

# Women's Health

at **SIU MEDICINE**

2021-2023 Report



Patient  
care

Education

Research



**SIU MEDICINE**  
FORWARD. FOR YOU.



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

415 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***Division of Gynecology Oncology***

315 W. Carpenter St.  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility***

751 N. Rutledge St.  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-545-8000 • 217-545-2229



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***Division of Urogynecology***

747 N. Rutledge St.  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

1100 Lincolnshire Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***at Old Jacksonville Road***

2901 Old Jacksonville Rd.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***at HSHS St. Francis Hospital Specialty Physicians Center***

1215 Franciscan Dr.  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-545-8000



***SIU Medicine Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology***

***at SIU Women's Health Center***

610 N. Westgate  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-545-8000

## Letter from the Ob/Gyn Chairman

The faculty and staff providing Women's Healthcare and the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU) in Springfield, Illinois welcomes you to review our biennial report. Our goal is to provide you with information regarding all of the available Women's Health programs at our Medical School for interested patients, students, physicians and scientists.

Women's Health at SIU consists of 12 academic divisions, 43 faculty, 16 Obstetrics & Gynecology residents and a collaborative mix of nurse practitioners, clinical laboratory staff, nurses, sonographers, dietitians, genetic counsellors, research faculty and support staff. Our complete focus is on women's health and wellness by providing high quality patient care, while educating future leaders and fulfilling innovative research endeavors within a highly collaborative environment.

We are committed to the health and well-being of the women of Central and Southern Illinois, as well as their families. We are proud that many of our residents and medical students have remained in this region after completing our training program and that they are now providing an essential service to their communities.

Our hope is that this overview will demonstrate our full commitment to improve the lives of our region and display the outstanding services available to our region.

### Our vision

To be the Local, Regional, National and Global leader in obstetrics, gynecology and women's health through innovations in patient care, research and education.

### Our mission

We are a diverse community of women's health care professionals who:

- Partner with our patients and our community to deliver outstanding, high quality, world-class, comprehensive care to women across their lifespan
- Are progressive leaders in Women's Health cutting-edge research
- Are innovative educators that will train the local as well as Global women's health leaders of tomorrow
- Promote a holistic approach to maintain women's wellness in Central and Southern Illinois and the world in a highly collaborative environment





# Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility (REI)

## SIU Fertility & IVF Center

### Expertise

We have the most comprehensive, multidisciplinary fertility center in Central Illinois dedicated to the treatment and care of infertile couples. Our clinic is unique in that we use a team approach for the female AND male patient to delineate the cause(s) of their infertility. Since 2009, the mission of the SIU Fertility & IVF Center is to assist patients in Central and Southern Illinois to accomplish their goal of conceiving a baby.

Our physicians are board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Urology. In addition, the physicians and their team of specialty nurses, genetic counselors and dietitians provide the most advanced treatment options for couples struggling with infertility.

For patients who require reproductive surgery, SIU Fertility & IVF Center physicians are among the nation’s leaders in surgical treatment for reproductive issues and have earned credentials from the Accreditation Council for Gynecologic Endoscopy (ACGE) from the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL). Our facility is the only fertility center and accredited laboratory in Central/Southern Illinois to hold a membership with the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and report our data according to their renowned standards. We completed 218 IVF cycles in 2019 at the SIU Fertility & IVF Center.

J. Ricardo Loret de Mola, MD, FACOG, FACS and medical director of the SIU Fertility & IVF Center, has dedicated his life to helping couples achieve the dream of having a child with tremendous success. He also specializes in the treatment of patients with polycystic ovarian syndrome and endometriosis and is currently conducting clinical research studies to further investigate mechanisms associated with these fertility compromising diseases and to develop potentially new therapeutic avenues.

Nicholas Tadros is a urologist with specialized training in andrology and reproductive medicine.



J. Ricardo Loret de Mola MD, FACOG, FACS



Nicholas Tadros, MD



Marybeth Gerrity, PhD



James Kontio, Lab Manager



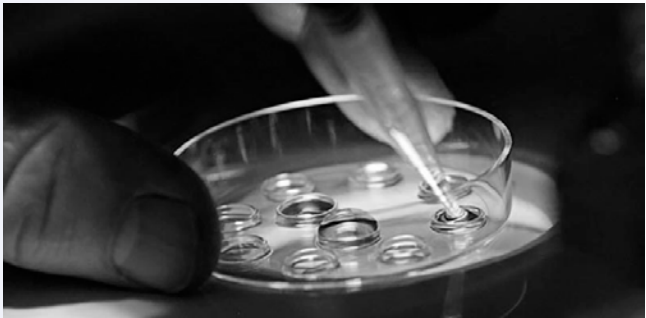
Nathan McGee, Med Tech



Laura Rogers, Med Tech

### Services Offered

- In-vitro fertilization (on-site embryology lab, blastocyst transfer, embryo cryopreservation and frozen embryo transfers, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, oocyte donation and surrogate services)
- Onco-fertility program enabling fertility preservation prior to cancer treatment (for both females and males)
- Male treatment options including andrology services, sperm aspiration, intracytoplasmic injections, testicular biopsies and sperm donor services
- Diagnostic hysteroscopy
- Robotic laparoscopy
- Tubal ligation reversal, vasectomy reversal and microscopic and minimally invasive surgeries
- Intrauterine insemination
- Dietetic counseling by certified diabetic educators
- Consultations with Psychologists and Psychiatrists
- Genetic counseling



### Awards/Achievements

- In 2019-2020 Dr. Loret de Mola was named as one of the Best Doctors® in America
- Dr. Loret de Mola was named Chair of the Reproduction, Andrology and Gynecology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health for 2014-16
- Dr. Loret de Mola was named Chair of the Illinois Section of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists from 2017-2020
- Our REI Med Tech, Nathan McGee, was named SIU School of Medicine’s Employee of the Year for 2021
- Dr. Loret de Mola was also funded through the Endometriosis Foundation of America with Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming to discover novel diagnostic tools for endometriosis and recently received two awards at international endometriosis conferences for his research on this topic

	Age			
	<35	35-37	38-40	>40
SIU REI	46.4%	42.9%	18.8%	0.0%
National	46.7%	34.2%	21.6%	13.8%

### Cumulative outcome per egg retrieval cycle in 2019

SIU REI IVF success rate from 2019, calculated as the percentage of cycles resulting in live births, in women ages 35-37 was well above the national average reported by the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology in 2019.



# Division of General Obstetrics & Gynecology

## Expertise

The Division of General Obstetrics & Gynecology provides a wide range of consultation and surgical services for women of all ages.

Our physicians have a large clinical practice that includes a diverse patient population, offering plenty of learning opportunities for medical students and residents. The generalist division performs more than 1,100 deliveries and over 1,000 gynecological surgeries (including utilization of the minimally invasive da Vinci® Surgical Systems) per year.

