The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in UNC’s School of Medicine cares for women at every stage of their lives. Our faculty and staff strive to provide world-class patient care and search for new knowledge through robust research programs, and are committed to excellence in educational experiences for medical students, residents and fellows. It was ranked #12 in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report for Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments in Schools of Medicine and #18 overall for Gynecology—that’s #3 in the Southeast. The residency program is recognized as one of the best, ranking in the top three in the nation for clinical reputation by Doximity’s 2019 Residency Navigator for the fourth year in a row. In 2019, the UNC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was ranked 3rd among university Ob/Gyn departments in NIH funding, garnering more than $9 million in research dollars.

The Department has nine Divisions: Family Planning, General Obstetrics and Gynecology, Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Midwifery, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility, Fertility, and Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery. It also houses the UNC Horizons Program, a substance abuse treatment for pregnant and/or parenting women and their children, including those whose lives have been touched by abuse and violence; and UNC Global Women’s Health (GWH), a unique group of clinicians, researchers and public health professionals working to improve the health of women in the world’s poorest countries.

Office

Members of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology occupy the entire third floor of the Old Clinic Building which has been renovated to meet their office space needs. Each physician has a private office; all offices are equipped with state of the art computers and linked to shared printers and other office equipment as needed. All computers are connected via the local area network to the University mainframe computers. Residents and fellows have individual spaces assigned; they also have individual telephones and computers linked to all needed shared services. There are several conference rooms and a library available for use. Additionally there are small conference rooms and offices available for use in the Clinic space in Women’s Hospital, and at the Center for Women’s Health Research. Outpatient and inpatient obstetrics and gynecology are located adjacent to these academic offices in the UNC Women’s Hospital. The convergence of UNC Women’s Hospital with our Ob/Gyn offices described in this section allows for easy walking distance (<300 yards) to each other.

Clinic

*Outpatient Facilities*

The UNC Department of Ob/Gyn has multiple facilities for clinical care and research subject enrollment. There were 37,111 obstetrics patient visits at UNC departmental clinics in 2019, of which The Women’s Primary Healthcare division sees obstetrics and gynecologic patients at our UNC Hospital clinics, Hillsborough Medical Office Building and off-site clinics in Chapel Hill and Cary. Additionally, our department has outpatient specialty facilities at Rex Hospital, a 665-bed community hospital in Raleigh. Each site is staffed with an expert team of obstetricians and nurses to bring expert prenatal care closer to the community.

*Gynecologic Inpatient Facilities*

Gynecologic surgery and inpatient care occurs at our UNC and Hillsborough Hospital Campuses. The UNC Hillsborough hospital is a 68 bed facility that opened in September 2015 and is a state of the art facility designed for serving our benign gynecologic services – Women’s Primary Health, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, Family Planning and Urogynecology divisions. Gynecologic Oncology and benign gynecologic services are also located at the UNC Women’s Hospital. Gynecologic surgeons have daily access to surgical facilities and provide inpatient and outpatient care at both sites.

*Obstetrical* *Inpatient* *Facilities* *(Level* *III* *Perinatal* *Center)*

The UNC Women’s Hospital opened in the fall of 2000 with increased capacity for the neonatal intensive care, neonatal intermediate care, and pediatric intermediate care units. The replacement facility has allowed the UNC Health Care System to bring into a single structure nearly all resources dedicated to the provision of health care services for women and infants. It also provides a health care environment that is safer, more efficient, and geared to delivering innovative services that improve women’s health outcomes. For example, all of the rooms in the new hospital are single-bedded. Such private rooms are important for women, not only for clinical reasons, but also to meet psychosocial needs such as allowing family members to stay in the room with the postpartum patient.

The facility has resulted in the addition of approximately 450,000 square feet of new space and the development of a two-story, glass, enclosed pedestrian concourse that connects the front entrances and lobbies of the NC Memorial Hospital, the NC Children’s Hospital, the NC Women’s Hospital and the NC Neurosciences Hospital. The new space includes Women’s Outpatient Services, Assisted Reproductive Technology Services, Gynecology Oncology, Urogynecology, Outpatient Services, Labor & Delivery/Birthing Center with four LDRPs and 10 LDRs, an Obstetric Inpatient Unit, a Newborn Nursery with 28 beds and 14 bassinets, a Women’s Resource Center, and a Gynecology/Gynecologic Oncology Inpatient Unit with 22 beds.

The Labor and Delivery Unit (~20,000 sq ft) consists of 4 LDRP’s and 10 LDR’s, each approximately 340 square feet. The monitoring capabilities in each room include pulse, EKG, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, central venous pressure, and pulmonary artery pressure, plus a centralized electronic fetal monitoring system. All fetal monitors are Hewlett Packard and the central fetal monitoring package is by Hillrom. Each room has an IBM workstation for charting on the computerized inpatient record and all fetal heart rate information and non-invasive maternal monitoring data streams automatically into the computerized record. There is a 300 square foot room designated for the care of high risk and critically ill women with invasive monitoring capabilities mounted at the bedside, as well as two portable hemodynamic monitors that can be used in any room. An ATL HDL 5000 ultrasound machine with color flow and pulsed Doppler capabilities is available. Three large operating rooms are located within the unit as well as a preoperative holding area, in which minor treatments such as decompression amniocentesis or breech version can be performed. Nursing stations are strategically located throughout the unit to streamline patient care. The labor and delivery unit is adjacent to the neonatal intensive care for ease of access.

