskoski, Aynsley Reeves, Sneha Datta Kataria and Jaime Fallon pulled together, covering unfamiliar roles and responsibilities with grace, minimizing gaps and supporting our learners and education leaders. Congratulations to Colleen Ballagh, Operations Coordinator, a nominee for the

President’s Awards for Outstanding Service in 2023. Her constant anticipation of needs, preparedness for whatever comes, and willingness to lend a hand motivated Administrative Coordinator Katie Naccarato to lead a nomination for Colleen.

These specific examples highlight our administrative team’s commitment to service and to each other. It is immensely rewarding to work with such a fine team to support our distinguished faculty, learners and patients.



RESEARCH REPORTS

# Research Reports

RESEARCH UPDATE

RT WEAVER ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC DAY

SOGC EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARD

2023 GAIRDNER LECTURE

MOHIDE LECTURESHIP





# Research Update



**Dr. Alison Holloway BSc, PhD**  
Professor, Associate Chair (Research)  
McMaster University

*It has been another highly successful research year for our faculty.*

We have had considerable success obtaining Tri-Council (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC) funding as well as awards from Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization, HHS and the Juravinski Research Institute. The funded projects cover a wide range of work in women's health including development of a sex-specific model to predict preeclampsia, commercialization of a diagnostic test for endometriosis and a multi-disciplinary study to reduce severe maternal morbidity and mortality. In addition, our learners continue to be successful at the national level winning awards to support their graduate training.

**“...collaborative projects are the foundation of our Departmental goal to deliver bench to bedside research goals.”**

We are also seeing the benefit of our quarterly department research rounds as the number of inter-departmental collaborations continues to grow. These collaborative projects are the foundation of our Departmental goal to deliver bench to bedside research goals.

As we finish an extremely successful 2023, I look forward to seeing how our department continues to grow in 2024 and beyond!



# RESEARCH REPORTS

We have made huge progress in terms of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality, specifically with the ground-breaking work by Dr. Rohan D'Souza and Dr. Giulia Muraca.



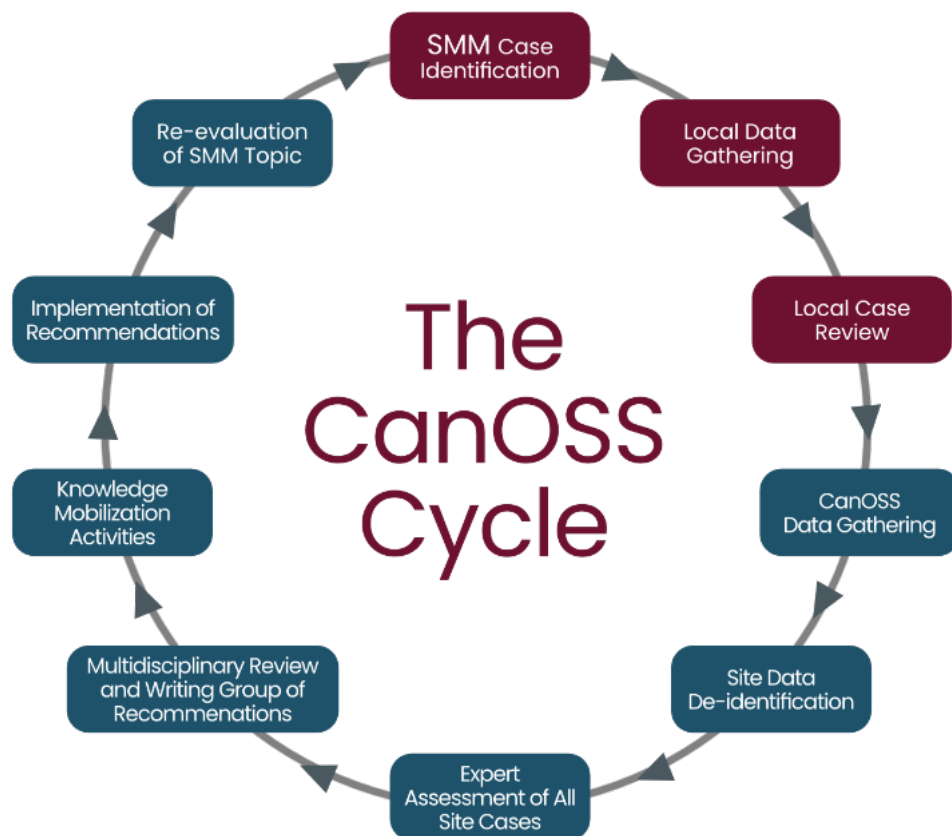
Dr. Rohan D'Souza

Dr. Rohan D'Souza is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician, clinical epidemiologist, Associate Professor cross-appointed with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI), and a Tier-II Canada Research Chair in Maternal Health. Dr. D'Souza has established FLOURISH (<https://dsouzalab.healthsci.mcmaster.ca/>), a family-centred, clinical research group focused on improving pregnancy and post-pregnancy outcomes. FLOURISH research faculty, statisticians, epidemiologists, staff, fellows, graduate, and undergraduate students have been working on many projects focussing on severe maternal morbidity (SMM).

The Canadian Obstetric Survey System (CanOSS.ca) is a key project that is building an infrastructure in Hamilton, in Ontario, and across Canada to collect and confidentially review clinical and contextual patient data by interdisciplinary teams to provide recommendations and knowledge mobilization activities to reduce the incidence of SMM.

CanOSS Hamilton is beginning work to review local SMM cases in the Hamilton region with Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and McMaster University. This quality improvement initiative will help to build and test the overarching CanOSS process, by designing the data platform, collating local SMM data, and shaping the structure of CanOSS cycle (Figure 1), while examining any systemic factors to help reduce SMM locally.

CanOSS Ontario, part of the Juravinski Research Initiative-funded SERENE Study (<https://www.serenestudy.ca/>) awarded in March 2024, is



## Key Provincial Partners

- the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)
- the Better Outcomes Registry Network (BORN) Ontario
- the Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health (PCMCH)

also helping to establish the overall CanOSS infrastructure, at a larger scale (McMaster researchers awarded \$1.9 million from JRI to study severe maternal morbidity). The project is interviewing clinicians from across Ontario who are involved in maternal morbidity reviews to determine how best to integrate existing processes. This research will culminate in a 3-day workshop in May 2025 to collaboratively design the CanOSS cycle that includes key provincial partners such as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the Better Outcomes Registry Network (BORN) Ontario, the Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health (PCMCH), and other organizations involved in maternal mortality and morbidity surveillance in Ontario. The aim is to commence the first province-wide CanOSS study in 2025 that will review cases of massive obstetric haemorrhage.

