Welcome New Residents!

First Year Residents

Beth Merrill, MD
Erin Spathy, MD
Carlyna Nance, MD

Welcome, New Residents
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Welcome, New Residents!

**Jennifer Axe** joined our department on October 10, 2011 as a 3rd Year Resident. Previously, she was in the Ob/Gyn Residency Program at Magee Women’s Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

She received her medical degree at Boston University School of Medicine.

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**Erin Sperry** grew up in North Oaks, Minnesota, a suburb twenty minutes north of the twin cities. She attended Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California and graduated with a bachelor of science in computer science. After graduation, she started working at ESRI in Redlands, California where she was able to use her programming skills to test ESRI’s internet-based mapping software. She was also able to study geographic information systems and cartography at the nearby University of Redlands. While living in California, she developed her love of the outdoors by getting involved in the local bicycling community and competing in triathlons. A triathlon sponsored by Loma Linda Medical Center inspired her to start volunteering there and ultimately led to her decision to leave her career in software to pursue medicine.

She moved to Oakland, California to attend Mills College’s post-baccalaureate pre-medical program and then moved to Albany, New York to attend medical school at Albany Medical College. While in medical school she participated in the Care From the Start program, a primary care clinic set up to allow first and second year medical students the opportunity to work in a clinic for the uninsured in Albany’s Arbor Hill neighborhood. Honors during medical school include graduating with a Distinction in Research for her thesis, “Motion Capture as a Tool for Measuring the Biomechanics of a Rugby Tackle” and a Distinction in Bioethics for her thesis, “Ethical Issues Surrounding Gender Verification in Women’s Athletics.” She also received the David J. Dickerman prize for “best clinical performance in obstetrics and gynecology.” Upon graduation, she moved to Tucson, Arizona to begin her obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Arizona.

Erin’s hobbies include bicycling and triathlons as well as sailing, camping, cooking, knitting, and spending time with her family.

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**Beth Murrill** was born and raised in rural, western Colorado. She attended the University of Oregon in Eugene where she obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. While at the University of Oregon, Beth did research on the evolution of transfer RNA molecules in bacteria. Continuing in the world of research after graduation, she spent several years working to improve the cryopreservation of the model organism, zebrafish. During her time in Oregon, Beth’s interest in medicine developed. She volunteered extensively at a free medical clinic, serving in various positions ranging from receptionist to Spanish interpreter. By having such a great experience but wanting to remain in the realm of science, Beth decided to pursue her medical degree at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There she continued her commitment to community service by volunteering at a student run medical clinic for drug abusers and assisting lawyers in helping immigrants obtain medical assistance.

Also during medical school, Beth was able to pursue her interest in women’s health and eventually decided to choose the specialty of OB/GYN. She is a first year resident at the University of Arizona this year.

Beth also has enjoyed spending time traveling abroad. One notable trip occurred during high school where Beth participated in a summer program called Amigos de las Americas. There, she lived in a small community in Southern Bolivia, learned about the people and helped to construct latrines. Another significant experience was an exchange program to Quito, Ecuador where Beth was able to study Spanish, South American literature...
and indigenous medicine at a local university.

In her free time, Beth likes to pursue her lifelong appreciation for the outdoors and mountains by hiking, camping, rafting and skiing. She also enjoys trying out interesting recipes, reading, knitting, sewing and growing plants.

Lisa Carbonell was born and raised in the small town of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. She moved to Tucson, AZ for her undergraduate program and she graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and a minor in Science Education. During her time at the U of A, she took advantage of several opportunities to travel abroad and went to Brazil, Australia, and Mexico where she participated in different missions in medicine – opportunities to compare medical systems in these countries and provide medical care to the underserved. Her work in these countries inspired her to pursue a career in medicine.

She later moved back home to Puerto Rico where she worked for two years in her father’s obstetric and gynecology practice as an office assistant. It was this experience that motivated her to apply to medical school. Soon after, Lisa attended medical school at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine (her father’s alma mater). In Puerto Rico, she participated in many clinics set up for the underserved populations of the island. She was elected academic vice-president of her class and was responsible for voicing her fellow students’ concerns and opinions at curricular meetings. Her interest in women’s health began to grow with her involvement in research on the Human Papilloma virus, vaccine, and population knowledge related to this topic. Lisa is currently a first year resident at the University of Arizona and hopes to return to her island when she finishes her residency training. Lisa’s interests outside of medicine include traveling, yoga, tennis, surfing, running, watching great movies and spending time with her husband.

Carleyna Nunes was born in Tucson, Arizona as an only child, but is lucky enough to have a large extended family. When she was eight years old, she moved with her parents to Albuquerque, New Mexico. After finishing high school in Albuquerque, she then began her great migration from the southwest to the northeast where she completed her B.A. in Sociology at Brown University. During her junior year of college, she was able to spend a semester abroad living in London. She was also able to explore different parts of Europe.

Carleyna stayed at Brown for medical school where she was an active member of Medical Students for Choice and also took part in the Women's Reproductive Health scholarly concentration. In her free time she enjoys playing the piano, swing dancing, and trying her hand at Mexican cooking. She is thrilled to return to Arizona where she can revitalize her roots and start enjoying all the outdoor adventures the southwest has to offer!
Resident Research Day, April 29, 2011

**Contraceptive Preferences in Incarcerated Women**
Katherine Degen, M.D.

**Adolescent and Young Women’s Knowledge of the Pap Test, Humanpapilloma Virus and Humanpapilloma Virus Vaccination in a Clinic-Based Population**
Katherine Glaser, M.D., M.P.H.

**Knowledge about HPV and HPV Vaccination Practices Among Diverse University Students Following the Introduction of the HPV Prophylactic Vaccine**
Marisa Gonzalez, M.D.

**Quality Assessment and Tools for Quality Improvement in Cesarean Delivery: A Retrospective Analysis and Plan for Implementation**
Rachel Long, M.D.

**Resident Instruction with High Fidelity Simulator versus Lecture Alone in the Management of Postpartum Hemorrhage**
Ryan Porter, M.D.

**Multi-Center Clinical Research: Trials and Tribulations, Has It Impacted Women’s Health?**
Holly E. Richter, Ph.D., M.D.

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Alumni & Friends Event, April 29, 2011

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology would like to thank Jennifer Whitehair, MD, guest speaker at the 4th Annual Alumni & Friends Reunion Dinner. Dr. Whitehair is an ObGyn alumni from the Class of 2006 and works on the Navajo Reservation in Tuba City, Arizona. She gave an extraordinary presentation entitled, *Practicing OB/GYN on the Navajo Reservation: A Developing World Patient Population*. We are grateful to Dr. Whitehair for sharing her incredible experiences and culture-based knowledge as an obgyn practitioner working on a Navajo Reservation.
Sigrid Gardner is a medical student and completed her OB/GYN rotation towards the end of her third year. She shares her story with us… “I was getting concerned that I would have to settle for a career that had many positive factors but that didn’t feel ideal for my lifestyle and personality. I had liked each of my previous rotations, but had not yet found the specialty that seemed right for me. Almost immediately after starting OB/GYN, I knew that I had found the perfect fit.

“I was lucky to work with Dr. Costantino and Dr. Dehasse, who from day one encouraged me to take an active role in patient care. I quickly realized how much variety is present in the field of OB/GYN, and loved going to the clinic every morning to see patients who were going through one of the most life-changing experiences anyone can have: pregnancy and the birth of a child. I felt excited to empower women to choose the best form of birth control for them, and to educate patients going through menopause to help them understand the physiology of their bodies. At TMC, I took call with Dr. Miller who, like Dr. Costantino and Dr. Dehasse, allowed me to be an integral part of the team and assist with deliveries and C-sections. After every encounter with a patient, I felt honored and privileged to have been a small part of one of the most important and personal moments in her life.

