DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY
UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital is a regional destination for referring physicians and patients seeking the most advanced maternal and fetal medicine services and features the unique ability to provide the highest level of care for high-risk pregnancies and high-risk neonates through our physical connection to nationally ranked UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital.

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at UH Case Medical Center and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine provides access to nationally recognized obstetrician gynecologists, the latest clinical research and innovative treatments and technologies for women at every stage in their lives. High-quality programs and services are provided through a compassionate team of highly trained and dedicated specialists at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital – Ohio’s only hospital devoted solely to women’s health. The department is also distinguished for its legacy of innovations in reproductive health and for training tomorrow’s clinical and research leaders.

Through its seven divisions, UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital at UH Case Medical Center provides comprehensive care for adolescents and women with conditions of the reproductive system. Teams of experts – including specialists from UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, UH Seidman Cancer Center and UH Urology Institute – leverage the latest technologies and clinical advances to provide personalized care plans and treatment options that empower women to make decisions regarding their care.

UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of America’s Best Hospitals for gynecologic care.

Center of Excellence

- Behavioral Medicine
- Female Pelvic Medicine & Surgery Center
- General Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Maternal Fetal Medicine/Neonatology
- Nurse Midwifery
- Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Visit UHhospitals.org/CME for the latest in live, webinar and on-demand Continuing Medical Education events.
**DRIVING EXCITING NEW APPROACHES TO TREATING SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION**

**Sheryl Kingsberg, PhD**, Director of the Division of Behavioral Medicine and Co-Director of the Sexual Function and Vulvovaginal Health Program at UH Case Medical Center, and Professor of Reproductive Biology and Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, co-authored the published results of a Phase III clinical trial that could produce the first nonhormonal biopharmaceutical treatment option for sexual dysfunction in premenopausal women. Flibanserin, a daily oral pill, was studied in more than 11,000 women and significantly improved the number of satisfying sexual events in women, as well as increased sexual desire. After undergoing an additional drug interaction study and a driving study, flibanserin will soon be resubmitted to the FDA.

Dr. Kingsberg is also the national principal investigator for a Phase II clinical trial for TBS-2, Tefina, a novel, on-demand nasal delivery system for testosterone to treat female orgasmic disorder. Results of the trial are promising for the lowest doses being evaluated. Another investigational pharmacologic treatment for HSDD – bremelanotide, a melanocortin agonist – showed benefits in improving satisfying sexual events and desire in postmenopausal women, and significantly decreasing associated distress in premenopausal women with HSDD. UH Case Medical Center is one of 30 centers testing the safety and efficacy of different doses and will be a site for the Phase III trial for bremelanotide.

Contact any of the physicians featured in this publication at OB-GYN.Innovations@UHhospitals.org.

---

**Sam Mesiano, PhD**, research scientist in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, and Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, is part of the Ohio transdisciplinary research collaborative trying to establish some of the molecular mechanisms that control progesterone actions in the pregnancy uterus. Gaining a deeper cellular and molecular understanding of how progesterone functions during pregnancy may lead to novel progestin-based treatments to prevent preterm birth.

The Prematurity Research Center Ohio Collaborative secured a $10 million grant from the March of Dimes – the first statewide collaborative ever to do so – to prevent premature birth. Dr. Mesiano’s laboratory is attacking the challenge by exploiting progesterone action in the pregnancy uterus.

“Our goal is to understand how progesterone promotes uterine quiescence and how its actions are withdrawn to initiate labor,” Dr. Mesiano said. “We hope to then exploit that process therapeutically to augment its progestational actions as a strategy to prevent or delay preterm birth.

Dr. Mesiano and the Ohio Collaborative team developed cell line models for muscle cells of the uterus, the cells of the cervix and the cells of the decidua. They are using these as models to tease out signaling pathways and genes involved in mediating the effects of progesterone to keep the uterus quiescent.

“Our cell models provide excellent screening platforms to test different drugs that could modulate the progesterone signaling pathways in favor of sustaining pregnancy,” he said. “This can open the pipeline to the development of drugs that specifically target the uterine muscle.”

All National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for basic and clinical research is awarded to the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.
BestFed Beginnings

UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital is one of only five hospitals in Ohio and 89 nationwide designated as a “BestFed Beginnings” Baby-Friendly-qualified hospital. The UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital BestFed Beginnings Team, led by Mary (Libby) Svoboda, BSN, RN, MEd, IBCLC, FACCE, a lactation consultant and Manager of Community Education, raised its breastfeeding rate to 85 percent.

WONDOOR (Women, Neonates, Diversity, Outreach, Opportunities and Research) is an innovative global health education program in obstetrics/gynecology and reproductive biology at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital. The WONDOOR program, led by Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, MD, MEd, MPPM, FACOG, Associate Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Tia Melton, MD, Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, seeks to improve maternal and neonatal health through local and international collaboration. The program’s collaborative international program with Guyana to develop and implement its Legacy OB/GYN residency program is in its third year. The first class of local specialty providers, whose goal is to decrease morbidity and mortality for women and neonates, will graduate in 2016.

The Preconception Planning Clinic helps women with chronic medical issues and comorbidities to optimize their health prior to pregnancy. Melissa March, MD, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, runs the clinic with Lisa Perriera, MD, MPH, a fellowship-trained gynecologist at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Working closely with referring providers and specialists, the team devises an appropriate contraception plan based on medications and medical history to optimize the patient’s health prior to conception.

The Centering Pregnancy Program and Centering Parenting Program at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital is run by the Division of Nurse-Midwifery. The group prenatal care program, led by Celina del Carmen Cunanan, CNM, MSN, Director of the Division of Nurse-Midwifery at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and Gretchen Mettler, CNM, PhD, Director of the Centering Pregnancy Program, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has reduced preterm births to 10.2 percent and the incidence of low birth-weight babies to 11.2 percent – well below the national average. The innovative model has also increased breastfeeding rates and prenatal compliance, and decreased rates of postpartum depression and emergency room visits.

QUALITY INITIATIVES: Nancy Cossler, MD, Vice Chair of Quality and Patient Safety and Director of OB/GYN Residency at UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, is leading a broad range of initiatives aimed at providing best outcomes for mothers and their babies. Through the Scheduled Delivery Project, UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital not only achieved the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative goal of less than 5 percent induction of labor of Cesarean delivery in women less than 39 weeks without a medical indication for early delivery, but maintained it. For 2013, UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital’s rate remained below 1 percent (achieved initially in 2012). UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital’s 2011 C-section rate for first-time mothers having a single baby was 15.7 percent – substantially lower than Ohio’s reported rate of 26 percent. The decrease is sustained in 2013 and remains below Ohio state averages. The hospital also posted a VBAC success rate of 77 percent and an episiotomy rate of 1.6 percent.
UH Case Medical Center’s physicians, surgeons and scientists – all members of the faculty of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine – are leaders in their respective fields, and their ongoing research programs are at the leading edge of medical progress. A strong emphasis on translational, or “bench-to-bedside,” research means that new and innovative treatments and technologies transfer more rapidly from the research laboratory to actual patient care.

James Liu, MD, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at UH Case Medical Center, and Arthur H. Bill Professor and Chair of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, has been at the forefront of clinical research that uncovered the biological processes behind women’s health issues and has helped develop effective treatments. Dr. Liu is the principal investigator of the NIH Contraceptive Trials network Cleveland site and the Director of the MacDonald Clinical Trials Unit, which conducts multicenter clinical trials. One such trial is targeting treatment of hypothalamic amenorrhea and infertility. This study is trying to establish the efficacy of a brain hormone, gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), to induce ovulation for infertile women with primary GnRH deficiency. Other trials include utilizing GnRH antagonist to treat uterine fibroids and endometriosis, and brain peptides that treat sexual dysfunction. Dr. Liu is on the editorial board and the board of trustees of the journal Menopause. He also continues to serve as an NIH reviewer for grants.

Steven Waggoner, MD, Chief of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology and Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, leads a team in groundbreaking work in clinical trials, both investigator-initiated and in conjunction with NRG Oncology and the Gynecologic Oncology Group Foundation. The division concentrates on quality of life, survivorship, fertility preservation and personalized treatments for their patients through the following:

- Participation in dozens of NIH-sponsored clinical trials, searching for treatment options beyond standard therapies.
- One of a select number of disease teams participating in Case Western Reserve University’s NCI designation as a lead academic performance site (LAPS).
- Collaboration with the renowned laboratory team of Analisa DiFeo, PhD, the Norma C. and Albert I. Geller Designated Professor of Ovarian Cancer Research at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.
- State-of-the-art surgical, radiotherapy and chemotherapy options for women with recurrent gynecologic cancers, including CyberKnife® and heated intraperitoneal therapy (HIPEC).

UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital is one of only 12 centers nationally to participate in the Eeva Test (early embryo viability test) study, a novel clinical trial designed to help lab embryologists choose embryos most likely to develop and result in successful pregnancy for IVF patients. Leading the UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital site trial is James M. Goldfarb, MD, MBA, Director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at University Hospitals, and Clinical Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, who specializes in fertility, in vitro fertilization, reproductive endocrinology and fertility preservation in cancer patients. His program was responsible for many firsts in the field, including the first IVF birth in Ohio in 1983, the world’s first IVF/surrogate birth in 1986 and Ohio’s first birth from preimplantation genetic diagnosis in 2004. On a national level, Dr. Goldfarb is past president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technologies (SART), the national professional group that provides leadership to the country’s in vitro fertilization programs. Dr. Goldfarb also served on the Board of Directors of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and has been a member of the National Coalition of Reproductive Technologies.

Angelina Gangestad, MD, an obstetrician/gynecologist in the Division of General Obstetrics & Gynecology, and an Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, is the local lead investigator in The Violet Petal Study, an ongoing study evaluating the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication for the management of moderate to severe endometriosis-associated pain. Dr. Gangestad is also studying the efficacy of vaginal microbicides targeting HIV to reduce disease transmission.

All National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for basic and clinical research is awarded to the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University.

The commitment to exceptional patient care begins with revolutionary discovery. University Hospitals Case Medical Center is the primary affiliate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, a national leader in medical research and education and consistently ranked among the top research medical schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Through their faculty appointments at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, physicians at UH Case Medical Center are advancing medical care through innovative research and discovery that bring the latest treatment options to patients.
clinicians and scientists
at uh case medical center and
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Chair
James H. Liu, MD
Arthur H. Bill Professor of Reproductive Biology

Vice Chairs
Nancy Cossler, MD
Vice Chair for Patient Safety and Quality

Steven E. Waggoner, MD
Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs

Neal S. Rote, PhD
Vice Chair for Academic Affairs

Behavioral Medicine
Sheryl A. Kingsberg, PhD
Director, Division of Behavioral Medicine, Professor

Jaina Amin, MD
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

Jeffrey W. Janata, PhD
Associate Professor

Sarah Nagle-Yang, MD
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery
Saneeet Mahajan, MD
Fellowship Program Director, Associate Professor

Bogdan Orasanu, MD
Clinical Instructor

Aisha Taylor, MD
Clinical Instructor

General Obstetrics & Gynecology
Marjorie Greenfield, MD
Division Director, Professor

Karen L. Ashby, MD
Associate Professor

Corinne Bazella, MD
Assistant Professor

Jamie Byler, MD
Assistant Professor

Megan Billow, DO
Assistant Professor

Nancy J. Cossler, MD
Residency Director, Associate Professor

Angelina K. Gangstead, MD
Assistant Professor

Kim Gecsi, MD
Associate Professor

Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, MD
Associate Professor

Susan J. Lasch, MD
Assistant Professor

Tia M. Melton, MD
Assistant Professor

Lisa Perriera, MD
Head, Section of Family Planning, Assistant Professor

Roya Rezaee, MD
Medical Director, Women’s Health Center, Assistant Professor

Maria Shaker, MD
Assistant Professor

Martin F. Wiczorek, MD
Director of Obstetrical Education, Assistant Professor

Lisa Wolfe, CNP

Gynecologic Oncology
Steven E. Waggoner, MD
Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Division Director, Professor

Amy Armstrong, MD
Clinical Instructor

Jan Maxson, CNP, CNS

Lindsay Means, CNP

Christa Nagel, MD
Assistant Professor

John Nakayama, MD
Assistant Professor

Emily Petersen, CNP

Sareena Singh, MD
Clinical Instructor

Kristine M. Zanotti, MD
Associate Professor

MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE
Honour Wolfe, MD
Mary D. Fergus Chair Division Director, Professor