The FLOURISH lab is also leading Outcome Reporting in Obstetric Studies (OROS) <https://oros-project.com/>, a consortium of healthcare professionals, researchers, trainees, students, current and former patients, and members of the general public working to standardize the reporting and measurement of core outcomes

**\$2.3**  
million in research funding from JRI

sets (COS) in obstetric studies, which are standardized and validated minimum sets of outcomes to be reported and measured in

obstetric studies. Some of our current projects include: developing COS for high-risk pregnancy conditions, standardizing composite adverse obstetric outcomes, and deriving and validating a tool to assess the comprehensiveness of outcome reporting in obstetric trials.

Dr. D'Souza's recent publications on CanOSS, OROS, and other collaborative projects can be found at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Rohan+D%27Souza&sort=date>.

Over the last year, the Perinatal Epidemiology Research Lab (PERL), led by Dr. Giulia Muraca, was awarded more than \$2.3 million in research funding from the Juravinski Research Institute (JRI), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the



Dr. Giulia Muraca

Marta and Owen Boris Foundation, and the PSI foundation. These funds have been dedicated to advancing knowledge in prevention and management of severe maternal morbidity (SMM), pregnancy-related mental illness, obstetric and neonatal trauma, and preterm birth. Additionally, PERL members have been awarded over \$10,000 in travel and conferences prizes. Of note, Drs. Muraca, D'Souza, and colleagues have launched the JRI-supported SERENE study (SERENE: Supportive, Evidence-informed, Responsive, and Equity-oriented prevention-and care model to reduce the incidence and NEgative impacts of SMM). Over the last year the SERENE team has mapped the



# RESEARCH REPORTS

incidence of SMM across time, regions, and health equity stratifiers in the province of Ontario and established a Lived Experience Advisory Network of individuals who have experienced SMM to partner on these projects and guide SERENE research.

In terms of knowledge translation, the PERL has published 15 papers over the last year in high-impact peer-reviewed journals such as the BMJ, the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and JAMA Network Open. These publications focus on various topics such as maternal mortality, SMM, chorioamnionitis, peripartum hysterectomy, HELLP syndrome, uterine incision extension, episiotomy, obstetric trauma, impacted fetal head extraction, stillbirth, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and preterm birth. The findings of these studies have been featured on CBC's The Current, and televised segments on CBC, CTV, Global, and CHCH News, as well as a variety of print media. Lastly, over the past year, members of the PERL have presented their work nationally and internationally at the inaugural European Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology meeting in Stockholm, the 2024 SMFM Pregnancy meeting in National Harbour, the Canadian Society for Pelvic Medicine in Montreal, the Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting in Vancouver, and the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research in Austin.



Dr. Samantha Wilson

Dr. Samantha Wilson and the work that her lab has done have secured many grants to support their research some of which include two CIHR grants – a CIHR operating grant to assess sex specific changes associated with preeclampsia in cell-free placental DNA and CIHR-SickKids Foundation early career grant to look at tissue specific patterns associated with preeclampsia in cell-free placental DNA. They have also received a Canadian fertility and Andrology society SEED grant to assess changes in the blastocyst associated with preimplantation genetic testing. In addition to this, they have received the NFRF

exploration grant in collaboration with Dr. Boyang Zhang (Engineering) and Dr. Sandy Raha (Peds) to develop placental on a chip models to mimic early and late onset preeclampsia and the JP Bickell medical grant to assess differences in immune cell composition associated with early and late onset preeclampsia. One of Dr. Wilson's graduate students, Melanie Lemaire, has a paper on assessing sex-specific differences in placental DNA methylation in IVF pregnancies now on bioarxiv and submitted to journal. Another of Dr. Wilson's graduate students, Natalie Yuen has a review paper that is anticipated to be published soon.

Dr. Alison Holloway has created unique partnerships with Indigenous community Elders and land-users in Alberta to co-develop research projects designed to investigate the impact of chemical exposures related to resource extraction (e.g. coal mining, bitumen extraction and logging) on health outcomes. These projects include participatory community-based projects to enable two-way exchanges of information and facilitate the co-production (and analysis) of knowledge designed to link exposures of community concern to a broad definition of health outcomes, ensuring that Indigenous ways of knowing are recognized as valid forms of research.



Dr. Alison Holloway

## COLLABORATION

Another exciting update to note is with regard to our collaboration on projects with other departments such as the work being done with Dr. Deb Sloboda and Dr. Kate Kennedy in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences. Some of the work includes the following:

### Good Bugs Study

**Study Description:** Streptococcus agalactiae (Group B Streptococcus; GBS) is the leading cause of invasive neonatal infections and is linked to



adverse pregnancy outcomes. The overarching goal of the Good Bugs Study is to advance the understanding of microbial factors that influence GBS colonization and infection. To do this, we are searching the maternal microbiota for bacterial strains with antimicrobial or immunostimulatory properties that can protect against GBS colonization and virulence.

**Study Update:** So far, we have collected swabs from 15 out of 100 planned participants. Thank you to all of the staff in Labour & Delivery and Postpartum for their ongoing support!

**Funding:** This study is funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research, the Molly Towell Perinatal Research Foundation, and the Farncombe Family Digestive Health Research Institute.

and

### **Understanding the Microbiome During Pregnancy:**

**Study Description:** We have previously shown that pre-pregnancy BMI and gestational weight gain impact maternal gut microbial communities in a manner that is influenced by parity. In this study, we will be performing metagenomic analysis to investigate whether gut microbial function is influenced by these factors. Samples for this study are part of a previous study that collected stool over the course of pregnancy.

**Study Update:** Samples have been selected for analysis and are in the queue for sequencing analysis.

**Funding:** This study is funded by the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation.

I am so glad that we have the opportunity to collaborate with other departments within the University.

Another important update is the leading international work on preterm birth led by Dr. Sarah McDonald. Dr. McDonald is a Maternal-Fetal

Medicine specialist, Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster University, and a Tier II Canada Research Chair.



Dr. Sarah McDonald

Her research focuses on preterm birth and has informed national guidelines from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) and Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS). She is one of the leads of the Canadian Preterm Birth Network funded by the government health granting agency, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). With a goal of improving health care through evidence-based synthesis of research and identification of gaps in current knowledge, she has contributed over 40 systematic reviews on prevention of preterm birth and its adverse sequelae, including international award-winning ones.

She provides national leadership in preterm birth including for organizations like the Public Health Agency of Canada as a member to the External Advisory Committee of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System which focuses on preterm birth as a key perinatal indicator.

She enjoys providing research training in preterm birth to a range of students, residents, graduate students, postdocs, and visiting professors.

She is excited to be working with Canadian and international clinicians, researchers and parents to answer the question of whether one dose of betamethasone gives similar newborn outcomes as two doses in The Single Dose of Antenatal Corticosteroids (SNACS) Randomized Control Trial for Pregnancies at Risk of Preterm Delivery.