Dr. Erica Nelson serves as the Division Chief of General Obstetrics & Gynecology and is also the Director of the Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program.

Our faculty are actively involved in the education of our residents and medical students, serve on various academic and institutional committees, and are seeing patients in various outreach clinics.



*Erica Nelson, MD*



*Arturo Garza-Cavazos, MD*



*Shannon Graves, WHNP-BC*



*Katherine Hild-Mosley, MD*



*Terah Holland, MD*



*Chad Huston, MD*



*Jongjin "Anne" Martin, MD*



*Jesse Buedefeldt-Pollard, MD*



*Rebecca Termine, RN, BSN, CDE*



*Casey Younkin, MD*



*Yahia Zeino, MD*

## Obstetrics & Gynecology Services Offered

- Routine gynecologic and well-woman exams
- Prenatal and obstetrical care
- Contraception management
- Menopausal care and management
- Sonography with detailed anatomical surveys
- Pelvic pain treatment
- Treatment of vulvar disorders
- Minimally invasive and robotic gynecologic surgery
- Colposcopy, loop electrosurgical excision procedures (LEEP), cryosurgery
- Prevention and treatment for STIs
- Breast cancer screening
- Bone health clinic
- Sexual health



## Clinical Research

- Dr. Erica Nelson serves as the principal investigator on several resident-driven quality improvement initiatives. Specifically, she is leading a quality initiative to improve follow up of patients who have suffered early pregnancy loss. Dr. Nelson is also involved in a project to assess food insecurities in our Medicaid insured prenatal patient population and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to safe and nutritious food.
- Drs. Anne Martin and Yahia Zeino serve as co-investigators for a cancer disparity project aimed to determine how to help patients who are lost to follow-up for their colposcopy appointments.
- Dr. Zeino is the principal investigator in a study designed to evaluate various regimens of ferrum sulfate supplementation to improve iron absorption in pregnant patients diagnosed with iron deficiency anemia. He also leads multiple research projects focused on medical education including assessments to optimize students' autonomy in a Medical Student run prenatal clinic.
- Drs. Zeino and Nelson collaborate in a study to ascertain the rates and risks associated with prophylactic salpingectomies for women undergoing a tubal ligation.
- Dr. Casey Younkin is the principal investigator for a clinical trial entitled, "Vitamin D Deficiency and its Implication on the Fetus". This study is investigating the potential role of vitamin D deficiency in the manifestation of fetal growth restriction.
- Dr. Arturo Garza is conducting a study to evaluate patient satisfaction and efficacy of a new hygiene product.
- Dr. Terah Holland is developing a research study with the aim of reducing the number of primary c-sections.



# Division of Gynecologic Oncology

## Expertise

The Gynecologic Oncology division, directed by Laurent Brard MD, PhD, provides women throughout Central and Southern Illinois expert, specialized care for the treatment of all types of gynecologic cancers. Dr. Brard is a board certified Gynecologic Oncologist who provides care to more than 1200 women per year from the region. This care is managed using a multidisciplinary, patient-centered approach and the most advanced surgical techniques and adjuvant treatments.

The division actively participates in clinical, translational and discovery research and in educating medical students, residents and hematology oncology fellows by offering exposure to common and rare gynecological malignancies and their management and providing didactics and research forums. Annually, the division performs over 250 surgical procedures enabling medical students and residents extensive experience for superior training purposes.

## Services Offered

- Evaluation and treatment of benign or malignant tumors of the ovaries, fallopian tubes, uterus, cervix, vulva and vagina
- Evaluation and treatment of abdominal and/or pelvic masses
- Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC)
- Minimally invasive surgery, including robotic assisted surgery (utilizing da Vinci® Surgical Systems)
- Consultative services for SIU School of Medicine faculty and private practice physicians in Central/Southern Illinois
- Onco-fertility in partnership with the division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
- Genetic counseling for patients with gynecologic cancers
- Consultations with Onco-psychologists
- Participation in clinical trials (through NRG Oncology and SIU School of Medicine)

## Awards and Achievements in Clinical and Discovery Science Research

- Dr. Brard was honored with the 2018 Outstanding Scholar Award by SIU School of Medicine.
- Dr. Brard recently completed his role as the Principal Investigator for a three-year grant, totaling \$1.3 million, awarded by NIH to the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU and the NCI-designated Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. This grant, titled 'Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research' (P20) aimed to establish a pilot program that allows junior researchers to obtain funding for pilot studies, develop collaborative experiences between clinicians and researchers, generate preliminary data for future grant funding and advance the career development of researchers in the field of cancer disparities



*Laurent Brard,  
MD, PhD*



*Lori Sporrer, FNP-BC*

- Dr. Brard recently completed a NIH grant to develop an innovative biomarker which may enable physicians to more accurately identify malignant versus benign adnexal masses prior to surgery ([NCT02109367](#)).
- In collaboration with Dr. Matthew Young (SIU Biochemistry & Molecular Biology), Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming, Ms. Groesch, MS, Dr. Hales and Dr. Robinson, Dr. Brard has received the SIU School of Medicine Team Science Grant to develop a novel endometrial cancer biomarker using mitochondrial DNA.
- In collaboration with Dr. Farhan Chowdhury (SIU Dept. of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Processes, Carbondale), Dr. Brard received the SIU System Collaborative Grant Award to study bioengineering approaches to target tumor repopulating cells in endometrial cancer.
- In collaboration with Dr. Kevin Tucker (SIU Edwardsville) and Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming, Dr. Brard and Dr. Ayyagari received the SIU System Collaborative Grant Award to evaluate the lipid droplet composition and immune mediators in gynecological cancers.
- Brard is expanding his investigations into biomarker development in collaboration with Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming to determine if women diagnosed with Endometrial or Ovarian Cancer have a unique inflammatory or microbial 'signature' to allow for earlier diagnosis and/or prediction of treatment response. They are also co-PIs in two separate grants, awarded by the Simmons Cancer Institute and by the Department of Energy (Laboratory Directed Research and Development Grant), to explore the use of machine-learning approaches for earlier detection and personalized treatment of endometrial and ovarian cancer.
- The Gynecologic Oncology translational research program collaborates with the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine and investigators on the SIU Carbondale, IL campus enabling "bench-to-bedside" research effort. Dr. Brard, Drs. Dale Buck (Chair, SIU Physiology Department) and Karen Hales have been funded through the Simmons Cancer Institute and completed a pilot clinical trial utilizing ground flaxseed as a daily supplement to prolong progression free survival in ovarian cancer patients who are currently in remission ([NCT02324439](#)). Drs. Brard, Dale Buck and Karen Hales are also examining how estrogen metabolites in the urine of women who have been diagnosed with a pelvic mass or endometrial cancer may correlate with their prognosis, leading to a potential no-risk diagnostic tool.
- The primary focus of the division's discovery science laboratory involves drug "re-purposing" and the delineation of mechanisms associated with cancer cell drug resistance. The results of this research could be crucial to establish novel therapeutic options for the treatment of ovarian cancer.





