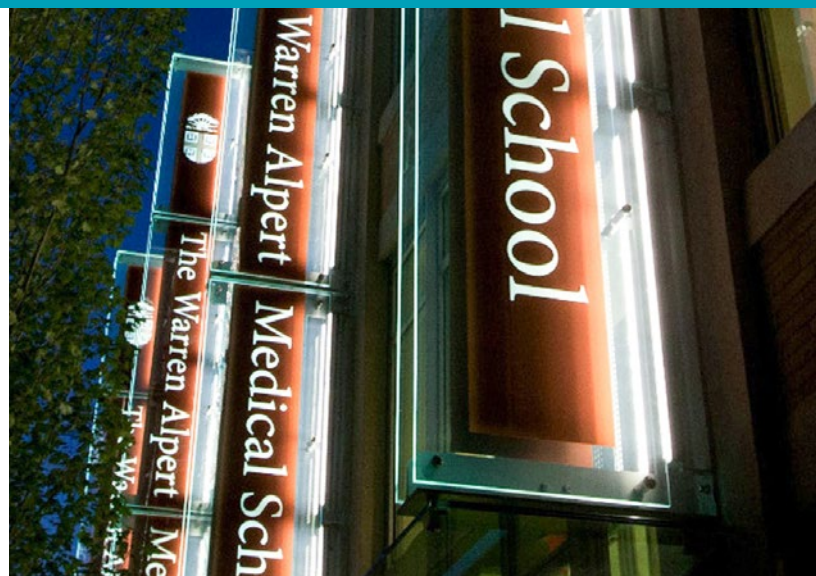




Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology 2021-2024 Department Report



A Major Teaching Affiliate of



BROWN
Alpert Medical School



“

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is dedicated to improving the health and lives of people in the diverse communities we serve. We strive to deliver the highest quality of care in a manner that will empower our patients, through engagement with our communities, innovative research, education, and advocacy.

”

— Methodius G. Tuuli

Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Message from the Chair



It has been an exciting time here in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University/Women and Infants Hospital. This report is an opportunity to reflect on three years since I joined the department in February 2021, during the COVID19 pandemic. I pay homage to the resilience of the faculty, trainees and staff in moving forward the mission of the department. Over the past three years, we have achieved significant milestones and made substantial progress in patient care, education, advocacy, and research, as we maintain our national leadership as one of the finest departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Each faculty, trainee and staff give me optimism as we look forward to a future of opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is dedicated to improving the health and lives of people in the diverse communities we serve. We strive to deliver the highest quality of care in a manner that will empower our patients, through engagement with our communities, innovative research, education, continuous learning, and advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tuuli', written in a cursive style.

Methodius G. Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA

Chace-Joukowsky Professor

Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Faculty

Department faculty are the drivers of everything we accomplished. In the past three years we have appointed **four new division directors, three vice chairs, and several faculty members** who bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and leadership to build upon the strong foundation of success set by their predecessors:

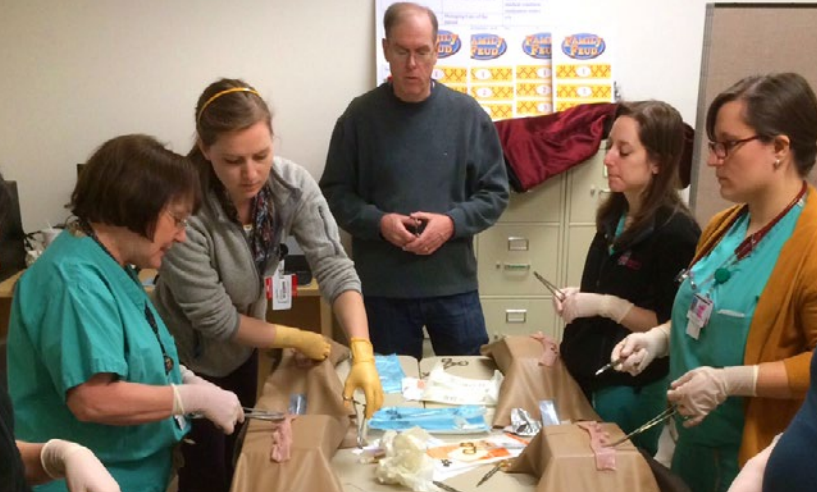
- **Emily Miller, MD, MPH** *Division Director, Maternal Fetal Medicine*
- **Charles Rardin, MD** *Division Director, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Surgery*
- **Beth Cronin, MD** *Division Director, Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- **Jennifer Unger, MD, MPH** *Division Director, Division of Research*
- **Vivian Sung, MD, MPH** *Vice Chair, Faculty Development and Wellness*
- **Dayna Burrell, MD** *Vice Chair of Education*
- **William Grobman, MD, MBA** *Vice Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Our faculty serve in **prominent leadership roles** nationally:

- **ABOG Examiners:** Jennifer Eaton, Renee Eger, Methodius Tuuli, Ashley Stuckey, Elizabeth Lokich, Paul DiSilvestro, Vivian Sung, Deborah Myers, Charles Rardin, and B. Star Hampton
- **Journal Editors and Editorial Board Members:** Elisabeth Howard, Linda Hunter, Jennifer Eaton, Emily Miller, Adam Lewkowitz, Vivian Sung, Methodius Tuuli
- **Elected AGOS Members:** Rebecca Allen, Deborah Myers, B. Star Hampton, Methodius Tuuli, Paul DiSilvestro, Charles Rardin, Vivian Sung
- **AUGS Lifetime Achievement Award:** Deborah Myers
- **President of Society of Gynecologic Surgeons:** B. Star Hampton
- **President of Rhode Island Medical Society:** Heather Smith
- **President, American Midwifery Certification Board:** Linda Hunter, EdD, CNM
- **President, Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives:** Julie Knutson, DNP, CNM
- **Elected National Academy of Medicine Members:** William Grobman, Methodius Tuuli

In addition, several of our faculty transitioned to **major leadership roles** in other institutions:

- **B. Star Hampton, MD**, became Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education, Alpert Medical School of Brown University
- **Erika Werner, MD, MPH**, became Chair of the Department Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tufts University School of Medicine
- **Kristen Matteson, MD, MPH**, became Vice Chair of Academic Affairs, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UMass Memorial Health, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
- **Katina Robison, MD**, became Division Director, Department Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tufts University School of Medicine



BY THE NUMBERS

164 **Total Faculty**

68 **Hospital-Based Faculty**

96 **Community-Based Faculty**

Clinical

Clinical care is the cornerstone of the department. We remain steadfast in our efforts to provide **evidence-based gynecologic and obstetric care**, including innovative programs aimed at addressing the major causes of maternal mortality and associated disparities. The hospital launched a **\$35 million capital campaign** to build a new labor and delivery unit, expected to open in 2025. This will provide a state-of-the-art facility for patient care. The Division of General ObGyn recruited several faculty members to address the growing needs for ObGyn services. The division recently opened a **gynecologic specialties clinic** for patients seeking minimally invasive gynecologic services and pediatric and adolescent gynecology. Our **academic midwifery program** has broadened its clinical coverage throughout the hospital, advancing medical education and research, advocating for patient-centered care, and serving as a safety net for our community.

BY THE NUMBERS



23

**Clinical Locations
Throughout Rhode
Island, Southeastern
Massachusetts and
Connecticut**





Education

Our education programs continue to receive accolades, with our Alpert Medical School students OBGYN clerkship receiving high ratings. We match **highly qualified, diverse residents**, who contribute to the success of the department. Residents who choose to pursue subspecialty fellowship training match each year into **top programs** across the country.

BY THE NUMBERS

32

Residents

2

Breast Health
Fellows

4

Gynecologic
Oncology Fellows

5

MFM Fellows

3

REI Fellows

4

Urogyn Fellows



Research

The department experienced a rapid growth in grant funding over the past 3 years. From a baseline of three major grants (2 UG1 network grants and 1 U01 grant) awarded to departmental Principal Investigators (PIs) and a number of subawards, department PIs have received **more than a dozen major grants** over the past 3 years, in addition to several federal subawards, foundation grants and industry grants. This includes the renewal of **two national network grants**. The Program in Women’s Oncology continues to be a **national leader in clinical trials**, currently the **third leading enroller** in GOG foundation clinical trials. In the early part of 2024, department PIs have already received an R01, a foundation grant and multiple subawards, while several applications are pending funding decisions.

BY THE NUMBERS

17 15 10

Total Awards
in 2021

Total Awards
in 2022

Total Awards
in 2023

Year	Prime Grants Awarded				Sub-contracts Awarded			
	NIH	*Other Federal	Foundation	Industry	NIH	*Other Federal	Foundation	Industry
2021	6	0	3	0	5	1	2	0
2022	3	1	3	1	5	1	1	0
2023	3	1	2	0	4	0	0	0

*Other Federal include Office of Minority Health, PCORI, CDC, NRG

Major Funding Highlights

- **BEST Trial** (PCORI, PI-Sung): Multicenter trial comparing beta-agonists to Botox injections in the bladder for the management of urgency urinary incontinence in women.
- **COMPASS-PLUS** (NIH R01NR021126, PI-Miller): Stepped-wedge hybrid type 2 implementation-effectiveness randomized trial to evaluate the effectiveness of the collaborative care model on mental health outcomes, and racial and ethnic health disparities.
- **RI COMSS** (DHHS CPIMP231374, PI-Tuuli): Development of a participatory model for integrating community-based maternal support services (COMSS) into perinatal care to address care coordination and social determinants of health and test the impact on perinatal health equity.
- **IVIDA2 Trial** (NIH R01HD105855, PI-Tuuli): Multicenter trial to test the effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of IV versus oral iron in pregnant women with moderate to severe anemia.
- **NOVIC Trial** (NIH R01HD108210, PI-Tuuli): Multicenter trial to test the effectiveness, safety and cost effectiveness of a novel vacuum induced hemorrhage control device in Ghana.
- **MFMU Renewal** (NIH 2UG1HD040500-26, PI-Rouse): Brown/WIH participating in the MFMU Network, to help provide the necessary, highest quality scientific evidence and redress the health and economic burdens of pregnancy disorders.
- **PFDN Renewal** (NIH 5UG1HD069013-12, PI-Sung): Brown/WIH multi-faceted resource to continue as a productive member of the Pelvic Floor Disorders Network (PFDN).
- **Translational Research Project** (NIH R01HD111322 PI-Grives): Requirement for Ubiquitin C-Terminal Hydrolase function in mammalian ovarian health and fertility.
- **Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award** (Bristol-Myers Squibb/Winn, PI-Ayala)
- **K23 Career Development Award** (NIH K23HD103961, PI-Lewkowitz)
- **Mini Pichey Endowed Assistant Professorship** (Benjamin Brown)
- **WIH ECHO** (CVS Foundation, PI-Tuuli): To support a postpartum hypertension equity program, provide supplemental funding for a community partnership program and develop a mobile postpartum community support program to increase access to postpartum care in the community.
- **Baby2Home** (NIH R01HD105499, PI-Miller): Multicenter trial of a digital health intervention designed to bridge gaps in obstetrics and pediatrics healthcare services for new families over the first year of life.
- **Mobile WACH NEO** (NIH R01HD098105, PI-Unger): Randomized clinical trial evaluating the impact of two-way SMS on neonatal mortality, maternal depression and early infant care in Kenya.

BY THE NUMBERS

507

Publications in Three Years

Publications

Publication Highlights

Tita AT, Szychowski JM, Boggess K, Dugoff L, Sibai B, Lawrence K, Hughes BL, Bell J, Aagaard K, Edwards RK, Gibson K, Haas DM, Plante L, Metz T, Casey B, Esplin S, Longo S, Hoffman M, Saade GR, Hoppe KK, Foroutan J, **Tuuli MG**, Owens MY, Simhan HN, Frey H, Rosen T, Palatnik A, Baker S, August P, Reddy UM, Kinzler W, Su E, Krishna I, Nguyen N, Norton ME, Skupski D, El-Sayed YY, Ogunyemi D, Galis ZS, Harper L, Ambalavanan N, Geller NL, Oparil S, Cutter GR, Andrews WW. Chronic Hypertension and Pregnancy (CHAP) Trial Consortium. Treatment for Mild Chronic Hypertension during Pregnancy. *N Engl J Med*. 2022 May 12;386(19):1781-1792.