We also have world leadership in Endometriosis

**40+**  
systemic reviews  
on prevention of  
preterm birth

# RESEARCH REPORTS



Dr. Mathew Leonardi

from Dr. Mathew Leonardi. The Leonardi Research Group has brought in roughly \$1.6 million in grant funding over the past year, focusing on endometriosis research. The team has been productive with project initiation, publication, and presentations around the world. Members of the Leonardi Research Group have published 15 papers during the academic period, including the latest SOGC Guideline No. 449: Diagnosis and Impact of Endometriosis - A Canadian Guideline. Dr. Leonardi has been invited to 20 congresses/meetings during this academic year, nationally and internationally, speaking on a variety of subjects from endometriosis to adenomyosis to infertility. Mahsa Gholiof and Shay Freger successfully defended their Masters, with Shay continuing to his PhD. Dr. Leonardi's work is amplified with the significant amount of media publications, and interviews about his work and contributions to endometriosis research which provides a global reach for the work that he does within our department.



Dr. Julie Nguyen

Important contributions also come from Dr. Julie Nguyen and

her work on Frailty in the Gynecologic Oncology population. The FARGO study, a multi-centre prospective study across 4 sites in Ontario, has now recruited over 50% of its planned 280 patient target. She has presented her other studies on frailty, which use the ICES and CLSA databases, at the IGCS and ICFSR annual conferences. She has received several new grants, including \$40,000 towards the development of guidelines on frailty in endometrial cancer. She will lead a team of experts at the International Society of Geriatric Oncology.

Catherine Friedman, Melin Peng-Franklin and Shikha Kuthiala, supervised by Julie Nguyen (PI) and Val Mueller, investigated the experiences and perspectives of racism among trainees in Canadian Postgraduate Training



Dr. Valerie Mueller

programs. The project was presented locally at RT Weaver and at SJHH, as well as nationally at the SOGC and International Congress on Academic Medicine annual meetings.



# RT Weaver Annual Scientific Day

*This is an annual event that is hosted within our Department for the obstetricians and gynecologists, residents in the postgraduate medical education program, and graduate research students to attend.*



Dr. Richard T. Weaver

This special day was established in 1974 by the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology to honour the first academic obstetrician in Hamilton and the chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Henderson Hospital, Dr. Richard T.

Weaver. He was one of the first consultant obstetricians and gynecologists in Hamilton. He established his practice in 1933 and was the first to limit his practice exclusively to this specialty. Dr. Weaver was chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Hamilton Civic Hospitals from 1942–58. He was a significant force in Canada in promoting gynecology as a specialty and in raising the standards of gynecological care. Dr. Weaver was especially skillful at vaginal surgery and was mainly responsible for its widespread use in Canada. Dr. Weaver retired from active practice in 1973. Just prior to his death in 1974, he was the guest speaker at this first dinner and made the initial presentation of the award.



Dr. Amanda Selk

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology hosted the RT Weaver Annual Scientific Day on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 with a special guest lecturer, Dr. Amanda Selk. This was the first one hosted in-person since

2019! Dr. Selk is an Academic Obstetrician Gynecologist and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. She created and coordinates

the vulvar gynecology-dermatology clinic and is the clinical lead for colposcopy at Women's College Hospital. She's Vice-Chair of the Medical Advisory Council Of Women's College Hospital. She is the immediate Past President of the North American Chapter of International Society for the study of Vulvovaginal Disease (ISSVD). She is the Immediate Past President of the Society of Canadian Colposcopists. She is the Social Media Editor of the Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease and host of the popular medical podcast "The Vulva Diaries." She created and supervises a postgraduate fellowship training in vulvovaginal health.

Dr. Amanda Selk's presentation was fantastic, we had an amazing turn out and so wonderful to see everyone in person!

## Congratulations to our Award Winners!

### **Dr. Vasilia Vastis, Fellow**

"Air Pollution and IVF outcomes in the Burlington-Hamilton area: a retrospective study."

### **Ebonee Lennord, Undergraduate**

"The colour we do not see: A scoping review of Black maternal health in Canada."

### **Dr. Sahra Nathoo, Resident**

"Assessment of Burnout in Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents: A Longitudinal Cohort Study."

### **Melanie Lemaire, Graduate**

"Investigating the impact of in vitro fertilization on the placental methylome"

# SOGC Excellence in Research Award Winner



## DR. SARAH MCDONALD

**Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology**

McMaster University

Member, Centre for Metabolism, Obesity, and Diabetes Research (MODR), Faculty of Health Sciences

Canada Research Chair in Maternal and Child Obesity Prevention and Intervention, McMaster University

*Congratulations to Dr. Sarah McDonald on being the 2024 recipient for the SOGC Excellence in Research Award!*

Dr. McDonald is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist (high risk obstetrician) and Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster University. As a Clinician-Scientist her research is supported by a Canada Research Chair. Her clinical work deals with high-risk pregnancies and her research focuses on preterm birth prevention and interventions. Dr. McDonald has substantially contributed to the field of knowledge synthesis of preterm birth, with a goal of improving health and identifying knowledge gaps. Dr. McDonald has done substantial work in terms of the quality and quantity of publications, she has achieved great success in grant writing, has proven experience with mentorship and supervision, her leadership has been shown throughout her entire career both nationally and internationally, and has been the recipient of well-deserved awards.

The Excellence in Research Award recognizes outstanding scientific leadership, research mentoring, creative effort and major research accomplishments of a Canadian researcher (or research group). Her groundbreaking research focuses on the prevention of preterm birth and its subsequent effects on infants, women, and families, positioning her as a leader in maternal-fetal medicine. Dr. McDonald's contributions have shaped national guidelines from the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) and the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS). She is one of the leads of the Canadian Preterm Birth Network funded by the government health granting agency, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and is currently spearheading the Single Dose of Antenatal Corticosteroids (SNACS) Randomized Control Trial for Pregnancies at Risk of Preterm Delivery. Congratulations again, Dr. McDonald!



# The 2023 Gairdner Lecture Visiting Professor: Dr. José Belizán

Back in October 2023, we had the privilege of hosting one of the 2023 Gairdner Award Winners while he visited McMaster University. Dr. José Belizán is the winner of the 2023 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. He delivered a presentation to the University on his ground-breaking work: **Calcium for Preventing Hypertension During Pregnancy: The Research Journey from Observation to Population-Level Implementation.**

We then had the opportunity to present to him and discuss our current initiatives. It was a fantastic day all around!



Dr. Jon Barrett introduces Dr. José Belizán, winner of the 2023 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.



Left to Right: Dr. Rohan D'Souza, Dr. Jonathan Bramson, Dr. Jon Barrett, Dr. José Belizán, Rebecca Seymour, Jeni Zering, Dr. Giulia Muraca, Dr. Esther Chin.