# Division of Urogynecology

## Pelvic Medicine & Incontinence Center

### Expertise

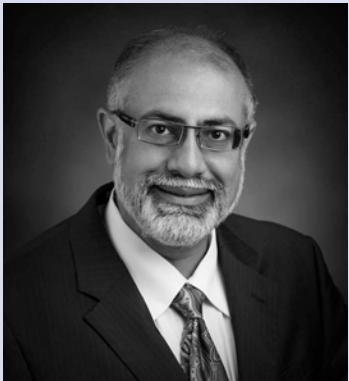
The Urogynecology division of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is led by Dr. Sohail Siddique. He is board certified in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) and Obstetrics & Gynecology. Dr. Siddique is one of a select few who is board certified in FPMRS in Central and Southern Illinois. The Urogynecology division provides expert services to women with pelvic organ prolapse, urinary and fecal incontinence and the full spectrum of pelvic floor disorders. Our division has developed a multidisciplinary team of caregivers to treat Pelvic Floor Disorders. The team involves Obstetrics & Gynecology, Urology, Physical Therapy, Gastroenterology, Colorectal Surgery and Radiology all working together to offer the best patient care possible. Recently, the Urogynecology division in conjunction with the Division of Urology, completed enrolling patients in a clinical trial designed to test the potential for Myrbetriq® to calm sleep disturbances in women suffering from overactive bladder and incontinence.

Kaylie Caswell is a women’s health nurse practitioner supporting the Urogynecology division. Her experience includes pessary fittings/maintenance and pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation. After recently completing training through the University of Michigan Kaylie is the only ASSECT-certified sexuality counselor in our region to offer counseling and education to women with sexual health concerns.

Mary Hitt is an experienced nurse practitioner has recently achieved the prestigious North American Menopause Society Certified Menopause Practitioner status. She has been working ith women with pelvic and sexual health dysfunction for the past decade. Her expertise includes pessary fittings/maintenance, pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation, sexual and pelvic floor dysfunction, percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation and intravesical treatment for interstitial cystitis. Mary also offers a specialty clinic for women with sexual health problems, including low libido, orgasmic disorders and sexual pain.

Audra Horn is a nurse practitioner who specializes in overactive bladder, urinary incontinence, recurrenturinary tract infections, interstitial cystitis, pelvic organ prolapse and urinary retention. Her experience includes pessary fitting and maintenance, self-catheterization teaching, percutaneous tibial nerve stimulation and intravesical treatments for interstitial cystitis.

The Urogynecology division cares for more than 2,000 women annually. This comprehensive care includes approximately 4,300 clinic visits and nearly 2,200 surgical procedures allowing the department’s residents ample training and exposure to treatment options for disorders of the pelvic floor.



Sohail Siddique, MD



Kaylie Caswell,  
WHNP-BCC



Mary Hitt, FNP-BC



Audra Horn,  
APN, FNP-BC

# Obstetrics & Gynecology Rural and Outreach Clinics

Our outreach clinics serve our rural patients and allow providers to refer their patients to SIU Medicine’s expertise closer to home. SIU Obstetrics & Gynecology has outreach clinics in the following locations:



Casey Younkin,  
MD



Erica Nelson, MD



Jesse Buedefeldt-  
Pollard, MD



Terah Holland, MD

SIU Medicine  
General Gynecological Services  
St. Francis Hospital  
1215 Franciscan Drive  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-545-8000



Jeffrey L. Olejnik,  
MD



Alexander Raw,  
MD



Alexander  
Hrynewych, MD



Laura Naughton,  
MD

SIU Medicine  
General Obstetrics & Gynecology  
610 North Westgate  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-545-8000





# SIU Center for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

## Expertise

SIU Center for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, directed by Robert Abrams, MD, is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care to women in Central Illinois who experience high-risk pregnancies. This type of pregnancy can include maternal diabetes, preeclampsia, preterm labor, multifetal gestations, fetal abnormalities, as well as other, less common obstetrical complications.

Our providers comprise the South Central Illinois Perinatal Center located at HSHS St. John's Hospital to ensure continuity of high-risk obstetrical care both during pregnancy as well as postpartum. Using an integrated care approach, SIU Center for Maternal-Fetal Medicine provides patients with modern, prenatal screening and diagnostic tools.



*Robert Abrams, MD*



*Henry Adekola,  
MD, DFFP*



*Elizabeth Ramsey  
Unal, MD, MSCR*



*Gwyneth  
Thompson, MD*



*Kristina  
Sondgeroth, MD*



*Emily Martin, MSN,  
RN, FNP-BC*



*Melissa A. Nicol, MS,  
RD, LDN, CDE, BC-ADM*



## Services provided

- Amniocentesis
- Detailed anatomical survey
- Biophysical profile
- Non-stress test
- Fetal echocardiogram
- Doppler evaluation
- Advanced genetic testing and counseling
- Cervical cerclage
- Diabetes education and nutrition counseling
- High-risk obstetrical consultations
- High-risk obstetrical prenatal care

## Clinical Research

The Maternal-Fetal Medicine providers are actively involved in basic science and clinical research in partnership with SIU Center for Clinical Research. They have published many articles on topics such as twin gestation, preterm labor, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and prenatal ultrasound.



# South Central Illinois Perinatal Center

## Expertise

As a Level III Perinatal Center, HSHS St. John's Hospital can provide the highest level of care for mothers and their babies in central Illinois. The antepartum unit (located within HSHS St. John's Hospital labor and delivery unit) is staffed by Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialists 24/7 for expectant mothers who may need extra care during their pregnancy for issues such as preterm labor or hypertension.

HSHS St. John's Hospital features a newly renovated 56-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with single family rooms staffed 24 hours a day by neonatologists specially trained to care for premature babies, as well as babies who are critically ill. Nurses, respiratory therapists, rehabilitation specialists, pharmacists and dietitians all work together on the unit to provide care via evidence-based approaches.



Beau Batton, MD

Dr. Beau Batton is the Chief of the Pediatric Division of Neonatology at SIU School of Medicine, and the Director of Newborn Services at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. The Division of Neonatology cares for over 700 premature babies each year. Dr. Batton's research interests include blood pressure management and neurodevelopment in extremely preterm infants and assessing the effects of in-utero anti-depressant exposure. Other specific research topics in the Division of Neonatology include neonatal abstinence syndrome, timely discharge, acquired infection rate reduction, bronchopulmonary dysplasia and use of probiotics in preterm infants.



