



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS  
THE UAB OB/GYN FUND FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

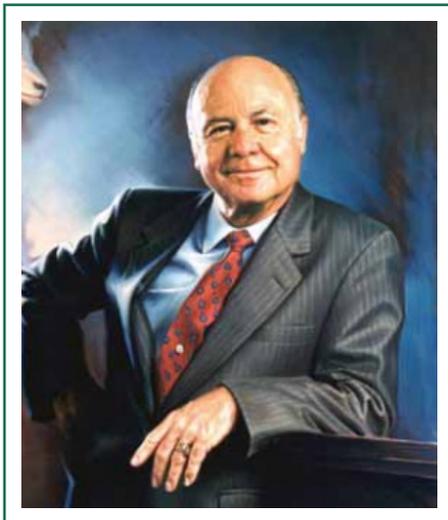


## A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

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 Nick Jones, M.D., who served in this role until 1968. In 1969, Charles E. Flowers Jr., M.D., was named the first full-time chairman. Under his leadership, the residency program blossomed and new subspecialty fellowships were created.

Since our first resident graduated in 1950, over 400 physicians have chosen the department as their destination for specialty training and are proud to be part of the UAB OB/GYN alumni family.



Charles E. Flowers Jr., M.D.  
1969–1985



W. Nicholson "Nick" Jones, M.D.  
1945–1968

*Images courtesy of UAB Archives*

## 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.

# OUR VISION TOGETHER



William W. Andrews, Ph.D., M.D.

We launched the OB/GYN Fund For Excellence in Education initiative in 2012. Since then, partners like you have helped us make sure our residents and fellows gain life experiences that make them excel as clinicians and surgeons, physician-scientists, and members of their communities. Gifts to the Fund for Excellence help us ensure we can continue to provide the highest-quality educational experience in obstetrics and gynecology. It also helps us attract the top talent in the field, who come here eager to learn and excited to gain experiences that other training programs cannot offer. We hope you continue to join us in supporting this fund for years to come. It makes a tremendous impact in the lives of our residents, fellows, and faculty members and positively impacts the lives of their patients.

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



Alice R. Goepfert, M.D.

The UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence provides critical funding to enhance the educational opportunities for our residents. Whether it is travel to present their research at national meetings, travel and housing for off-site global or U.S. experiences, or resident research project support, this funding removes the financial barriers for our residents to fully engage in experiences that broaden their knowledge, skills, and character. Since its inception, this unique resource has also served as a valuable tool as we continue to recruit the best and brightest young physicians to our program. The Fund for Excellence is a wonderful opportunity for alumni and others to give back and invest in innovation in education and the future of our specialty.

— Alice R. Goepfert, M.D., Professor in the UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education in the UAB School of Medicine, and Designated Institutional Official for UAB Hospital



Kerri Bevis, M.D., MSPH

Support for the Fund for Excellence is critical as it enables the department to adapt and respond to the changing landscape of medical training by providing new and varied opportunities for our residents. This also makes the latest educational technology available to them. With your support, we can help ensure that all graduates of the residency program look back on their time at UAB and realize they had the best possible training and opportunities available anywhere in the country.

— Kerri Bevis, M.D., MSPH, Associate Professor and Residency Program Director of the UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

# A NEW ERA OF MEDICAL TRAINING

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 John Woods, M.D., associate professor and director of OB/GYN simulation (pictured above right), trainees are surrounded by what he calls the practice makes perfect environment. 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.

UAB OB/GYN residents and fellows receive training in robotic surgical procedures. Kenneth Kim, M.D., associate professor (pictured right), developed a robotic surgical training program to train them on robotic surgery beyond the standard once-a-year training. The program uses simulation to measure hand motion and camera in 3-D space. OB/GYN residents and fellows receive hands-on training every three months for two weeks. They learn the system and the procedure simultaneously, which helps close the learning curve.



# 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, multiple residents have the opportunity to do so. 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.



Lorie Harper, M.D., MSCI

“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. 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.”

— Lorie Harper, M.D., MSCI, Associate Professor in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Director of the Resident Research Program

## HEAR FROM OUR RESIDENTS



Rachel Grimes, M.D.

“It is incredible to feel supported by the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in my pursuit of research and my journey to expand my medical career. Our leaders encourage us to experience different patient care settings, which broaden our understanding and appreciation of the cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting health care. The OB/GYN Fund for Excellence allows us to have these opportunities that make us more well-rounded physicians.”



Courtney Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D.

“As a resident here at UAB, the OB/GYN Fund For Excellence is vital to my experience. It allows me to get research funded early and travel to meetings where I can present my research and meet leading figures in the field of OB/GYN. It also shows the medical community that our department values research that is critical to women across the world.”

# THE POWER OF GIVING



**Joe Malek, M.D.**  
UAB Female Pelvic Medicine and  
Reconstructive Surgery Fellow  
Birmingham, Alabama

“I completed my residency at UAB in 2015 and am currently a urogynecology fellow at UAB. I look very fondly upon my time as a resident and know that the training I have received and am receiving is preparing me to provide the highest-quality care to patients.

I feel it is very important to replace yourself and provide for the next generation so they have the same or even better opportunities than you had. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to give back to the institutions that have formed you both personally and professionally. This is the reason I have added the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence to the list of organizations I donate to annually. Although the financial amount early in my career is small, I know it will grow with time and feel it is important to continue to give back. I believe one of UAB’s strongest assets is its quality of people (including co-residents, fellows, and my faculty mentors). Donating to the fund helps ensure we keep getting these high-caliber people, while UAB remains a top-tier institution for training.”



**Brandy Patterson, M.D.**  
OB/GYN Associates of Tupelo  
Tupelo, Mississippi

“I feel it is important to support the OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in an effort to give back such a small piece to the institution that gave me so much.

I trained at UAB in this department for my residency training from 2005-2009. There are simply no words for how much this department shaped and molded me into a confident, well-trained, and eager young female physician.

My time at UAB served as some of the most important and special pieces of my now 40 years of life, and I will be forever indebted and thankful. Therefore, giving to this fund simply shows a small piece of my gratitude in hopes that another trainee can gain part of that indescribable experience.”

## SUPPORT THE OB/GYN FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

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. All gifts will help make a difference as we work toward preparing our residents and fellows to excel as physicians. Are you interested in giving? Contact Erica Hollins today, or give online at [www.uab.edu/obgynfundforexcellence](http://www.uab.edu/obgynfundforexcellence).

### Erica Hollins

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