# Mohide Lectureship



**Dr. Patrick Mohide**

Past Chair, Professor Emeritus

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, McMaster University

The Mohide Lectureship was established by Dr. Patrick T. Mohide in 2013 to recognize published work by members of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and/or McMaster University. Dr. Mohide served as chair of the Department from 1999 to 2010 and is a professor emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at McMaster University.

## SHARING KEY RESEARCH

The goal is to share with other members of the Department, and the University as a whole, key research performed by members of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and McMaster University.

The 2024 winner was Dr. Giulia Muraca, her paper titled: *"Maternal and neonatal trauma during forceps and vacuum delivery must not be overlooked."* Her feature presentation: "Maternal and neonatal trauma: Quantitative data, patient perspectives and considering the path forward" was presented at this year's Grand Rounds session in April.



Dr. Giulia Muraca presented with the award from Dr. Jon Barrett.

# Education Reports

EDUCATION UPDATE

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

POSTGRADUATE UPDATE





# Education Update



**Dr. Valerie Mueller, MD, FRCSC, DipABLM**

Associate Professor, Associate Chair,  
Education, CBD Lead  
McMaster University

*The work of the Associate Chair, Education (ACE) covers a broad portfolio. This includes providing support to the educational leadership, organizing educational events within the Department, and supporting wellness initiatives.*

## SUCCESSFUL ACCREDITATION

This past year has required a significant amount in preparation for the PGME accreditation. Fortunately, our Program Directors' hard work was recognized by successful accreditation of all of our Department's postgraduate training programs. Congratulations and many thanks to the Program Directors for their dedication to creating innovative training programs for our postgraduate learners. It should be noted that our subspecialty postgraduate training programs have embraced an innovative approach to assessment within Competence by Design by developing a Combined Competence Committee with representatives from each sub-specialty reviewing progress of learners from all of the sub-specialty programs.

## ADDITIONAL TWO WEEKS TRAINING IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Under the leadership of Dr. Jean Chamberlain, we have been able to re-introduce an additional two weeks of training in Women's Health for our McMaster medical students in order to optimize their exposure and learning in the field.



Dr. Jean Chamberlain

From the Faculty Development side of things, we have continued with our weekly Department Rounds via Zoom which are broadcast beyond Hamilton to our community partners as well. Covering various topics across the field of Obstetrics & Gynecology, as well as related research, medical education, and physician wellness topics, we are continuing to have excellent attendance with highly evaluated presentations. In recognizing the stressors and compassion fatigue facing our Department members, we dedicated two faculty retreats towards addressing some of the challenges we have been facing. We were fortunate to have Dr. Smita Halder, Senior Medical Officer Hamilton Health Sciences and Physician Coach, facilitate multiple sessions within these retreats with the



## COMBINED COMPETENCE COMMITTEE

Representatives from each sub-specialty  
will review progress of learners.



purpose of improved communication, collaboration, and peer support. Moving forward, the ACE will be taking on the responsibility of working with faculty members to assist them through the process of promotion.

## ALIGNMENT OF FACULTY AND TRAINEE WELLNESS EVENTS

Furthering the work towards improving faculty wellness, the Faculty Wellness Committee has worked diligently to organize events that foster community amongst our Department members.

We have begun acknowledging the work of our faculty members in our monthly newsletter in order to recognize the daily work that people do. We have created a list of faculty members who have agreed to act as peer supports for those facing challenging situations. The Associate Chair, Education has become a member of the Resident Wellness Committee in order to help align faculty and trainee wellness events.

The work moving forward will continue to be fostering the development of innovative curriculum and assessment strategies within education, striving to provide exceptional learning opportunities for our Department members and continuing to identify and support wellness initiatives.



# Undergraduate Program for Obstetrics and Gynecology



**Dr. Jean Chamberlain MD**

Professor

Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Undergraduate Medical Education Director  
McMaster University

*The McMaster Undergraduate Division of Obstetrics & Gynecology caters to 208 students each year across the three campuses, i.e. Hamilton, Waterloo and Niagara.*

The clerks have a 4-week placement and rotate through their clerkship during their second and third year in groups of 24 clerks. The clerks are placed in a variety of hospital settings, ranging from larger cities (Hamilton, St Catharines, Kitchener-Waterloo), and medium-sized community settings (Brantford, Brampton, Burlington, Barrie, Newmarket & Oakville) as well as more rural sites (Orangeville & Alliston).

## WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY

To begin their exposure to ObGyn, Undergraduate medical students participate in the Women's Health Day (Transition to Clerkship): These 2 days are dedicated to Women's Health and includes hands-on skills and an overview of women's health as students begin their clerkship.

## HANDS-ON CLERKSHIP WITH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

During each block, clerks are provided hands-on experience in triage, L&D, OR and Gyne clinics as well as to academic sessions focused on providing the clerks an introduction to a variety of specialization areas of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Prior to their placement, clerks attend an OB Simulation session that equips them with the knowledge of how to collect the patient details in triage, demonstration of how to conduct a pap smear etc.

## ACADEMIC HALF DAYS

Every Friday afternoon (of the 4 week rotation) is dedicated to Academic Half Days comprised of four 1-hr sessions in which over 12 specializations (gynecology oncology, amenorrhea, contraception, STI, HPV, menopause, etc.) are introduced to the clerks using case studies and ongoing research. In a year, the program provides 24 Academic Half Days and 96 sessions

undertaken by various McMaster Faculty members. Students also have access to on-line modules (24) which include a pre and post test. There is a large number of PowerPoints, videos and modules available online for students to augment their knowledge.

## TRANSITION TO RESIDENCY

A week long transition to residency program has been initiated from 2024 in the form of mid and large group sessions in providing clerks an opportunity to get an understanding of scope of being in residency in the OB Specialization.

We will soon be adding TWO-week rotations for ALL students in Jan to Apr 2026. This will be in addition to their 4-week CORE rotation.

## EVALUATION

Clerks are to meet the program requirements by undertaking a range of ongoing evaluations that are self-driven as well as include feedback from their site supervisors and residents. The clerks complete their rotation on passing an end of term exam (NBME) conducted & proctored virtually as well as the clinical evaluation completed by their on-site supervisor.

Pictures from the Women's Health Day (Nov 2023)



# Postgraduate Update



**Dr. Sapna Sharma MD, FRCSC**

Assistant Professor  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency Program Director  
McMaster University

*The past academic year has been an exciting one, with several notable transitions.*

I formally took over the role of Program Director in January 2024. My goal is continue in the spirit of my predecessor, Dr. Michelle Morais, in supporting residency education and training by continuing to maintain a strong curriculum, while also striving to support the professional and personal well-being of our resident cohort. In addition to this transition, we have also welcomed several new members to our education team. Together we have been growing into our roles, while striving to provide excellent training to our residents.

## FULL ACCREDITATION

The 2023–2024 academic year was an exciting one. We started the year with the announcement that the program had received full accreditation with follow up at the next regular review. Congratulations to the team for all of their hard work during the accreditation process!