M. Farooq  
Ahamed, MBBS



Ginger Darling, MD



Pele Dina, MD,  
FAAP



Magali Jean-Louis,  
MD



Kristen  
Leadbetter, MD



Venkata Majjiga,  
MD



Dharmendra  
Nimavat, MD, FAAP



Eunice Torres,  
MD, FAAP



Laura Vargas, MD,  
FAAP



# Women's Health at SIU Family & Community Medicine

## Expertise

The Department of Family & Community Medicine (FCM) is committed to training Family Physicians of the highest quality who provide cutting edge healthcare services to the people of Southern, Central and Western Illinois. Dr. Janet Albers is a professor and chair of this federally qualified health center (FQHC). Several of our faculty focus on women's health and family medicine residents can tailor their electives to include advanced training in obstetrics and gynecological care. Competency in procedural skills such as colposcopy, LEEP, endometrial biopsies, ultrasounds and others are offered in collaboration with the SIU Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Specialty electives can be chosen from the following resources: the SIU Breast Clinic, SIU Ob/Gyn, Gynecologic Oncology, Urogynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Planned Parenthood, rape counseling and child abuse exams.

Dr. Careyana Brenham is an expert in handling child sexual abuse and sexual assault cases, serving 14 counties in Central IL. She also is a leader in our community for providing gynecological and reproductive services to our adolescent female population.

Drs. Amanda Krus-Johnston, Asiya Mohammed, Christopher Smyre and Rachel Rahman along with Dr. Brenham provide obstetrical care to our Family & Community Medicine prenatal patients.



Janet R. Albers, MD



Careyana Brenham, MD



Amanda Krus-Johnston, DO



Asiya Mohammed, MD



Rachel Rahman, MD



Christopher Smyre, MD

## Our Community Programs

Child Safety Seat Education and Checkpoint Events: SIU School of Medicine's ThinkFirst staff members are all nationally certified Child Passenger Safety instructors or technicians. As partners with the Illinois Department of Transportation, we provide assistance at local car-seat/booster seat checkpoints and educational events that are free of charge and geared to help mothers in our community. FCM physicians also play an integral role in the annual SIU Women's Health Conference, a forum for our patients to learn and discuss women's health issues with local providers.

## Midwives at SIU Family & Community Medicine

Three certified nurse midwives are part of our family centered obstetrical care program. These providers specialize in the physical, psychological and social well-being of the mother throughout the childbearing cycle and postpartum period, while identifying and referring women who require more complex obstetrical attention.



Daphne Kuehl, CNM



Helen Moose, MS, CNM



Leanne Novar, MS, CNM





# The Breast Center at Simmons Cancer Institute

## Expertise

Established in 1998, the Breast Center at Simmons Cancer Institute was one of the first breast centers to be awarded accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons. In 2019, the Breast Center received 100% compliance on 27 standards reviewed in the accreditation process for the fourth consecutive time.

Our mission is to provide breast care to women in Central and Southern Illinois that is patient centered, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and research based.

The SCI's team approach to cancer treatment makes the entire process more convenient for the patient by allowing them to see all of the physicians and medical staff involved in their care in one setting. This collaborative approach also allows patients to benefit from the combined expertise of all our cancer specialists.

Physicians working with the Breast Center hold weekly interdisciplinary conferences that serve as the forum for discussion of breast cancer cases and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan for each individual patient, reached by consensus among the various cancer specialists in attendance.

Melanie Barnard, MD, is an assistant professor of clinical surgery in the Department of Surgery at SIU. She has special interest in breast cancer, provides surgical care to breast cancer patients and serves as Director of the Breast Center.

Dr. Emily Sturm is an assistant professor of surgery at SIU. She is a fellowship trained surgical oncologist and provides surgical care for a wide range of cancer patients, including breast cancer patients at the Breast Center.



*Melanie Barnard, MD*



*Emily Sturm, MD*

## Services Offered

- Breast surgery: mastectomy, lumpectomy, surgical breast biopsies, breast reduction, breast, nipple and areola reconstruction.
- Chemotherapy.
- Genetic Counseling.
- Support groups.
- Wig salon.
- Patient and nurse navigation: Assists with locating financial assistance programs for various treatment related needs, answering insurance questions, information about transportation assistance to treatments, available support groups and programs and lodging options .
- Side-by-Side Wellness Program: Fitness classes including Tai Chi, Yoga, Qi Gong, Reiki and Pilates are free to cancer patients. For those who wish to include spiritual healing in their cancer treatment, pastoral care counselors are also available through the Side-by-Side program.
- Psychological counseling services are available to assist with the stress a cancer diagnosis brings to an individual.

## Clinical, Translational and Discovery Science Research

The Breast Center is an avid supporter and active participant in breast cancer research. Our clinical faculty and staff collaborate with discovery scientists, national agencies and biopharma to offer a variety of breast cancer trials, including cancer control, treatment (including adjuvant and neo-adjuvant) and symptom management studies.

All patients may actively participate in research by donating to our Tissue Bank. The Tissue Banking Facility is a service provided by the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU that obtains blood and surgical specimens for research. Skilled technologists work with surgeons and pathologists to maximize the scientific value of primarily discarded tissue without compromising diagnostic processing. Specimens are utilized locally by SIU discovery scientists for translational research.

Basic and translational researchers work closely with our Breast Center clinicians to provide discoveries in cancer biology that will lead to better detection, treatment and preventative treatment options in the future.

Research efforts at Simmons Cancer Institute include evaluating unique aspects of tumor growth and metastasis, new methods for earlier detection and monitoring of treatment response, as well as novel approaches for the treatment and prevention of cancer growth and metastasis.

Patients, families and providers are encouraged to contact our Research Office to seek information on research opportunities at the Breast Center at Simmons Cancer Institute. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Research Office at 217-545-1946.





# SIU Department of Surgery - Institute for Plastic Surgery

## Expertise

The Institute for Plastic Surgery is committed to achieving the highest standard of excellence in all areas of reconstructive and cosmetic surgery. Reconstructive plastic surgery strives to restore appearance and function for patients with defects resulting from trauma, infection, tumors, burns, birth defects or disease. Cosmetic or aesthetic plastic surgery enhances a patient's appearance.

Created at SIU School of Medicine in 1973, the Institute has grown to include an outstanding team of physicians, a thriving residency, a fellowship program and an excellent hand surgery and therapy center. The Institute is nationally and internationally known for its work in many areas including microsurgery, hand surgery and therapy, reconstructive surgery, aesthetic surgery and specialized care in the treatment of burns and problematic wounds.

