“One of the most important things we can do for our community and our specialty is to invest in the next generation of leaders.”

Dr. J. Max Austin, Jr., Professor Emeritus and UAB Alumnus
A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

The UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is a nationally recognized leader in obstetrics and gynecology education. We are uniquely situated at the intersection of robust clinical practice and groundbreaking research, creating an incredible environment for learning.

The department was first established in 1945 under the initial leadership of Dr. Nick Jones, who served in this role until 1968. In 1969, Dr. Charles E. Flowers, Jr., was named the first full-time chairman. Under his leadership, the residency program blossomed and new subspecialty fellowships were created.

Since our first resident graduate in 1950, nearly 350 physicians have chosen the department as their destination for specialty training and are proud to be part of the UAB OB/GYN alumni family.

VISION · LEGACY · DISCOVERY · INNOVATION · SERVICE

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For more than 60 years, our alumni have been caring for the needs of women throughout our local, state, and regional communities. Currently, one out of every three OB/GYNs practicing in Alabama trained at UAB. Whether bringing a new life into the world or providing cutting-edge cancer care, our alumni are making a significant impact on our community’s health and helping shape the future of our specialty.

Although UAB’s clinical mission has been — and will remain — to care for the citizens of our state, the department has risen to national prominence through clinical expertise and innovative research. A number of faculty and alumni hold key leadership positions in national organizations, helping to set the vision and priorities for our specialty and many subspecialties.

These leadership roles are of utmost importance to the future of our specialty, and it is our goal to prepare our residents and fellows to confidently take on these roles and lead our specialty for years to come.
As educators, we have the distinct privilege and responsibility of preparing our graduates to serve as the next generation of leaders in medicine. Our residency and fellowship programs are designed to build excellent clinical and surgical skills, research knowledge, and to promote a passion to serve others.

As we look to the future of our programs, we have identified several strategic initiatives that will help ensure our educational mission remains innovative, patient-centered, and evidence-based. Through key investments in these areas, our residents and fellows will have the confidence and character they need to excel as clinicians and surgeons, physician-scientists, and members of their community.

To help accomplish these goals, we launched the UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education in June 2012. Gifts from alumni, faculty, and friends will help leverage investments from the School of Medicine and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and ensure we can continue to provide the highest quality educational experience in obstetrics and gynecology.

We hope you will join us in supporting this exciting initiative. Together, we will accomplish great things.

William W. Andrews, Ph.D., M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Charles E. Flowers Jr. Endowed Chair
UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Alice R. Goepfert, M.D.
Professor and Residency Program Director
UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical simulations make it possible to reproduce a wide-range of clinical scenarios crucial for residents and fellows to experience and master. Simulation in the clinical setting allows health care providers to hone clinical competencies, strengthen surgical skills, and teach the importance of communication and teamwork. The OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education enables learners to gain up-to-date medical training through this type of simulation learning.

Under the supervision of Dr. John Woods, assistant professor and director of OB/GYN simulation, “trainees are surrounded by the practice makes perfect environment,” says Dr. Woods. This innovative training supports experiential education in a safe, supportive, and interdisciplinary environment without putting patients at risk. Trainees address surgical and clinical skills, hospital procedures, thinking and decision-making skills, and effective communication.

Well-planned and repeated team practice is vital to learning and improving communication skills to reduce medical errors. Realistic simulation-based training advances education and practice for residents and fellows. It provides opportunities for trainees to develop and perfect clinical decision making in a risk-free environment where mistakes are allowed to happen and consequences unfold. These training experiences further our mission to provide the highest quality care to our women and infants in a safe clinical environment.

UAB OB/GYN residents and fellows are able to connect the bridge between classroom learning and real-life clinical experiences using computerized mannequins that perform dozens of human functions in realistic settings. Hospital staff members are subject to unique risks in real settings, and these types of simulations protect them while allowing trainees to perfect their craft. Learners have the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them through a customized education with detailed feedback and evaluations.
MENTORING TOMORROW’S RESEARCHERS

UAB has a longstanding commitment to research training, and the UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education provides residents and fellows the opportunity to engage in a variety of research activities. A research experience enhances trainees’ critical thinking and problem solving abilities, skills essential for excellence in clinical practice. For many trainees, research provides an opportunity to discover new knowledge in an area of medicine that they are passionate about.