We then kicked off the year with the annual welcome barbeque at Dr. Morais’ home. This very well attended event brought together residents (including the new additions to our program!) and faculty for a fun evening and delicious food.

With another lovely autumn came the annual resident retreat. The retreat was well received by the residents, and continues to be a highlight of the program.

There were several other exciting events that occurred over the past year. We had a very well attended education retreat in the winter. The beautiful venue set the stage for what was thoughtful and provoking discussion amongst the faculty in the morning, followed by important discussion around key concepts in the afternoon with our residents.

We were fortunate to have another successful CaRMS match this year, and have welcome 9 new residents into our program! We look forward to working with this new cohort over the next several years, and thank all the members of the Department who participated in the process. Without you, it would not be possible.

## SUPPORTING RESIDENCY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We also had another successful annual Research Day at the Royal Botanical Gardens. We welcomed guest speaker Dr. Amanda Selk, who gave us a wonderful talk on her experiences with research over the course of her career. We then heard from our many amazing and accomplished residents,



fellows, medical students, and graduate students. Congratulations to award winners: Drs. Sahra Nathoo and Vasilina Vastis, as well as Ebonee Lennord and Melanie Lemaire.

Congratulations are also in order for our PGY5 cohort who all successfully passed their Royal College exams, and have since transitioned into fellowships and practice across North America.

We ended the year with our annual Graduation and Resident Appreciation Night. The event was a lovely showcase of our graduates, in addition to a celebration of our amazing residents.

Our resident wellness committee continues to elicit and respond to resident feedback, and has organized several events this year for the cohort. These have included a group fitness class and pottery painting.

As we reflect on the past year, it is important to acknowledge the hard work of our Education team, the participation and dedication of our faculty towards resident education, and the hard work of our residents. The people are the hallmark of any program, and we are fortunate to have a wonderful community here at McMaster.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our PGY5 cohort who successfully passed their Royal College exams and have transitioned into fellowships and practices across North America.



## GRADUATES JUNE 30, 2023 – JULY 1, 2024

Alice Buwembo	Melissa Marien
Anne Marie Bergeron	Misgav Rottenstreich
Giuliana Guarna	Rayan Itani
Ido Mick	Sahra Nathoo
Lina Ibrahim	Samantha Shiplo
Maryam Kotait	Sarah Saliba
Melin Peng Franklin	Shikha Kuthiala
Melissa Lavecchia	

# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



**Dr. Victor Shola Akinsooto, MBBS,  
FCOG(SA), FRCSC, REI**

Assistant Clinical Professor

Associate Chair Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

McMaster University

## STRATEGIC VISION FOR ANTI-RACISM AND ANTI- OPPRESSION (ARAO)

As part of our ongoing commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, we are proud to share our strategic vision for the Department: Our vision is to establish a culture of inclusion and belonging that comprehensively understands, embraces, and celebrates the diversity of faculty, staff, learners, and patients. This vision informs all of our EDI efforts and serves as a guiding framework for the development of policies, practices, and initiatives that promote a more inclusive environment.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARAO COMMITTEE

We are pleased to highlight the formation of the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression (ARAO) Committee, a dedicated group working diligently to address issues of racism and oppression. Their efforts are a crucial part of our collective journey toward a more inclusive environment, and we are grateful for the contributions of all committee members and allies who have engaged with this important work.

## Our Vision

Establish a culture of inclusion and belonging that comprehensively understands, embraces, and celebrates the diversity of faculty, staff, learners, and patients.

## FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND ONBOARDING

The Associate Chair of EDI has actively participated in the recruitment of new faculty members, contributing to a more comprehensive and equitable selection process. A recommendation emerging from these efforts is the inclusion of EDI training as part of the onboarding process for new staff, faculty, and learners. We are optimistic that this recommendation will be successfully operationalized, reinforcing our Department's commitment to a welcoming and inclusive workplace culture.

## COMPLICITY OF SILENCE LECTURE



The Associate Chair of EDI delivered a lecture on the Complicity of Silence in perpetuating inequities within healthcare. This presentation delved into the factors that contribute to silence among individuals, both those with privilege and those from equity-deserving groups. The lecture also highlighted the shared responsibility of all stakeholders to actively confront inequities, promoting a collaborative approach to fostering change within the Department.

## COLLABORATION ACROSS INSTITUTIONS



Our Department continues to foster connections and collaboration through our Associate Chair for EDI's involvement with the EDI-IR (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion – Indigenous Reconciliation) lead and the broader EDI-IR community. This partnership strengthens the integration of EDI work across the Faculty of Health Sciences, Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and other allied institutions, enhancing our collective capacity to address these critical issues.

## RESOURCE CHALLENGES



The Department recognizes the breadth and complexity of addressing inequity, which requires substantial resources. While we are mindful of the constraints we face, we remain committed to identifying and leveraging available resources to ensure progress in our EDI initiatives.

## ONGOING EFFORTS TOWARD EQUITY



Inequities, particularly related to gender, race, ability, and sexual orientation, remain persistent long-term challenges within healthcare systems. Building on the initiatives that have been introduced, the Chair, Associate Chair of EDI, and the ARAO Committee are committed to fostering an environment where all voices can be heard with sensitivity, and where solutions to specific concerns can be developed collaboratively. This journey is a marathon, not a sprint, and we recognize that meaningful progress will take time and may, at times, bring discomfort. However, we view this discomfort as a necessary part of growth, allowing us to critically assess and address the structures that perpetuate inequity. Through sustained commitment and open dialogue, we aim to create lasting, impactful change that strengthens the sense of belonging for all members of our Department.

# Global Health Update



**Dr. Esther Chin MD, FRCSC**  
Assistant Clinical Professor (Adjunct)  
Global Health Lead, Department of  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
McMaster University

*Over the past Academic year, Global Health has been focusing on innovation, research, and capacity building.*

## INNOVATION

We are very excited about STITCH (**S**urgical **T**rainer for **I**n**T**erventions to **C**ontrol **P**ostpartum **H**emorrhage), an intermediate fidelity simulator to teach/learn/practice surgeries to manage

postpartum hemorrhage. This was a collaboration with University of British Columbia (UBC) Engineers in Scrubs (Master's of Biomedical Engineering students).

The SOGC Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference is an event that typically brings together the largest gathering of health care professionals working in the field of Ob/Gyn. STITCH is the product that they presented at that event.

There currently is a waitlist of end-users across Canada & sub-Saharan Africa for STITCH.

## The SOGC Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference







Photos: Showcasing STITCH at SOGC in Edmonton June 2024

## RESEARCH

- Chronic schistosomiasis infection and obstetric fistula repair outcomes in Lubango, Angola: A retrospective chart review

Chin EA, Olson A, Foster S, Arrowsmith S, Browning A. *Reprod Female Child Health*. 2024;3(2):e83. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rfc2.83>

### Abstracts + Poster Presentations

- What are the core competencies for Global Surgical training? A scoping review.