## Plastic Surgery Services

- Breast surgery: reconstruction, augmentation, reduction and lift, gynecomastia
- Burns: acute care, reconstructive surgery, therapy and burn survivor group
- Hand and wrist surgery and therapy
- Microsurgery and facial reanimation
- Post-weight loss body contouring
- Wound care/closure
- Skin cancer treatment
- Migraine clinic
- Pediatric plastic surgery



*Nada N. Berry, MD*



*Brian Mailey, MD*



*Nicole Sommer,  
MD, FACS*



*Michael W. Neumeister,  
MD, FRCS(S), FACS*

## SIU Cosmetic Center

The SIU Cosmetic Center, located within the Plastic Surgery Institute, offers a wide range of surgical and nonsurgical cosmetic procedures. Cosmetic Center director, Dr. Nicole Sommer is fellowship trained in breast reconstruction and aesthetic surgery. SIU is the only plastic surgery center in downstate Illinois to offer the VECTRA 3D imaging system which enables our providers to demonstrate the outcome(s) of certain cosmetic procedures to our patients via pre- and postoperative photorealistic 3D views.

## Spectrum of services

- Skin care programs
- Laser treatments: tattoo removal/scar revision, spider vein removal (face and legs), hair removal, skin resurfacing (face, chest and hand rejuvenation), sun spots, vascular lesions
- Minimally invasive cosmetic surgery: Botox®/Dysport injections, chemical peels, sclerotherapy, wrinkle fillers, fat injections, Kybella®
- Body Contouring: tummy tuck and/or abdominoplasty, buttock/thigh/arm lift, belt lipectomy, thighplasty, labial reduction, liposuction
- Cosmetic Breast Surgery: augmentation, mastopexy
- Facial plastic surgery: facelift, brow lift, eyelid lift, ear reduction, neck lift, rhinoplasty





# Facial Surgery at the Department of Otolaryngology (ENT) and SIU Facial Nerve Clinic

## Expertise

Dr. Matthew Johnson, Assistant Professor of Surgery, partner in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at SIU and Director of SIU Facial Nerve Clinic, specializes in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. He is board certified in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Prior to joining SIU, Dr. Johnson completed internship and residency training at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He then continued on to complete fellowship in Syracuse, NY at Upstate Medical University, training in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive surgery and Craniomaxillofacial Surgery. Additional clinical interests include rhinoplasty, facial paralysis, facial reconstruction after Mohs surgery or cancer removal, facial trauma, facial aesthetic surgery including: facelift, brow lift, eyelid lift, laser skin treatments, botox, filler injectables, and fat grafting. Dr. Johnson is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, the American Academy of Facial Plastics and Reconstructive Surgery, and the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.

SIU Medicine surgeon Sandra Ettema specializes in treating disorders of the larynx and voice. As the director of the Voice, Airway and Swallowing Clinic at SIU Medicine, she enjoys treating children with difficulty swallowing as well as head and neck cancer patients who have swallowing or voice problems after their treatment. Ettema also cares for patients with tracheostomies, speech disorders, sleep apnea and other sleep disorders. The American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society, Inc., better known as the Triological Society, has named Dr. Ettema, a fellow of its 124-year-old organization.

## Services Offered

- Facial plastic surgery: reconstruction of facial defects (from cancer removal or trauma), nasal surgery, rhinoplasty, facial aesthetic surgery, recent facial trauma, pediatric facial plastic and craniofacial surgery, facial paralysis reconstruction and congenital facial conditions, orofacial clefting.
- Facial nerve clinic: Multidisciplinary diagnosis and treatment of facial nerve disorders including partial or complete facial nerve paralysis and its causes.
- Voice, airway and swallowing clinic: Diagnosis, treatment and management of laryngeal and voice disorders. Services are available for people with vocal misuse and overuse syndromes, recurrent laryngitis, spasmodic dysphonia, swallowing problems, vocal cord paralysis, aging voice, cancer of the vocal cord, scarred vocal cords and benign vocal cord growths.



*Matthew D. Johnson, MD*



*Sandra L. Ettema, MD, PhD, CCC/SLP*

# Obstetrics & Gynecology Medical Student Education

The four week Obstetrics & Gynecology Core Clerkship for SIU's third year medical students is led by Clerkship director, Dr. Yahia Zeino and nurse educator, Cheryl Ashburn (both members of the Association of Professors of Gynecology & Obstetrics; APGO). This clerkship provides a wide variety of clinical experiences in women's health. Students are involved in educational activities working with women across their life spans including participating in prenatal care, the labor, delivery and postpartum process in addition to well-woman care and gynecological procedures. Our students are integrated into teams with residents and attending physicians. Under supervision, they are able to have a rich, hands-on clinical immersion during their rotation that allows them to practice managing patients' conditions. This experience encourages them to be accountable for their patients' care and to learn about the complexities of women's health and to apply this knowledge to their future practice as physicians regardless of their career choice. After completing all core clerkships, students have an opportunity to return to the department to do selective rotations on Labor & Delivery participating in intrapartum and postpartum care, Ambulatory Ob/Gyn experiencing a mix of outpatient prenatal care and gynecological care, or Gynecological Surgery being assigned to a variety of surgical procedures.

During the fourth year of medical school, the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology offers electives for Ob/Gyn bound students under the direction of Dr. Casey Younkin. Electives include:

- Clinical Hospital Obstetrics Sub-internship: Focusing on intrapartum and postpartum care
- Maternal Fetal Medicine: Focusing on high risk pregnancies
- Urogynecology: Focusing on pelvic floor defects and incontinence
- Gynecology Oncology: Focusing on cancers of the female reproductive tract
- Reproductive Endocrinology: Focusing on the treatment and care of infertile couples
- Gynecologic Surgery: Focusing on gynecological surgical procedures
- Reproductive Immunology: Focusing on current research projects with immunology faculty
- Ob/Gyn Residency Readiness: A bootcamp for students bound for Ob/Gyn residency to hone skills necessary success during their intern year of residency

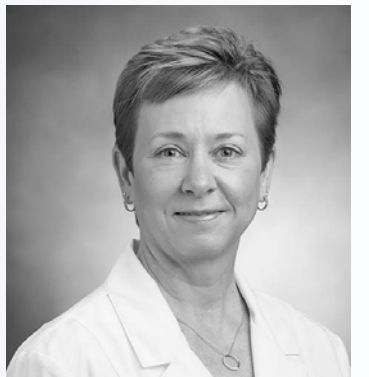
All of the electives are designed to provide a higher level of responsibility and depth of knowledge in preparation of residency.



*Yahia Zeino, MD*



*Casey Younkin, MD*



*Cheryl Ashburn, MSN, RN*



# Training opportunities at SIU

## Memorial Center for Innovation and Learning (MCLI)

The Simulation Center features 10 unique simulated learning environments in 16,000 square feet on the MCLI's third floor. These learning environments include a nurse's station, patient room, operating room, an office and an exam room modeled after Memorial Physician Services and ExpressCare rooms. Many of the rooms have simulated patients that can be programmed with a wide variety of symptoms.