Chhabria, Karisma, Vineet Raman, Ghazal Aghagoli, **Benjamin P. Brown**. "Abortion Policy Positions of Federal Legislators who Received Support from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 2012-2022." *JAMA Network Open*, vol. 6, no. 4, 2023, pp. e2310405.

Tuuli MG, Gregory WT, Arya LA, Lowder JL, Woolfolk C, Caughey AB, Srinivas SK, Tita ATN, Macones GA, Cahill AG, Richter HE. Effect of Second-Stage Pushing Timing on Postpartum Pelvic Floor Morbidity A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2023 Feb 1;141(2):245-252.

*** **2023 Roy M. Pitkin Award** in recognition of excellence in obstetrics and gynecology research***

Elansary M, Kistin CJ, Antonio J, Fernández-Pastrana I, Lee-Parritz A, Cabral H, **Miller ES**, Silverstein M. Effect of Immediate Referral vs a Brief Problem-solving Intervention for Screen-Detected Peripartum Depression: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2023 May 1;6(5):e2313151. PMID: 37171819; PMCID: PMC10182435.

Hoffman MK, Clifton RG, Biggio JR, Saade GR, Ugwu LG, Longo M, Bousleiman SZ, Clark K, Grobman WA, Frey HA, Chauhan SP, Dugoff L, Manuck TA, Chien EK, **Rouse DJ**, et al.; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network. Cervical Pessary for Prevention of Preterm Birth in Individuals with a Short Cervix: The TOPS Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA*. 2023 Jul 25;330(4):340-348. PMID: 37490086.

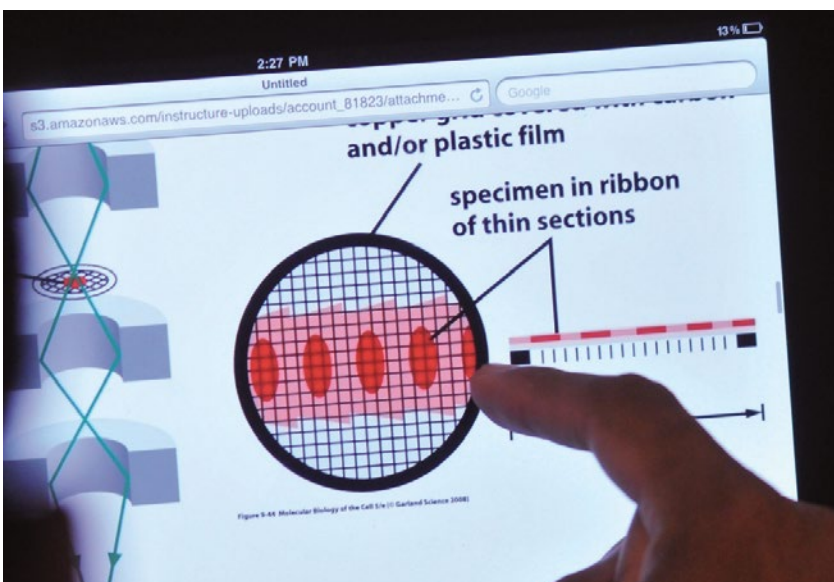
Rahn DD, Richter HE, **Sung, VW**, Pruszyński JE, Hynan. Perioperative Vaginal Estrogen as Adjunct to Native Tissue Vaginal Apical Prolapse Repair: A Randomized Clinical Trial. LS. **JAMA**. 2023 Aug 15;330(7):615–625. PMID: 37581673 Clinical Trial.

Eskander RN, Sill MW, Beffa L, Moore RG, Hope JM, Musa FB, Mannel R, Shahin MS, Cantuaria GH, Girda E, **Mathews C**, Kavecansky J, Leath CA III, Gien LT, Hinchcliff EM, Lele SB, Landrum LM, Backes F, O’Cearbhaill RE, Al Baghdadi T, Hill EK, Thaker PH, John VS, Welch S, Fader AN, Powell MA, Aghajanian Pembrolizumab plus Chemotherapy in Advanced Endometrial Cancer. **N Engl J Med**. 2023 Mar 27. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36972022.