“As a combined MD/MPH student, public health, international health, and the ability to serve my community are all of vital importance to me. Through my OB/GYN clerkship experience, I have learned that women’s health is an integral part of public health, and that women are often the most open to make healthy changes in their lives at exactly the moment that they are seen by their OB/GYN. International opportunities in OB/GYN abound, and I am excited about all aspects of the career I have chosen. Through my OB/GYN clerkship at the U of A, I have developed a renewed excitement and commitment to my future career as a physician, and I feel infinitely fortunate to have found a career that suits me so well.”

Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program

Dr. Cathy Herway completed a one-month rotation in Phoenix with Dr. Harris Finberg. Dr. Finberg is a Radiologist and practices at Phoenix Perinatal Associates. Dr. Herway is an MFM, Clinical Assistant IV in the Department of ObGyn at the University of Arizona.
In early 2004, I read an editorial by Nicholas Kristoff of the New York Times extolling the character and dedication of Dr. Catherine Hamlin. She is the Australian born OB/GYN who, with her OB/GYN husband, went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1959, and soon thereafter, started performing surgery on the many women they encountered with holes in their bladders from obstructed labor. This is called a fistula—a hole in this case between the urinary bladder and the vagina or uterus. These women are treated as outcasts because of their odors and disabilities. I emailed Dr. Hamlin and asked if I could come and learn how to do the repairs. To my surprise, she allowed me to visit, and over two weeks and observing eighty operations, I was able to acquire the knowledge long since forgotten—for lack of need—in the U.S. Six months later, she gave my name to the United Nations for a project where I served in northern Nigeria as one of four international volunteers on a Campaign to End Fistula.

Our prescribed task was to operate on 500 women with fistulas in fourteen days; the number reached 565. It was simply the most intense surgical experience of my life. I met and became friends with the other great “giant” of fistula repair, Dr. Kees Waaldijk. He, along with his trainees—disciples, Dr. Ahmed Sayd Mohamed, Dr. Sunday Lengmeng, Dr. Kabir Abubacar, Dr. Emir Yola, and Catherine’s group from Addis, Africa, have collectively operated on close to 100,000 women; the Addis group since 1959 and Dr. Waaldijk et al, since 1984.

Since the campaign, I have been privileged to join my friends three different times in Nigeria, once in Ghana, and most recently, in Eritrea. I have been welcomed and have never felt unsafe. Eritrea is a small mountainous country on the Red Sea, bordered by Sudan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti. Agriculture fuels the economy and most of the populace travel by bus, bicycles, or donkey carts. Italy controlled Eritrea early in the 1900s and many of the towns and the capital, Asmara, have the feel and appearance of a European country. The Eritrean National Vesico-Vaginal Fistula Center (V.V.F.) is in the small farming community of Mendefera, one hour south of Asmara. In the hospital, built recently by the Chinese government, approximately 100 V.V.F. procedures are performed each year. The U.N. project, which I was invited to join, travels to the V.V.F. Center two times per year to “catch up” on recurrent or more difficult V.V.F. Successful closure of the bladder is influenced, of course, by the extent of the injury, but overall, 85% are cured in the first operation and 75% more if they require a second.

My colleague on this trip, Dr. Ambereen Sleemi, a urogynecologist from New York, has been a regular traveler to Eritrea during the past seven to eight years and was instrumental in getting me invited. She was the other U.S. volunteer on the original campaign to end fistula and our paths have crossed frequently since, as we have continued to work in fistula repair. We performed twenty-two repairs in eight days of surgery. The last day, we met with the OB/GYN residents at the university hospital in Asmara, highlighting different approaches to problems of pelvic support and continence procedures. The university hospital does over 9,000 deliveries per year with a 10% Cesarian section rate. Its GYN surgical service volume is commensurate with the volume of deliveries. As a gynecologist, V.V.F. surgeries are the most challenging procedure I have ever undertaken. The reward for success is amazing. I value what I do as a
Dr. Bill Meyer, Jr. (cont’d)

physician and believe I serve my U.S. patients well. There is, however, nothing I do in America that basically gives the patient back their life like the successful closure of a fistula. I am indebted to my colleagues in Africa who are the experts and who serve daily as opposed to two to three weeks at a time.