An intensive care room serves a dual purpose as a labor and delivery room; clinicians can run mock scenarios on a simulated patient that can give birth seven different ways. Two rooms – a trauma bay and a treatment room – simulate an emergency department setting.

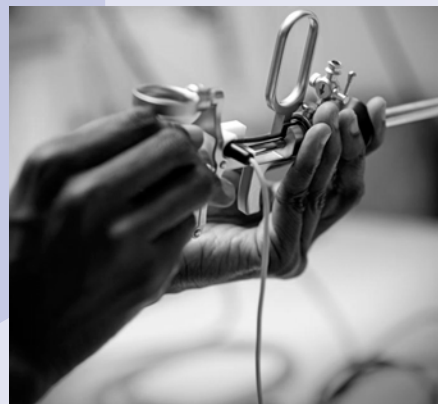
The Simulation Center also has a mock residence with a kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom in 1,300 square feet; the area, which has half walls for easy observation, can be used for training by ambulance providers, firefighters and home service and hospice caregivers.

A high-tech ambulance simulator, which mimics on-the-road movement, allows emergency medical technicians to train as if they're transporting patients to the hospital.

## SIU Surgical Skills Laboratory

The SIU Surgical Skills Laboratory, in partnership with Springfield Memorial Hospital, allows residents and physicians to stay on the leading-edge of practice and technology by honing their skills in a simulated environment. Skills Labs have revolutionized surgical training. Using computer simulators and virtual reality technology as well as specially designed procedure modules, surgical residents learn a wide array of skills, including but not limited to instrument tying, one/two-handed knot tying, Laparoscopic proficiencies, vascular anastomosis, chest tubes, central lines and splinting.

Residents using the lab come from general surgery, vascular surgery, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, urology, emergency medicine, obstetrics & gynecology, internal medicine, family medicine, neurosurgery, primary care and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-year medical students.



## Birthing Simulator

The Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation also houses Victoria, the most life-like birthing simulator on the market. Victoria effectively trains residents, students, and healthcare providers in managing issues that range from early pregnancy complications to postpartum emergencies. She has been used to simulate a variety of clinical scenarios including shoulder dystocia, breech deliveries, and cesarean sections. Victoria can also be used to assess physician, nurse, and student competency in the non-gravid standard gynecologic exam. She can be used to train in IUD insertion, speculum examination, and bimanual palpation. Her ability to visually track objects, as well as display nystagmus and various neurologic manifestations of preeclampsia make her invaluable in allowing our residents to effectively identify and treat eclampsia. Additionally, she has fully programmable airway, breathing, and circulation physiological parameters, and has an array of sensors to track participant performance in real time. Victoria has become an integral component of the Ob/Gyn simulation curriculum. Victoria is used to practice and enhance team dynamics and communication during interdisciplinary scenarios such as post-partum hemorrhage and eclampsia, and can be utilized by Ob/Gyn, Emergency Medicine, and Family Medicine residents.



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# Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program

## Mission Statement and Program Aims

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology strives to serve the community of central Illinois while training future women's health providers with the highest competence in clinical care that is effective, efficient and equitable.

The Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program aims to train residents to be competent to provide women's health in a community setting. Specifically, we aim to train residents to:

- Provide comprehensive well-woman care and management of gynecologic disorders with a focus on patient safety
- Provide high-quality obstetrical care with a focus on identifying high-risk populations
- Provide state of the art gynecologic surgical care while recognizing the need for sub-specialized care
- Participate and provide effective education to patients, students, and fellow residents
- Understand the importance and function of medical research on clinical practice. Be able to critically appraise current research as it relates to their practice
- Enter clinical practice within a community as a competent Ob/Gyn with the skills to continuously monitor for quality-driven care
- Care for the wellness of themselves, their patients, and their colleagues

## Program Accreditation

The residency curriculum is based on the objectives published by the Council for Residency Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG). Our residency program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and successful residency completion leads to board eligibility by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG).

## Expertise and Program Structure

We combine the strong didactic teaching of the School of Medicine with the abundant clinical procedures from the affiliated community hospitals, Springfield Memorial Hospital and HSHS St. John's Hospital, offering a unique experience to residents. The abundance of clinical material provides ample opportunity for the development of superior technical and clinical skills.

Our program takes four years to complete and is currently training 16 resident physicians. Training includes primary, specialty and subspecialty care. In the first year of training, emphasis is placed on general obstetrics and gynecology and primary care. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> post-graduate years, residents rotate through the subspecialty divisions, while playing an active role in the education, supervision and evaluation of junior residents and medical students. By simulating the private practice environment in the resident continuity clinics, residents learn to apply the primary care and specialty skills learned in the first years of training throughout residency. Research activities are expected throughout the program. Residents in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year are required to present discovery, translational and/or clinical research under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

## Interdepartmental rotations

- Internal Medicine: Residents receive training in ambulatory primary care by attending the general medicine clinics as well as Prairie Cardiovascular Clinics supervised by Internal Medicine faculty members.
- Pathology: During this one-month rotation in the Pathology lab at Springfield Memorial Hospital, residents process and microscopically examine specimens, and dictate the microscopic narrative supervised by faculty in the Department of Pathology. They also participate in weekly pathology departmental conferences.
- Pediatrics, Division of Genetics: Faculty from this division assist residents in managing patients that have genetic risks and/or complications. As a level III obstetrical and pediatric referral center, the volume and variety of genetic cases provides ample opportunities for practical teaching and application of genetic principles taught in didactic lectures, which are part of the core curriculum.
- Emergency Department: Residents rotate in the emergency room under the supervision of Emergency Medicine physicians.
- Psychosexual Counseling: The Department of Psychiatry provides this training in seminar form yearly and on a consultation basis.
- Ethics and Medical Jurisprudence: Medical Jurisprudence is taught in seminar form every two years by the Department of Medical Humanities.
- Rural Medicine: During their rotation at our outreach clinic in Jacksonville, Illinois, residents have the opportunity to care for a rural and vulnerable population.
- Breast Clinic: Residents attend a breast clinic 1/2 day per week under the direction of the SIU Department of Surgery at the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU.





# Research Endeavors in Obstetrics & Gynecology

## Expertise

The four divisions within the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology comprise a diverse research portfolio, including numerous multi-disciplinary investigator-initiated clinical trials. The department of Obstetrics & Gynecology supports 3 full-time faculty and staff members from the Center for Clinical Research at SIU Medicine along with a statistical research core providing expertise in research methodology. The full spectrum of assistance is available to faculty and residents to bring their innovative clinical research ideas to fruition, which is significant to sustain an important aspect of the School of Medicine's mission. Support is provided for project development, Internal Review Board (IRB) review and submission, grant writing, patient screening, consenting and tracking, data acquisition and analysis and ultimately manage the dissemination of results as poster and manuscript preparation.