UAB is dedicated to not only training expert clinicians, but developing robust physician-scientists who will help accelerate the discovery of new knowledge. Research is the foundation on which the best patient care is built, so providing opportunities for our trainees to participate in research is a critical component for our program.

Residents are also encouraged to present their work at regional and national meetings, and each year, several of our residents have the opportunity to present at national meetings. These activities not only invest in individual scholarly development, but help raise the profile of our department and institution. Funds are used to support travel for residents to present at regional and national meetings, as well as provide the necessary research support, including laboratory supplies, data collection, and analysis.

“RESIDENT RESEARCH IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF RESIDENT EDUCATION. PARTICIPATING IN MENTORED RESEARCH PROJECTS DEVELOPS THE SKILLS TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE RESEARCH STUDIES AND ASSESS VALUE, ENABLING PHYSICIANS TO CONTINUE TO GROW AFTER THEY COMPLETE RESIDENCY,” SAYS DR. LORIE HARPER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DIVISION OF MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE AND DIRECTOR OF THE RESIDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT FINDINGS AT NATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLISH THEIR WORK DEVELOPS LEADERSHIP, PRESENTATION, AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS, GIVING THEM AN INCREDIBLE ADVANTAGE WHEN APPLYING FOR FELLOWSHIPS AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS.”
OUR VISION TOGETHER

Funds from the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education help defray the costs associated with off-site electives through travel supplements. Home and abroad, there are numerous opportunities for our residents and fellows to serve in areas where access to health care services are limited. We want to encourage our trainees to experience different patient care settings, broadening their understanding and appreciation of the cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting health and delivery of health care services.

PROMOTING EDUCATION AT HOME AND ABROAD

“I traveled to Cameroon in February 2013 with the assistance of the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education, and worked with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services Foundation,” says Dr. Alison Parden, 2013 chief resident and current FPMRS fellow. “I spent the first half of my trip at Mutengene Baptist Hospital in Mutengene, Cameroon, and the second half at Banso Baptist Hospital in Kumbo, Cameroon. I participated in daily rounds and was able to provide educational feedback based on my experiences at UAB,” she says.

“During my time spent working with hospital staff, I noticed inconsistencies and limited medical knowledge, which created gaps in access to care. I was able to create an algorithm for physicians in Cameroon to utilize and create an open access to care environment,” says Dr. Parden.

During a recent trip to Cameroon, 2014 graduate Dr. Jovana Martin worked as an educator and consultant at Banso Baptist Hospital. “I was the only OB/GYN provider in the hospital, so I was considered a specialist. I was given the opportunity to interact with many different types of patients in the maternity ward and utilize my experiences and clinical training to handle a variety of OB/GYN complications,” says Dr. Martin, whose trip was funded with the assistance of the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education.

“This experience was important to my professional development. Not only was I able to offer hospital staff resources based on my experiences gained at UAB, but learned how to integrate my medical knowledge into another hospital system with a primary goal of serving women in struggling socioeconomic areas,” says Dr. Martin.
INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

A gift to the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education is an opportunity for alumni, faculty and friends to invest in the future of our specialty. These additional resources will help ensure that we can continue to provide innovative educational opportunities that cultivate both clinical expertise and character in our graduates — equipping them to become the next generation of leaders.

All gifts will help make a difference as we work toward preparing our residents and fellows to excel as physicians. Donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law and can be made in a variety of ways. We would love to talk with you more about how you can partner with us through your support of the UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education.

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“I ROUTINELY REFLECT ON MY CLINICAL AND SURGICAL TRAINING, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, I THINK ABOUT THE FACULTY, CO-FELLOWS, AND CO-RESIDENTS THAT WERE SO INTEGRAL TO MY EDUCATION. THE UAB FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION HAS ALREADY IMPACTED A LARGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS, AND I KNOW IT CERTAINLY HAD A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SUPPORTING MY SURGICAL EDUCATION ENDEAVORS,” SAYS DAVID R. ELLINGTON, M.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE DIVISION OF UROGYNECOLOGY AND PELVIC RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY.

“MY FATHER HAS ROUTINELY GIVEN TO THE INSTITUTIONS THAT NURTURED HIS CAREER INCLUDING UAB, AND I PLAN TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD. IT IS THE HABIT OF GIVING, NOT NECESSARILY THE GIFT ITSELF, THAT BUILDS A LEGACY OF SUPPORT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. LIKE HIM, I TOO, WANT TO SEE THE PHYSICIANS THAT FOLLOW ME HAVE THE TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED.”
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY