Spotlight on:

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Overview
From AAMC Careers in Medicine >choose your specialty>Obstetrics and Gynecology

Obstetrics and gynecology is a diversified specialty concerned with the delivery of medical and surgical care to women. This field combines two specialties: obstetrics, which focuses on the care of women before, during, and after childbirth; and gynecology, which involves the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the female reproductive system, breasts, and associated disorders. Relationships with patients are long-term and are often maintained through the postmenopausal stage of a patient’s life. Obstetrician-gynecologists (Ob-Gyn) often serve as consultants to other physicians. In many cases, the Ob-Gyn is the primary care physician, with whom female patients have regular contact and obtain medical advice and counseling. The specialty also offers opportunities to practice other skills such as laparoscopic surgery, endocrinology, and preventive medicine.

Why I Chose Obstetrics and Gynecology
By Joanne Stone, MD Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Director, Maternal Fetal Medicine

What could be more exciting than bringing a new life into this world, or helping couples with fertility issues get pregnant, or being in the operating room all day doing surgery, or establishing long term lasting relationships with women from early adulthood to their senior years?

OBGYN is a field where there is a huge range of possibilities. I always knew I wanted to be involved in caring for women, and when I did my OBGYN rotation as a medical student, I fell in love with the labor floor. I loved the social aspect of working with other doctors and nurses in the care of patients. You are never alone on L and D (labor and delivery). After residency I pursued a fellowship in a subspecialty called Maternal Fetal Medicine where I take care of high risk pregnancies. There is nothing more rewarding than caring for a woman with medical issues or prior problematic pregnancies and helping them to have a healthy child. Also, if you are like me and like immediate gratification, there is a pretty immediate end in site (40 weeks of pregnancy).
Want more information about Obstetrics and Gynecology?

Specialty advisor: Katherine Chen, MD
Chairman: Michael Brodman, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science

Check out the Specialty Roadmap on Blackboard. View videos about OB/GYN.
Blackboard>Student Resources>Career Planning Services>OB/GYN

http://icahn.mssm.edu/departments-and-institutes/obstetrics-gynecology-and-reproductive-science

Patient Profile
5 most frequently encountered conditions
1. Pregnancy/Childbirth
2. Abnormal uterine bleeding
3. Menopausal concerns
4. Vaginitis
5. Pelvic pain

Subspecialties
Family Planning
Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
Gynecologic Oncology
Maternal & Fetal Medicine
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Length of training
4 years

Setting
56% of physicians practice in an urban setting at:
- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

5% of physicians practice in a rural setting at:
- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Medical Teaching

Patient Profile
Length of training
Setting
Subspecialties

Societies, Boards, and Other Organizations
American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists
American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Womens Health Research

Publications
American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Journal of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Fertility and Sterility
Biology of Reproduction
International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics
Journal of Reproductive Medicine
Journal of Womens Health

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