The department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is conducting more than 25 IRB approved clinical studies focusing on all aspects of women's health. This wide range of research topics includes contraception, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of gynecologic and reproductive disorders, pregnancy disorders such as preterm birth, intrauterine growth restriction and preeclampsia, improvement of minimally invasive surgical procedures, development of biomarkers for early detection of gynecologic cancers and health disparities in our patient population.

The goal of the Obstetrics & Gynecology research program is to invest in the training of clinician-researchers to develop physician-scientists as leaders in advancing the field of women's healthcare.

## Awards/Achievements

A new study by Andrea Braundmeier-Fleming, PhD, could lead to an earlier diagnosis and new treatments for Endometriosis. Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming and Dr. Loret de Mola have been awarded a grant from the Endometriosis Foundation of America to help develop an analysis method that uses the patient's own microbiome (the collective term used to describe microbes within/on an individual's body) to check for the condition.

Dr. Braundmeier-Fleming, in conjunction with Dr. Brard, are investigating the utility of the gastrointestinal and urogenital microbiomes as biomarkers to determine the presence and severity of endometrial and ovarian cancers as well as to predict the effectiveness of treatment strategies. The ultimate goal is to develop algorithms for early detection and personalized cancer treatment. Two grants, from the US Department of Energy and the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU, provided funding for these studies.

SIU School of Medicine in collaboration with Washington University in St. Louis, MO has recently been awarded a grant from NIH to support Feasibility Studies to Build Collaborative Partnerships in Cancer Research (P20), Dr. Brard (Gynecologic Oncology Division Chief) was the Principal Investigator for this project.

Dale Buck Hales, PhD, is currently funded by National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (National Institutes of Health) to study the potential of flaxseed as a therapeutic agent in the prevention of ovarian cancer using an animal model.



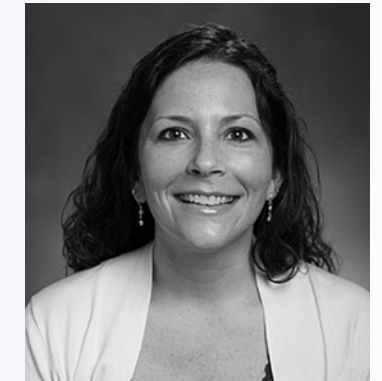
*Vijayalakshmi  
Ayyagari, PhD*



*Andrea Braundmeier-  
Fleming, PhD*



*Paula Diaz-  
Sylvester, PhD*



*Kathleen Groesch,  
MS, CCRP*



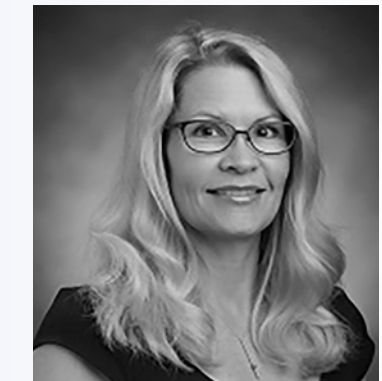
*Dale Buck Hales, PhD*



*Karen Hales, PhD*



*Donald S. Torry, PhD*



*Teresa Wilson, BA*

## Collaborations

- Dr. Matthew Young (SIU Carbondale) and Dr. Brard are funded by the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU (Team Science Grant) to develop a novel endometrial cancer biomarker using mitochondrial DNA.
- Dr. Kevin Tucker (Dept. of Chemistry, SIU Edwardsville), is collaborating with Drs. Brard and Braundmeier-Fleming, in a study designed to assess lipid droplet composition and immune mediators in gynecological cancers. This research is funded by the SIU System Collaborative Grant Award.
- Dr. Farhan Chowdhury (SIU Edwardsville) and Dr. Brard have recently received the SIU System Collaborative Grant Award to study bioengineering approaches to target tumor repopulating cells in endometrial cancer.
- Sandraluz Lara-Cinisomo, PhD an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has recently received funding from UIUC for two studies in collaboration with Dr. Loret de Mola. They are investigating how diabetes self-care may play a role in depression during pregnancy and how access to food may affect diabetes self-care during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Nguyen L, Palencia L, Pratt K, Battley L, Nelson E. Assessing Contraception Counseling During the Prenatal Period. 2019 District VI Annual Meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Lake Geneva, WI. August 9-11, 2019.

Hayashi K, Shi M, Whorton A, Roy A, Sekulovski N, MacLean J. The efficacy of niclosamide on the intra-abdominal inflammatory environment in endometriosis. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, Society for the Study of Reproduction; San Jose, CA. July 18-21, 2019.

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Almdale A, Ghareeb A, Wilson T, Groesch K, Diaz-Sylvester P, Christensen A, Delfino K, Unal E, Younkin C. Vitamin D Deficiency and Its Implications on Intrauterine Growth Restriction (IUGR). 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiological Research; Minneapolis, MN – June 17-18, 2019.

Braundmeier-Fleming A, Le N, Acheampong N, Nicholson K, Idusuyi B, Thompson T, Portugal A, Ye A, Ghareeb A, Wilson T, Groesch K, Diaz-Sylvester P, Gilbert J, Loret de Mola JR. The Impact of Maternal Inflammation on Preterm Birth. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology; Grand Rapids, MI – June 12-15, 2019.

Le N, Cregger M, Nguyen L, Loret de Mola J, Groesch K, Wilson T, Diaz-Sylvester P, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Alteration of Microbial Communities and Immune Populations in Patients with Endometriosis. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology; Grand Rapids, MI – June 12-15, 2019.

Loret de Mola J, Le N, Nguyen L, Groesch K, Wilson T, Diaz-Sylvester P, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Pre- and Post-Operative Changes in Urinary Estrogen Metabolites in Women with Endometriosis. 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Society for Endometriosis and Uterine Disorders; Montreal, Canada – May 16-18, 2019.

Gibson K, Cregger M, Pratt K, Karr M, Martin J, Welge M, Bushell C, Zhu R, Auvi L, Miao R, Diaz-Sylvester P, Groesch K, Badger T, Ghareeb A, Wilson T, Brard L, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Microbial Analysis of Peritoneal Fluid as a Screening Tool for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer. 2019 Annual meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Nashville, TN – May 3-6, 2019.

Onyewuenyi T, Le N, Addo J, Groesch K, Loret de Mola J, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Chronic Peripheral Inflammation and Perinatal Depression in High Risk Pregnancies. 2019 Annual meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Nashville, TN – May 3-6, 2019.

Idusuyi B, Le N, Gong J, Ghareeb A, Groesch K, Loret de Mola J, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Maternal Inflammation and Urogenital Microbial Profiling as Predictors of Preterm Birth. 2019 Annual meeting of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Nashville, TN – May 3-6, 2019.