Chin EA (Co-PI), Global Surgery Lab, University of British Columbia  
Abstract presented at Bethune Roundtable Conference, Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia (May 2024).  
Manuscript in process.

- MacGloSS (McMaster Global Surgery Survey): A survey of Global Surgery interest among Canadian medical students and surgical residents at McMaster University.

Fan I, Chin EA  
Presented at RT Weaver Research Day (May 2024).  
Manuscript in process.

### Invited Presentations

- Rwanda Society of Ob/Gyns - Annual Scientific Conference

Global Surgery Panelist (Dec 2023) – E. Chin

- BC Children's Hospital + BC Women's Hospital Institute for Global Health - Global Health Conference

Sustainable Partnerships in Global Surgery Panelist (Mar 2024) – E. Chin

- UBC Global Surgery Lab – Global Surgery Symposium  
Presentation of PPH Simulator Model (Apr 2024) – E. Chin + UBC Engineers in Scrubs

## Ongoing Projects:

- Monitoring and evaluating global surgical task shifting interventions: A scoping review.

Chin EA (Co-PI), Global Surgery Lab, University of British Columbia  
Manuscript in process.

- A Delphi consensus on Global Surgery objectives and competencies.  
Chin EA (Co-PI), Global Surgery Lab, University of British Columbia

Expert panel and consortium from all WHO regions representing a range of specialties, non-surgeon physicians, and non-physician clinicians. Second round of Delphi in process.

- Iatrogenic urogenital fistula – a scoping review  
Chin EA (PI), Global Surgery Lab, Adams J, Chambers A, Morris J, Niazi H, McNulty M, Jenkins M, Morton A  
Data extraction in process.

## MEDICAL EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

### Guyana

- Dr. Jon Barrett and Dr. Gharid Nourallah Bekdache worked with the Georgetown Public Hospital (Georgetown, Guyana) for the development of:

- Visiting OB Hospitalist / Perinatology Fellowship program: a visiting Fellow will spend time in Hamilton for discrete learning objectives through St. Joseph's Hospital International Outreach Program.
- Visiting Residency Elective to Guyana (McMaster Ob/Gyn Resident)

### Rwanda

- Dr. Esther Chin has been active at the University of Global Health Equity (Butaro, Rwanda) where she has been teaching medical students during Ob/Gyn Clerkship and MSc in Global health Delivery students in the Global Surgery Ethics module.
- She also has been working together with the Rwanda Society of Ob/Gyns (Kigali, Rwanda) on a Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights Project with SOGC.

### Tanzania

- Dr. Chin was successful in securing the Royal College International Development, Aid, & Collaboration Grant for her project with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) (Moshi, Tanzania). This 2024–2027 project will support mobile workshops teaching safe intrapartum management and safe Cesarean section (CS) in the three regions of rural Tanzania with the highest CS & iatrogenic fistula rates in the country

### South Sudan

- Dr. Chin has been Co-Leading and teaching the Ob/Gyn module in South Sudan through VitalSurg (formerly, Essential Surgical Skills Program) in a collaboration between UBC Global Surgery Lab collaboration with Médecins sans Frontières. The training teaches life-saving surgical skills to non-surgeons.

### Curriculum

- Dr. Chin, with a colleague in the UBC Global Surgery Lab, has been working on a Safe CS

Course for UNITAR, SurgHUB, and Global Surgery Foundation.

- Dr. Chin has been leading the development of a McMaster University Graduate Diploma in Global Surgery alongside McMaster colleagues: Dr. C. VanDeCappelle (Anesthesia), Mr. D. Oldenburger (Global Health Office), Dr. C. Levis (Plastic Surgery), Dr. B. Petrisor (Orthopedic Surgery), Dr. L. Elit (Gynecologic Oncology; retired), Dr. S. Anand (Internal Medicine, Global Health Office), Ms. P. Montague (Global Health Office), and Dr. D. DiLiberto (Global Health Office). There is no current graduate academic Global Surgery training available in Ontario. At this time, it is moving through internal approval processes at the university and the first cohort is anticipated in September 2025.
- Dr. Chin has also been teaching UBC's Master's of Global Surgical Care Course – SURG 512 "Global Disability – A Surgical Care Mandate" through their Branch for Global Surgical Care.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Our goals and vision for the next year:

- Increase McMaster faculty and resident participation in various sustainable capacity building / education efforts in Global Health / Global Surgery
- Increase the visibility of Ob/Gyn issues in Global Surgery discourse
- Emphasize the life-course approach of Ob/Gyn issues in Global Surgery discourse beyond that of CS and birth, being inclusive across ages & stages
- Promote discussion of Global Surgery Ethics (eg., partnerships, medical equipment donations, short-term trips, research, etc)
- Increase the presence of Global Surgery at McMaster (UGME, PGME, Global Health Office)
- Facilitate development of sustainable academic partnerships in Ob/Gyn and Global Surgery

## Faculty Member Promotions

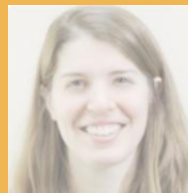
JUNE 30, 2023 – JULY 1, 2024



Liz Darling



Ann Marie Chen



Mary Coll Black



Sarah Scattolon



Sapna Sharma



Alison Shea

Dr. Liz Darling, Professor (GFT)

Dr. Ann Marie Chen, Associate Professor (PT)

Dr. Mary Coll Black, Associate Professor (GFT)

Dr. Sarah Scattolon, Associate Professor (GFT)

Dr. Sapna Sharma, Associate Professor (GFT)

Dr. Alison Shea, Associate Professor (GFT)

# Faculty Members

Jon	Barrett	Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Jean	Chamberlain	Professor	General	Full-Time
Amie	Cullimore	Professor	General	Full-Time
Elizabeth	Darling	Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Alison	Holloway	Professor	Reproductive Biology	Full-Time
Nicholas	Leyland	Professor	Minimally Invasive Gynaecological Surgery	Full-Time
Sarah	McDonald	Professor	Canada Research Chair/Maternal Fetal Med.	Full-Time
Stephen	Bates	Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Jennifer	Blake	Clinical Professor	Clinical Professor	Part-Time
James	Petrik	Professor (PT)	Reproductive Biology	Part-Time
Eran	Ashwal	Associate Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Ann Marie	Chen	Associate Professor	General	Part-Time
Mary	Coll-Black	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Dustin James	Costescu	Associate Professor	Family Planning Specialist/General	Full-Time
Bryon	De France	Associate Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Cara	Donnery	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Rohan	D'Souza	Associate Professor	Canada Research Chair/Maternal Fetal Med.	Full-Time
Lua	Eiriksson	Associate Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Susan	Ellis	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Nirupama	Gangam	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Aseel	Hamoudi	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Waldo	Jimenez Fiedler	Associate Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Karen	Lawford	Associate Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Lea	Luketic	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Ola	Malabarey	Associate Professor	Urogynecology	Full-Time
Rory	McDonagh	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Michelle	Morais	Associate Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Valerie	Mueller	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Beth	Murray Davis	Associate Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Richard	Persadie	Associate Professor	General	Full-Time
Clare	Reade	Associate Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Sarah	Scattolon	Associate Professor	Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery	Full-Time
Sapna	Sharma	Associate Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time