Located one floor above the labor and delivery unit is the combined antepartum/postpartum unit with 28 private rooms (250 square feet each) and a newborn nursery (450 square feet) with 14 bassinets. Part of the central fetal monitoring system is 15 portable fetal monitors, connecting to hubs in each room. The nursing care in Labor and Delivery is provided by 35 full-time registered nurses, three scrub technicians and three unit secretaries. The antepartum/postpartum/nursery staff consists of 37 full-time RNs, six LPNs and three nurse aids with nine unit secretaries. In the adjacent medical school is a large wet laboratory with a refrigerated centrifuge and minus 70 degree freezers for study specimen processing and storage.

The UNC-affiliated Rex Hospital, expanded its programs and services for women with the opening of Rex Women’s Center in 2005. The Women’s Center includes the Rex Family Birth Center, a 40-bed maternity center. In addition to the 40 rooms, there is a fully equipped operating room for C-sections. The Birth Center is family-centered with specially trained staff, offering a comforting birth environment that is home-like, private and safe. Rex also has an 18-bed, Level III-A nursery with ability to care for babies down to 29-30 weeks’ gestation. Infants with more extensive medical care needs are transferred to either the WakeMed NICU or the UNC NICU, depending on individual conditions.

Annually there are ~4,000 deliveries at the UNC Women’s Hospital. Of these, ~3200 obstetrics patients (81%) initiate prenatal care at < 18 weeks’ gestation. An additional ~4800 babies are born each year at UNC Rex Hospital, with ~92% receiving prenatal care in the first trimester.

The Newborn Critical Care Center (NCCC) at The North Carolina Children’s Hospital (UNC)

The NCCC, which occupies the entire fourth floor of the North Carolina Children’s Hospital, is a state-of-the-art 20,400 square feet level IV facility with 48 intensive care and 10 intermediate care beds, including four isolation beds with the capacity for ventilator isolation (negative pressure). The NCCC is served by 11 board-certified attending neonatologists, 18 nurse practitioners, and more than 150 neonatal specialists who provide 24/7/365 coverage. A larger, multidisciplinary team of clinicians from N.C. Children’s Hospital, which includes social workers, pediatric pharmacists, respiratory care practitioners, dietitians, and physical and occupational therapists, complements the care provided by this core team. Our health care practitioners diagnose and treat about 900 newborns from more than 50 counties and throughout North Carolina each year. More than two-thirds of the newborns admitted to the NCCC annually are born at North Carolina Women’s Hospital, just a corridor away from the NCCC. The Pediatric Transport Team, part of Carolina Air Care, transports the remainder of infants to our hospital, many via helicopter that lands at the air-pad atop the adjacent UNC Neurosciences Hospital.

UNC Obstetric Ultrasound Unit

In 2019, 20,297 obstetric ultrasounds were performed at UNC clinics. The UNC Obstetric Ultrasound Unit is staffed by eight registered diagnostic medical sonographers under the on-site supervision of board certified maternal fetal medicine specialists. All are certified in fetal echocardiography and nuchal translucency. Our unit maintains American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine certification. Both sonographers and clinicians have expertise in obstetric ultrasound and are skilled in diagnosis and management of fetal anomalies. Our referral base is broad, encompassing much of central and eastern North Carolina, resulting in a broad range of anomalies diagnosed in higher numbers than seen in most ultrasound units.

Current equipment includes six HDI 5000 ATL ultrasound machines with color Doppler, pulsed Doppler, and 3D ultrasound; and one GE Voluson 730 with 4D capability. Two portable machines are also available to clinics, while a third machine resides in the emergency room. Computerized report generation allows digital storage of ultrasound images for documentation and study inclusion, as well as accurate retrieval of ultrasound findings for comparison and data retrieval. Merging records based on patient hospital identification number and initials achieves linkage with the UNC Perinatal Database. Information is available online to the physicians at UNC via a health system-wide integrated electronic medical record.

UNC also has an ultrasound unit in Raleigh located on the Rex Hospital campus in the UNC Specialty Women’s Center, directed by *Dr. William Goodnight.* The Rex unit receives referrals from many of the Rex private practices as well as western North Carolina, the AHEC and private practices delivering at WakeMed Hospital. This unit is held to the same standards as our UNC unit and is staffed by three registered diagnostic medical sonographers certified in fetal echocardiography and nuchal translucency. Annually, ~6000 obstetric ultrasounds are performed at Rex.

Inpatient Obstetric Ultrasound Services are also provided by MFM faculty at UNC Hospital. A GE Voluson s8 ultrasound, a GE Logiq P5 and a Sonosite portable ultrasound are located on Labor and Delivery, for vaginal or abdominal ultrasounds. The GE Voluson s8 machine has Doppler capability and superior imaging that allows detailed anatomy assessment and fetal procedures. These machines are available for triage assessments, biophysical profiles, amniotic fluid assessment, amniocentesis, intervention procedures including amnioreduction, fetal shunt placements, laser therapy, percutaneous umbilical blood sampling, and *in utero* fetal therapy. The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology *does not* rely on the Department of Radiology for inpatient or outpatient obstetric or pelvic ultrasounds. Radiology residents receive training in obstetric and pelvic ultrasound from MFM and gynecology faculty.

*Updated: 9/21/20*