Pacheco LD, Clifton RG, Saade GR, Weiner SJ, Parry S, Thorp JM Jr, Longo M, Salazar A, Dalton W, Tita ATN, Gyamfi-Bannerman C, Chauhan SP, Metz TD, Rood K, **Rouse DJ**, et al. Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal–Fetal Medicine Units Network. Tranexamic Acid to Prevent Obstetrical Hemorrhage after Cesarean Delivery. **N Engl J Med**. 2023 Apr 13;388(15):1365–1375. PMID: 37043652. Clinical Trial.

Mirza MR, Chase DM, Slomovitz BM, dePont Christensen R, Novák Z, Black D, Gilbert L, Sharma S, Valabrega G, Landrum LM, Hanker LC, **Stuckey A**, Boere I, Gold MA, Auranen A, Pothuri B, Cibula D, McCourt C, Raspagliesi F, Shahin MS, Gill SE, Monk BJ, Buscema J, Herzog TJ, Copeland LJ, Tian M, He Z, Stevens S, Zografos E, Coleman RL, Powell MA; RUBY Investigators. Dostarlimab for Primary Advanced or Recurrent Endometrial Cancer. **N Engl J Med**. 2023 Jun 8;388(23):2145–2158. Epub 2023 Mar 27. PMID: 36972026.

Hughes BL, Clifton RG, **Rouse DJ**, Saade GR, Dinsmoor MJ, et al., Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Maternal–Fetal Medicine Units Network; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development Maternal–Fetal Medicine Units Network. Randomized Trial of Hyperimmune Globulin for Congenital CMV Infection—2-Year Outcomes. **N Engl J Med**. 2023 Nov 9;389(19):1822–1824. PMID: 37937785.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



As a department, we strive to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

Under the direction of our department DEI committee led by Drs. Carberry and Eger, **we are committed to ensuring our patients receive equitable care**, faculty and trainees work in an **inclusive, supportive environment**, and **our community is engaged** in the work we do.

Health Equity Highlights

- **Postpartum Hypertension Equity Program:** Launched with funding from Women and Infants Hospital and led by a dedicated Nurse Practitioner and Community Health Worker, this program provides blood pressure cuffs to all eligible patients prior to hospital discharge, train patients on blood pressure monitoring, recording, and when to seek medical attention, educate patients on how to maintain healthy blood pressure, and connect patients with a primary care provider. More than 1,300 patients were enrolled into the program over 12 months with an estimated 50% reduction in ED visits for postpartum hypertension.
- **Women and Infants Hospital Equity in Childbirth and Health Outcomes Program (WIH ECHO):** Funded by \$1 million grant from the CVS foundation to support the postpartum hypertension equity program, partner with the community to reduce bias and discrimination in maternity care especially among patients of color, and provide postpartum support in the community using a Mobile Van.
- **Major Research Projects with Equity Focus:** COMPASS-PLUS for equitable perinatal mental health care using the collaborative care model, and RICOMSS for a community-based maternal support services to address social needs towards perinatal health equity. PCORI BEST DEI supplement supports community engagement efforts to address barriers to urinary incontinence care and research in underrepresented populations.
- **Development of LGBTQ+ Service Line led by Dr. Beth Cronin:**
To develop a comprehensive, patient centered care specifically for LGBTQ+ patients.
- **Ana Sofia Barber DeBrito, CNM, MSN, Emily S. Miller, MD, MPH, and Method Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA were featured in the Rhode Island PBS series, "The Risk of Giving Birth."**
This is a documentary combining personal stories and interviews with medical professionals, politicians, and community activists to shed light on the impact of structural racism on Black mothers, the alarming rise in complications for Latina mothers and Rhode Island's efforts to improve outcomes. Ana Sofia Barber DeBrito, CNM, MSN won the American College of Nurse-Midwives Media Award for this work in 2024.

Leadership Team

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