I am proud to note that a great number of my American colleagues travel regularly to third world nations where they volunteer their expertise. In my own department, more than half of my partners regularly inspire me with their service abroad. It is simply too great an adventure to miss.

**African Summer 2011 — Dr. Meyer’s 2nd Trip**

There are times as I’ve travelled when someone I’ve met makes a real impression because of the life they lead and the experiences that entails. One such man is my friend and recent host in East Africa, Dr. Tom Raassen. He moved to Kenya right out of medical school in the 1960s and practiced in Nairobi, Kenya. Realizing he could contribute much more as a surgeon, he completed a surgery residency back in Holland; then returned to join the Flying Doctors of East Africa. Flying out of Nairobi airport on Monday and returning by Friday, he accumulated stops at provincial hospitals in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda. Eventually, he achieved such renown that he was able to work as a consultant for other NGOs and make his own schedule, still flying for 1-2 week missions from his home in Nairobi. In the early 1980s he met Drs. Catherine and Reginald Hamlin and accepted their invitation to train in fistula repair at their hospital in Addis Ababa. He has since made most of his practice VVF and RVF repair. Doing so, he has managed to operate in most of southern and eastern Sub-Saharan Africa as well as central and southern Asia from Afghanistan to Burma. He is a great teacher, meticulous surgeon and very caring humanitarian. He’s also great fun to end the day sharing a beer. I was fortunate to travel with Dr. Raassen for three weeks this summer to western Kenya and Zambia. We operated at a 200+ bed provincial hospital in Kisumu, Kenya on the shores by Lake Victoria and at St. Francis Hospital in Katete, Zambia. St. Francis is a sprawling 435 bed one story red brick hospital established and run by the Anglican and Catholic churches. We operated on 45 women in these weeks and only one proved to be inoperable because she simply didn’t have enough of a bladder to put back together. One more woman reported intermittent leakage 8 days postop; otherwise, all were dry as our stay ended. Odd ball things show up at these fistula campaigns and true to forum we diagnosed on two consecutive days women with ectopic ureters draining through the anterior vaginal wall. Both since birth; one was 15, the other a 34 year old with four vaginal births. Prior to their repairs we wanted to make sure there was no ureteral duplication on the side of the ectopic ureter. We found a rather old cystoscopy in the store room which I was able to assemble and demonstrate to my colleagues that in each case there was no ureteral orifice on the ectopic side. Both were then repaired with vaginal incisions and both were dry. Several older patients thought they had fistulas but when assessed were having leakage secondary to urethra stricture with retention and over flow incontinence. I used uterine dilators on the urethra and with follow up these women will be cured. One additional emaciated young woman presented with a recto vaginal fistula which unfortunately was caused by an advance rectal carcinoma. She proved to be HIV+ and her prognosis is not good.

Our ORs were good by African standards and anesthetists administered spinal anesthesia for all our surgeries. Malaria is rampant throughout these areas so we and the patients slept under mosquito nets. There are many tribes throughout Africa and our patients were quite varied – some were little, no more than 4’4”, others easily 6” tall.

St. Francis has many visiting medical students and doctor volunteers as well as a Zambian residency program. On the second week I was asked to present at their monthly “Grand Rounds” and talked about Urinary Incontinence, causes other than by fistulas – a touch of Tucson in central Africa.

Like all my stays in Africa, this one was a combination of excitement, amazement and surprises. I am lucky to have met Tom Raassen and glad to call him my friend.
From left to right: Heather Reed, MD, Kami Dixon, MD, Anita Tiwari, MD, Bethany Kolb, MBA, MD, Helen Cavasin, MD, Rachel Long, MD, Kathryn Reed, MD, Amy Mitchell, MD
2011 Graduation Awards and Department Highlights

2011 Lewis S. Shenker Memorial Award, Katherine Degen, MD
2011 Samuel N. Pozner Memorial Award, Ryan Porter, MD
2nd Year Excellence in 1st Year Resident Teaching, Anna Nelson-Moseke, MD
Special Resident in Minimally Invasive Gynecology, Anita Tiwari, MD
SLS Outstanding Laparoendoscopic Resident Surgeon, Anita Tiwari, MD

Medical Student Teaching Awards
1st year, Lindsay Wood, MD
2nd year, Anna Nelson-Moseke, MD
3rd year, Katherine Degen, MD
4th year, Rachel Long, MD

Holly Butwinski, RN Memorial Nursing Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education, Tracey Taylor, RN

APGO Faculty Teaching Award, James Maciulla, MD

Nancy Leonardo-Santo, RN Memorial Nursing Award for Excellence in Resident Education, Michelle Rankin, RN

CREOG Faculty Teaching Award, William Meyer, MD

Velia Leybas Nuño, MSW, MS, was promoted to Assistant Director of the Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. She is the point of contact in the absence of the Director, Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH and is also a Lecturer in the Department of ObGyn.— Congratulations, Velia!
Please Welcome our Newest ObGyn Staff

Michelle Krueger, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, joins our department as a Program Coordinator in the marketing division. She is a native San Diegan and has worked in administration, development and education for the University of Oklahoma Foundation - Sooner String Project, development and event operations with the University of Oklahoma Athletic Department and development for a Public Affairs and Policy Firm in Washington, DC and California. Michelle and her husband, an Ohio State graduate, moved to Tucson this past summer and enjoy cooking, hiking, mountain biking, watching college football and riding their motorcycles during their free time.

Katy McGhee-Torres returned to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as the Assistant Department Administrator on October 24, 2011. She will be doing special projects such as working on improvement of financial revenues and special operations.

Debbie Perman, an LPN, works in 80PC and has been in the medical field since 1997, mainly in Seattle, WA. She also has a degree in Criminal Justice/Paralegal and worked for the Pima County Attorney for 4 years as a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate. Debbie has a daughter who began studies at the UA with interests in nursing, and a son who just started middle school. When not at work, Debbie enjoys exercising and spending time with her children. She plans on returning to school this fall to complete her nursing degree.

Sandie Przybylowski (no photo) joined the ObGyn Department most recently. She came to us from the Pediatric Clinic at The University of Arizona Medical Center—South Campus. Sandie is an LPN and is primarily working at our Elm clinic.

Lizette Romero, a PCA working in 80PC, is a native of Tucson. She has been married for 7 years and has “two beautiful little girls.” Lizette graduated from Pima Medical Institute in 2004 and has been working as a medical assistant for 7 years. She comes to us from La Dea Women’s Health and is “very happy to be a part of the UAHN family.”

Sherrell Turner is the new Administrative Associate in the general ObGyn division. Sherrell has worked at the U of A since 1999 where she first worked for the Key Desk for Facilities Management. She then transferred to University Animal Care providing administrative support for the director, faculty and staff so she brings considerable experience with UA processes to our department. When not at work, Sherrell enjoys working-out and coaching the Tucson Miracles basketball team.
Bethany Kolb, MBA, MD, ObGyn class of 2011, and Brittany Mar a University of Arizona pre-med student joined Lynn Coppola, MD, MPH, assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arizona to work at the Baptist Medical Center in Ghana. Several hysterectomies were preformed and comprehensive obstetrical care was provided to many patients to include outpatient care as well.

Dr. Kolb additionally traveled to Tamale, the capitol of the northern region of Ghana, to work at the Tamale Teaching Hospital with Dr. Andy Norman, from Vanderbilt, repairing vesicovaginal fistulas.

A total of three pre-medical students (U of A, Penn State, U of Michigan) were taught in addition to three medical students from UT Houston and two from Canada, as well as a PGY3 resident from South Carolina.

Dr. Coppola stated, “We were graciously welcomed by the Ghanaian people and clinically challenged by the ob/gyn issues facing women in this developing country.”
Healthy Choices—makes a difference!

Healthy choices are important and that’s just what Ruth McCreight is making ... Healthy Choices!

For the past year, Ruth has been committed to exercising and eating right. She schedules time before and after work to exercise and is committed to walking. Ruth tells us, “Walking is great because it's easy to fit into your day.” Ruth is proud to share that she has lost 62 lbs., by making healthy choices, eating a nutritious diet and exercising every day.

Park a little further or get off the bus a little earlier; make a choice—a HEALTHY choice! Ruth works in 80PC as an LPN and says, “I’ve completed phase I of my goal similar to our department renovation and construction project as I proceed to phase II and lose another 20 lbs.!” For additional information on achieving a healthy lifestyle visit womenshealth.gov

Katherine Glaser, MD, MPH—ObGyn Chief Resident visits Africa

Through the generosity of the Samuel N. Pozner Memorial Award, Dr. Katherine Glaser was able to travel to Lusaka, Zambia and participate in the cervical cancer screening program. Referrals are accepted from 12 clinics within the city. Dr. Glaser also had the opportunity to work in the Labor and Delivery unit at the University Teaching Hospital and take part in teaching rounds. She saw HIV-positive women as they received prenatal care. Dr. Glaser stated, “I learned much from the physicians with whom I had the privilege to work.”

Lusaka is the capital and largest city of Zambia. It is located in the southern part of the central plateau and has a population of approximately 1.7 million.
Please Welcome Dr. Rutie Yin, Visiting Scholar

Rutie Yin, MD, PhD joins us from The West China Second University Hospital of Sichuan University in Chengdu, Sichuan, the People’s Republic of China where she works as an Associate Professor in the Department of Gynecology.

Dr. Yin will be working in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine over the course of the next year observing surgical procedures by Dr. Kenneth Hatch, Professor in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and Director of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Yin will also be working with Dr. Wenxin Zheng, Professor in the Department of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Yin has published over 40 articles in medical journals and is very excited to be here. Please join the department in extending Dr. Yin a warm welcome!

ObGyn Staff Joins in Missionary Outreach

Laresse Lopez most recently attended a week-long outreach mission at The University of Florida in Gainesville where she joined a Tucson team led by 2 University of Arizona alumni campus ministers and 7 UA students. Each year several students are led by campus ministers from Faith Christian Church in Tucson, where volunteers dedicate their time to visit various universities around the nation, reaching out to students to enable academic success. Over 27 volunteers participated in the mission to include attendees from a fellow church in Tampa, Florida. Surveys were provided to students who expressed interest in faith-based invocations and over 100 students were assessed during the course of the mission, many of whom embraced religion, a desire for biblical studies and faithful devotions towards a better life. Laresse stated, “Altogether, the trip to Florida was fruitful and I look forward to future outreach missionary opportunities.” Laresse works in 80PC as a Medical Office Specialist.
tell us where you've been lately!

http://www.obgyn.arizona.edu/residency/alumni

Save the Date

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Ob/Gyn Resident Research Day and 5th Annual Alumni & Friends Reunion Dinner

Tucson, Arizona

... more details to follow
ObGyn Employees Recognized for Outstanding Commitment and Dedication
Renovation Construction Project

**Complete!**

*Elsie Stoeckel*, Executive Assistant in the Department of ObGyn, received a recognition award for her role in the completion of the ObGyn Phase I and II renovation projects.

Elsie was instrumental in managing all aspects of the renovation project in compliance with University policies.

**Look Who has Arrived!**

*Madelyn Alice Porter*

Born: July 4, 2011

7 lbs, 8 oz

Proud Parents: Kimberly & Dr. Ryan Porter

*From left: Annette Horn, Matt Leahey, MBA, Sonia Garcia, Elsie Stoeckel, Kim Maxwell, Martha Penado, JonDavid Ebadirad, and Kathy Reed, MD*

*Proud Grandparents: Patsy & Juan Lara*

**Mark Your Calendars:**

- ObGyn Employee Craft Fair, November 29, 2011
- Department of ObGyn Holiday Gala, December 10, 2011
- 5th Annual ObGyn Alumni & Friends Event, April 27, 2012

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