Debbie Avallone, MSN, RN, CNS, DCE

Jane Corteville, MD
Assistant Professor

Method Duchon, MD
Assistant Professor

Stacey Ehrenberg, MD
Assistant Professor

David Hackney, MD
Director of Labor & Delivery Assistant Professor

Noam Lazebnik, MD
Professor

Melissa March, MD
Assistant Professor

Elizabeth Ann Ruza, MD, CNM
Patient Care Coordinator, Assistant Clinical Professor

George A. Van Buren, MD
Assistant Professor

Neonatology
Michele Walsh, MD, MS
Division Chief

William and Lois Briggs Chair in Neonatology Professor

Prasad Achanti, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

Jill Baley, MD
Professor

Monika Bholanda, MD
Associate Professor

Nurse-Midwifery
Celina C. Cunanan, CNM, MSN
Division Director, Associate Clinical Professor

Katherine Austinson, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Amy Coleman, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Amy Cooper, CNM, MS
Clinical Instructor

Moira Crowley, MD
Assistant Professor

Avroy Fanaroff, MD
Eliza Henry Barnes Emeritus Chair in Neonatology Professor Emeritus

Jonathan Fanaroff, MD, JD
Associate Professor

Katherine Griswold, MD
Assistant Professor

Maureen Hack, MD
Professor

Anna Maria Hibbs, MD, MSCR
Assistant Professor

Richard Martin, MD
Drusinsky-Fanaroff Chair in Neonatology Professor

Mary Nock, MD
Associate Professor

Mary Elaine Patrinos, MD
Assistant Professor

Allison Payne, MD
Instructor

Thomas Stork, MD
Professor

Andrea Trembath, MD, MPH
Instructor

Sreekanth Viswanathan, MD, Assistant Professor

Kristin Voos, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

Deanne Wilson-Costello, MD
Professor

Gulgun Yalcinkaya, MD
Assistant Professor

Qin Yao, MD
Assistant Professor

Nurse-Midwifery
Celina C. Cunanan, CNM, MSN
Division Director, Clinical Instructor

Katherine Austinson, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Amy Coleman, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Amy Cooper, CNM, MS
Clinical Instructor

Ashley Doolos, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Rachel N. Kay, CNM, MSN, MPH
Assistant Clinical Professor

Ann Konkoly, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Emily Leslie, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Lauren MacGregor-Banak, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Ellen Margles, CNM, MSN
Assistant Clinical Professor

Jean Marino, CNP, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Gretchen G. Mettler, CNM, MS, PhD
Director of Nurse-Midwifery Education, Clinical Assistant Professor

Leslie Stroud, CNM, MSN
Assistant Clinical Professor

Mistie Winkfield, CNM, MSN
Clinical Instructor

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Sonia Elguero, MD
Clinical Instructor

James Goldfarb, MD
Director, UH Fertility Center, Clinical Professor

James H. Liu, MD
Department Chair, Arthur H. Bill Professor of Reproductive Biology

Bansari Patel, MD
Clinical Instructor

Brooke Rossi, MD
Assistant Professor

Suruchi Thakore, MD
Clinical Instructor

Research
Neal S. Rote, PhD
Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, Division Director, William H. Weir Professor of Reproductive Biology

Sam Mesiano, PhD
Professor

Independent Specialists
Samir Ahuja, MD
Natalina Andreani, MD
Elizabeth Brandewie, MD
David Burkons, MD
Shahid Butt, MD
J. Jeffery Cameron, MD
Mark Chapman, MD
Jeffrey Christian, MD
Laura David, MD
Mary Haerr, MD
William Hahn, MD
Israel Henig, MD
Shin Huang, MD
Thomas Janicki, MD
Michael Koroly, DO
Deborah Levitan-Gerson, MD
Patricia McNamara, MD
Jennifer Miller, MD
Lori Mullen, MD
Daniel Rzepka, MD
Joseph Shawi, MD
Marc Snelson, MD
Maurice Soremekun, MD
Janette Stephenson, MD
Niranjana Thaker, MD
Paula Usis, MD
Sandhya Varyani, MD
Margie Wenz, MD
Nancy Wollam-Huhn, MD
C.K. Woo, MD
To refer a patient or learn more about UH Case Medical Center Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, call 216-844-3941 or visit UHhospitals.org/MacWomen.