## FACULTY CONTINUED

Alison	Shea	Associate Professor	Menopause and Reproductive Mental Health/General	Full-Time
Stephanie	Winsor	Associate Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Rolando	Cepeda	Associate Clinical Prof.	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Christine	Dejong	Associate Clinical Prof.	General	Part-Time
Sharon	Dore	Associate Clinical Prof.	RN PhD	Part-Time
Mehrnoosh	Faghih	Associate Clinical Prof.	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Megan Freebury	Karnis	Associate Clinical Prof.	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Daniel	Reilly	Associate Clinical Prof.	General	Part-Time
Caroline	Sibley	Associate Clinical Prof.	General	Part-Time
John	Smith	Associate Clinical Prof.	General	Part-Time
Ben	Tse	Associate Clinical Prof.	General	Part-Time
Swati	Agrawal	Assistant Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Gharid Nourallah	Bekdache	Assistant Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Valerie	Bloomfield	Assistant Professor	Pediatric Adolescent Gynecology	Full-Time
Vanessa	Carlson	Assistant Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Kate	Demers	Assistant Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Homero	Flores Mendoza	Assistant Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Emily	Landon	Assistant Professor	General	Full-Time
Mathew	Leonardi	Assistant Professor	Minimally Invasive Gynaecological Surgery	Full-Time
Alexandra	Marseu	Assistant Professor	Maternal Fetal Medicine	Full-Time
Andrea Aleah	Mosher	Assistant Professor	General	Full-Time
Giulia	Muraca	Assistant Professor	Perinatal Epidemiology	Full-Time
Julie	Nguyen	Assistant Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Andra	Nica	Assistant Professor	Gynecologic Oncology	Full-Time
Meghan	O'leary	Assistant Professor	General	Full-Time
Claire	Ramlogan-Salanga	Assistant Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Stacey Deanne	Rogers	Assistant Professor	General	Full-Time
Jayesh	Tigdi	Assistant Professor	Minimally Invasive Gynaecological Surgery	Full-Time
Ann (Kathi)	Wilson	Assistant Professor	Midwifery	Full-Time
Samantha	Wilson	Assistant Professor	Reproductive Biology	Full-Time

## FACULTY CONTINUED

Adetunji James	Ade-Conde	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Victor Shola	Akinsoto	Assistant Clinical Professor	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Andrea	Alarie	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Shilpa	Amin	Assistant Clinical Professor	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Stephanie	Ayre	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Carolyn	Best	Assistant Clinical Professor	Urogynecology	Part-Time
Denise	Campeau	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Stacy	Deniz	Assistant Clinical Professor	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Marie-Josée	Dube	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Brian	Ferguson	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Karen	Macmillan	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Leyla	Mangaloglu	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Uthra	Mohan	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Nwachukwu	Nwebube	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Peter	Potts	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
David	Rouselle	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Alison	Salhani	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Jennifer	Schnarr	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Carmela	Sciarra	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Sandeep	Sharma	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Kelly	Strode	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Emma	Wakim	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Peter	Watt	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Paul	Wu	Assistant Clinical Professor	General	Part-Time
Maher	Abou-Seido	Asst Clinical Prof (Adjunct)	General	Part-Time
Asa	Ahimbisibwe	Asst Clinical Prof (Adjunct)	General	Part-Time
Tuba	Aksoy	Asst Clinical Prof (Adjunct)	General	Part-Time
Santina	Andrighetti	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Catherine	Andrus	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Joseph	Azzam	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time

## FACULTY CONTINUED

Emily	Baker	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Timea	Belej-Rak	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	Part-Time
Nicholas	Braithwaite	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Naheed	Chaudhry	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Esther	Chin	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Beth	Cruickshank	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Valentina	Cvetic	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Elise	Dalton	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Nancy	Dzaja	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Heather	Edwards	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Evgeniya	Fefelova	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Anne	Fortier	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Meredith	Giffin	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Nadiya	Goswami	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Jeremy	Green	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Stacey	Grossman	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Ummi	Habiba	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Lawrence	Komer	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Andre	Laroche	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Matthew	Laskin	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Margaret	Lighthouse	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Sabine	Liske	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Christopher	Lusty	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Heather	Macdonald	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Melissa	Machado	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Dragana	Matanovic-Todorovic	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Peyman	Mazidi	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Ariel	Mendlowitz	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Andy	Narine	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Adele	Nguyen	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Cynthia	Nicholas	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Alexander Michael	Norgaard	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Marquis	Okon	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Che-Wei Ryan	Ou	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Emma	Pollard	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time

## FACULTY CONTINUED

Jessica	Rollings-Scattergood	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
David	Rosman	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Jan	Scheeres	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Janine	Silver	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Baljit	Singh	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Erin	Sloan	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Lauren	Smith	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Jennifer	Smyth	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Andrew	Stewart	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Shiraz	Suleman	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Nicholas	Sweet	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Kathleen	Tafler	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Elissa	Tepperman	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Sheila	Thakkar	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Heather	Thompson	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Jude	Umeh	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Michael	Virro	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Kristin	Wadsworth	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Anne	Walsh	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
James Chian-Ming	Wang	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Carol	Weis	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Vincent	Wu	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Lisa	Yang	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Grace	Yeung	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time
Katrina	Zefkic	Asst Clinical Prof (Adj)	General	Part-Time

Denis	Crankshaw	Professor Emeritus	Reproductive Biology	
Donna	Fedorkow	Professor Emeritus	Urogynecology	
Lauren	Foster	Professor Emeritus	Reproductive Biology	
Edward	Hughes	Professor Emeritus	Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility	
Eileen	Hutton	Professor Emeritus	Midwifery	
Mary	MacDougall	Asst. Professor	Research Nurse	Part-Time
Patrick	Mohide	Professor Emeritus	Maternal Fetal Medicine	
Edward	Younglai	Professor Emeritus	Reproductive Biology	
Laurie	Elit	Professor Emeritus	Gynecologic Oncology	



