



**DEPARTMENT OF
OBSTETRICS &
GYNECOLOGY**





UH CASE MEDICAL CENTER

Among the nation’s leading academic medical centers, UH Case Medical Center is the primary affiliate of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

With more than 1,000 registered beds, UH Case Medical Center provides primary, specialty and subspecialty medical and surgical care. Located in the heart of Cleveland’s University Circle on a beautiful 35-acre campus, UH Case Medical Center includes general medical, intensive care and surgical units as well as three major hospitals:

- UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS MACDONALD WOMEN’S HOSPITAL
- UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS
- RAINBOW BABIES & CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
- UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS SEIDMAN CANCER CENTER

Our physicians and researchers – who also serve as faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine – are leaders in their respective fields, and their ongoing clinical research programs push the boundaries of medical progress.

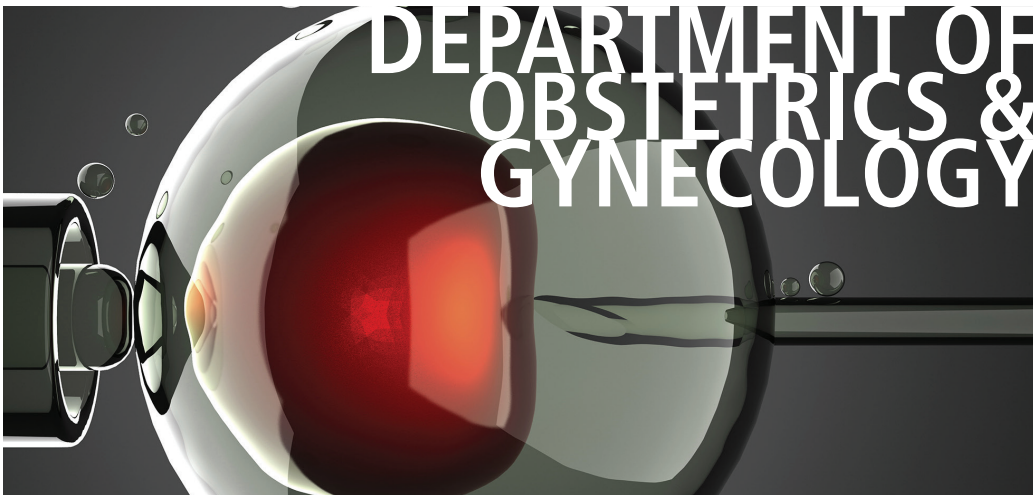
To learn more, visit UHhospitals.org

HARRINGTON DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

ACCELERATING BREAKTHROUGH DISCOVERIES INTO MEDICINES

The Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals is the nonprofit arm of The Harrington Project for Discovery & Development, a national initiative supporting breakthrough research by physician-scientists. The Harrington Project is a new and powerful approach to address the challenges of advancing discoveries into medicines.

To learn more, visit HarringtonDiscovery.org



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.

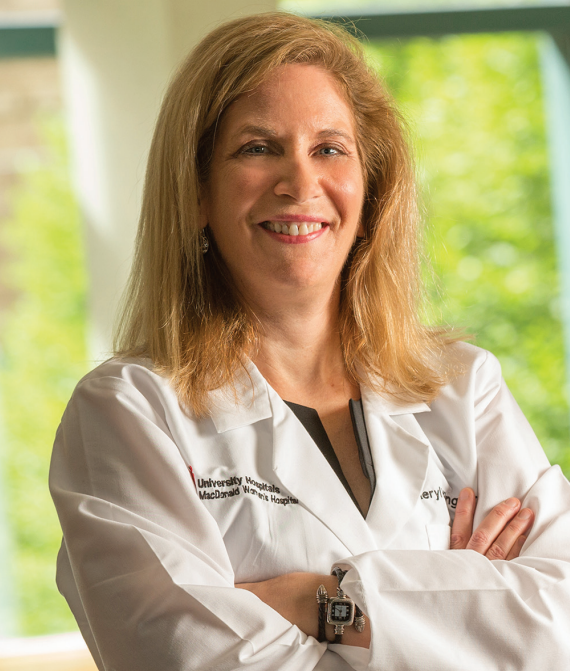
Through its seven divisions, UH MacDonald Women’s Hospital at UH Case Medical Center provides comprehensive care for adolescents and women with conditions of the reproductive system. Teams of experts – including specialists from UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, UH Seidman Cancer Center and UH 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.

CENTERS 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.



Dr. Sheryl Kingsberg

DRIVING EXCITING NEW APPROACHES TO TREATING SEXUAL DYSFUNCTION

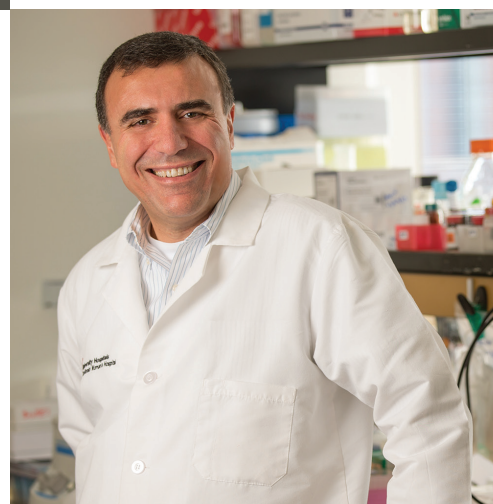
Sheryl Kingsberg, PhD, Director of the Division of Behavioral Medicine and Co-Director of the Sexual Function and Vulvovaginal Health Program at UH Case Medical Center, and Professor of Reproductive Biology and Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, co-authored the published 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.

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

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.



Dr. Sam Mesiano

Ohio-led team takes on premature birth through March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center

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."

CLINICAL ADVANCES

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.

Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew



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.

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.



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.

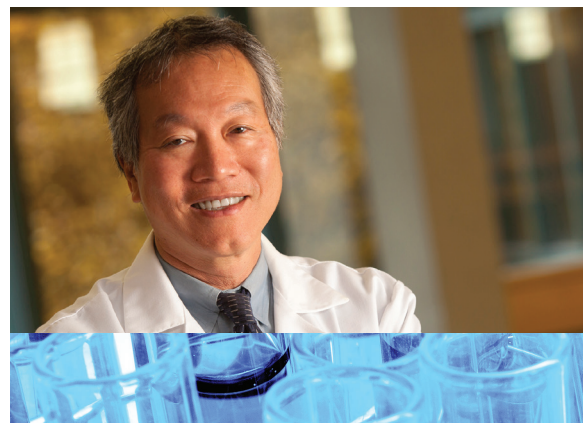
quality

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.

Learn more online! Find articles and video commentary on the latest innovations and clinical advancements at UHhospitals.org/OB-GYNInnovations.

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.

Dr. James Liu



Dr. Angelina Gangestad



TOMORROW'S CURES TODAY.

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.

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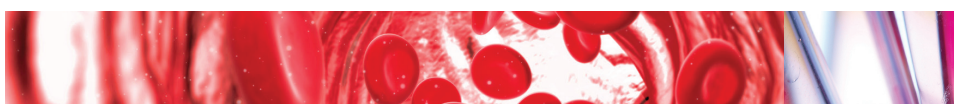
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or visit **UHhospitals.org/MacWomen**.



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