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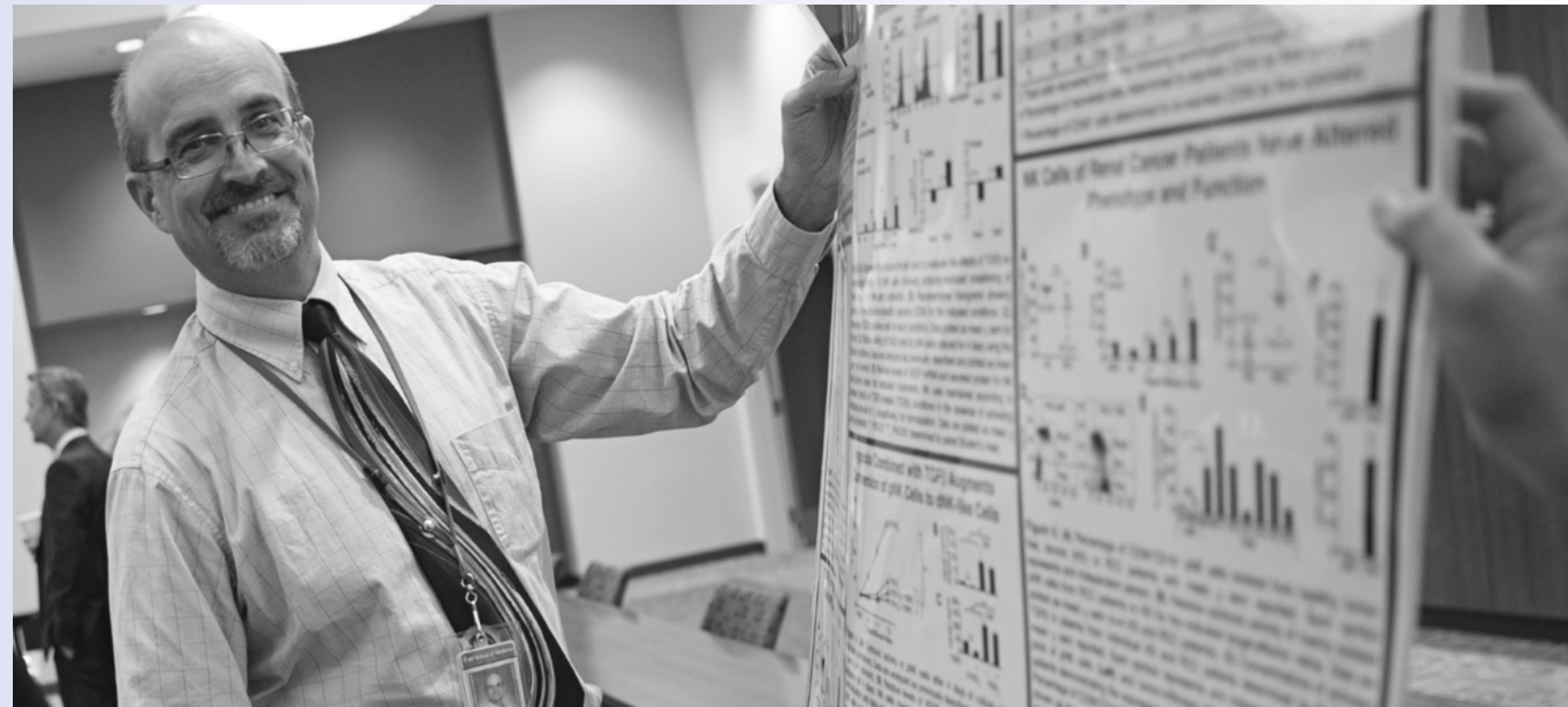
Battley L, Fetter M, Wilson T, Groesch K, Diaz-Sylvester P, Ghareeb A, Butlin A, Brard L, Zeino Y, Nelson E. Prophylactic Salpingectomy Analysis: A Risk Reduction Procedure for Ovarian Cancer. Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology (SASCOG); Nashville, TN – May 2, 2019.

Hyon K, Wilson T, Groesch K, Ghareeb A, Diaz-Sylvester P, Kuroki L, Delfino K, Massad S, Zeino Y, Semaan A, Martin JA. Assessment of Colposcopy Adherence in a Low Income Patient Population. American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology annual scientific meeting; Atlanta, GA – April 4-7, 2019.

Gibson K, Cregger M, Pratt K, Ghareeb A, Brard L, Hyon K, Groesch K, Wilson T, Badger T, Braundmeier-Fleming A. Understanding and Diagnosing Endometrial Cancer using MULTI-organ Microbial Taxonomic Signatures. 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Society for Gynecologic Oncology; Honolulu, HI – March 16-19, 2019.

## Obstetrics & Gynecology Discovery Science Grants

- Brard L, Young M. Development of a Novel Endometrial Cancer Biomarker using Mitochondrial DNA. SIU School of Medicine, Team Science Grant.
- Brard L, Chowdhury F. Bioengineering Approaches to Target Tumor Repopulating Cells in Endometrial Cancer. SIU System Collaborative Grant Award.
- Brard L. Addressing Rural Cancer Health Disparities: A Siteman Cancer Center-SIUSM Partnership. NIH, P20 Grant.
- Braundmeier-Fleming A, Brard L, Semaan A. A quantitative, systems biology, multi-omic approach to diagnose and predict response to treatment for gynecologic cancer. Laboratory Directed Research and Development Grant, Department of Energy.
- Braundmeier-Fleming A, Tucker K, Brard L, Ayyagari V. Evaluation of lipid droplet composition and immune mediators in gynecological cancers. SIU System Collaborative Grant Award.
- Braundmeier-Fleming A, Loret de Mola JR. Utilizing the Microbiome to Diagnose Endometriosis. Endometriosis Foundation of America and SIU School of Medicine, Research Seed Grant.
- Braundmeier-Fleming A, Brard L, Semaan A. Machine Learning Approach for Early Detection and Individualized of Ovarian Cancer. Team Science Grant, Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU Medicine.
- Loret de Mola JR, Lara-Cinisomo S, Palencia L. Diabetes, prenatal depression and self-rated health: Exploring the mediating role of self-efficacy. UIUC College of Applied Health Sciences Center on Health, Aging, and Disability (CHAD).
- Loret de Mola JR, Lara-Cinisomo S. COVID-19 Pandemic, Food Access and Self-Care Management of Diabetes among Women. Division of Nutritional Science – Margin of Excellence Research Award.
- Torry D, Wilber A. Novel Role of Natural Killer Cells in Promoting Renal Cell Carcinoma Progression. William E. McElroy Charitable Foundation
- Torry D, Roberts M, Du W. Advanced Multi-Modal Microplate Technology to Increase Research Capabilities at Simmons Cancer Institute. Memorial Medical Center Foundation Grant.







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