# 2023 Grant List

Principal Investigator	Granting Agency	Award Start Date	Award Amount
Barrett,Jon	HAHSO	04/01/23	195,567
Barrett,Jon	MCMASTER	04/01/23	1,976
Brandeis,Elizabeth	CIHR	04/01/23	6,000
D'Souza,Rohan	CIHR	04/01/23	100,000
D'Souza,Rohan	HAHSO	04/01/23	196,092
Darling,Elizabeth	MCMASTER TRUST	06/01/23	25,000
Darling,Elizabeth	MCMASTER TRUST	06/01/23	7,500
Darling,Elizabeth	MCMASTER TRUST	06/01/23	7,500
Goswami,Nadiya	HHS NIF FUNDING	12/01/23	35,000
Kennedy,Katherine	FARNCOMBE FAMILY	07/01/23	50,000
Malabarey,Ola	HHS	01/23/23	20,826
Malabarey,Ola	COSM MEDICAL	02/01/23	9,238
Morais,Michelle	PHYSICIANS SERVICES INC	01/01/23	15,000
Muraca,Giulia	CIHR	04/01/23	336,600
Muraca,Giulia	HHSF	03/01/23	25,000
Muraca,Giulia	MARTA & OWEN BORIS FOUNDATION	11/01/23	300,000
Murcaca,Giulia	HHSF	06/01/23	25,000
Murray Davis,Beth	LHSC RESEARCH INC.	04/01/23	370,000
Murray Davis,Beth	MCMASTER TRUST	06/01/23	30,000
Murray Davis,Beth	MCMASTER UNIVERSITY	08/01/23	14,320
Nguyen,Julie	HHS NIF FUNDING	01/01/23	40,000
Nguyen,Julie	HHS PHRI FUNDING	03/01/23	12,390
Nguyen,Julie	HHSF	03/01/23	24,131
Nguyen,Julie	HHS ECA FUNDING	10/01/23	50,000
Nguyen,Julie	JCC FOUNDATION FUNDING	10/01/23	24,837
Shea,Alison	CIHR	03/01/23	100,000
Wilson,Samantha	CIHR	04/01/23	1,000
Wilson,Samantha	J P BICKELL FOUNDATION	09/19/23	80,000
Wilson,Samantha	CANADIAN FERTILITY & ANDROLOGY SOC	10/01/23	5,000
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,108,347</b>

# 2023 Faculty Publications

## Agrawal, Swati

Agrawal, Swati. Comparison of circulating maternal placenta growth factor levels and sonographic evaluation of patients with abnormal first trimester screening analytes. *Prenatal diagnosis*. 2-4-2023. <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.1002/pd.6327>

Agrawal, Swati. Uterine and umbilical artery Doppler combined with placental growth factor assay for placental function expertise in the assessment of fetal growth restriction: a response. *American journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. Jan-23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2022.09.013>

## Ashwal, Eran

Ashwal, Eran. Comparison of circulating maternal placenta growth factor levels and sonographic evaluation of patients with abnormal first trimester screening analytes. *Prenatal diagnosis*. 2-4-2023. <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.1002/pd.6327>

Ashwal, Eran. Guideline No. 442: Fetal Growth Restriction: Screening, Diagnosis, and Management in Singleton Pregnancies. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. Oct-23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.05.022>

Ashwal, Eran. Lung Hypoplasia in Fetuses with Skeletal Dysplasia Determined by Fetal Lung Weight: Which Ultrasound Measurement/Ratio Has the Highest Detection Rate. *Fetal diagnosis and therapy*. Sep-23. <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.1159/000534209>

Ashwal, Eran. Anterior extension of the choroid plexus into the frontal horns of the fetal lateral cerebral ventricles: Prenatal findings and postnatal outcome. *Prenatal diagnosis*. Mar-23. <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.1002/pd.6344>

Ashwal, Eran. Unintended lower-segment hysterotomy extension at cesarean delivery and the risk for uterine rupture during a subsequent trial of labor. *International Journal of Gynecology &*

*Obstetrics*. Apr-23. <https://doi-org.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/10.1002/ijgo.14785>

Ashwal, Eran. Predictive accuracy of early mid-trimester placental markers for recurrence of placenta-mediated pregnancy complications. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol*. Mar-23. <https://doi.org/10.1002/uog.26082>

## Barrett, Jon

Barrett, Jon. Impact of Antenatal Care Modifications on Gestational Diabetes Outcomes During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes*. 12-10-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcjd.2023.12.002>

Barrett, Jon. Glycemic control and neonatal outcomes in twin pregnancies with gestational diabetes mellitus. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 11-23-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2023.06.046>

Barrett, Jon. Reactogenicity, pregnancy outcomes, and SARS-CoV-2 infection following COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy in Canada: A national prospective cohort study. *Vaccine*. 11-22-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2023.10.032>

Barrett, Jon. A prediction tool for mode of delivery in twin pregnancies—a secondary analysis of the Twin Birth Study. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 11-17-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2023.11.1230>

Barrett, Jon. [Extraits de la littérature médicale mondiale : Obstétrique]. *Journal d'obstétrique et gynécologie du Canada*. Nov-23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.10.2231>

Barrett, Jon. Maternal First-Trimester Alpha-Fetoprotein and Placenta-Mediated Pregnancy Complications. *Hypertension*. 9-6-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.123.21568>

Barrett, Jon. Neonatal and Early Childhood Outcomes of Twin and Singleton Infants Born Preterm. *The Journal of Pediatrics*. 3-3-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2023.02.021>

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

- Barrett, Jon. Cervical assessment certification and its impact on performance quality in the context of universal cervical screening. *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics*. 9-7-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijgo.15078>
- Barrett, Jon. Guideline No. 440: Management of Monochorionic Twin Pregnancies. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. 8-2-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.05.018>
- Barrett, Jon. Directive clinique no 440 : Prise en charge de la grossesse gémellaire monochoriale. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. 8-1-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.05.019>
- Barrett, Jon. A new care pathway to optimize gestational weight gain in twin pregnancies. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*. 5-12-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajogmf.2023.101018>
- Barrett, Jon. Term prelabor rupture of membranes: immediate induction is the optimal management. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*. 8-11-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajogmf.2023.101094>
- Barrett, Jon. [Extraits de la littérature médicale mondiale dans le domaine de l'obstétrique]. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. Jul-23. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.04.019>
- Barrett, Jon. Excerpts from the World Medical Literature: Obstetrics. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. 7-1-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.04.018>
- Barrett, Jon. Mild neonatal morbidity in twins by planned mode of delivery: a secondary analysis of the Twin Birth Study. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*. 4-12-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajogmf.2023.100973>
- Barrett, Jon. Knowledge Gaps in Placenta Accreta Spectrum. *American Journal of Perinatology*. 6-19-2023. DOI: 10.1055/s-0043-1761635
- Barrett, Jon. Opinion sur le tourisme obstétrique. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*. 6-1-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogc.2023.04.007>
- Barrett, Jon. Temporal trends and determinants of COVID-19 vaccine series initiation after recent pregnancy. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*. 5-30-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2023.2215150>
- Barrett, Jon. National and international guidelines on the management of twin pregnancies: a comparative review. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 5-25-2023. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2023.05.022>
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