

Obstetrics and Gynecology

2025

Residency Program Interview



Harbor-UCLA
MEDICAL CENTER

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

About our Program

Our teaching faculty of 16 Obstetrician-Gynecologists and 15 allied health professionals compose a well-rounded program with expertise in all areas of our specialty: MFM, REI, Gyn Oncology, Family Planning, and Urogyn, along with OB/Gyn Generalists and Laborists. We also have one Ph.D. faculty member specializing in fetal physiology. Allied Health Providers provide and teach well women and routine obstetrical care.

Our department occupies the seventh floor of the main hospital, housing the administrative offices, conference room, maternity center and GYN wards. The maternity center includes antepartum testing, obstetrical triage suite, labor-delivery suites, operating rooms, and postpartum wards. Portable ultrasound machines are available for use on the Labor & Delivery suite at all times. We are a baby-friendly hospital, recognized for promoting breast-feeding with a lactation specialist, and mother-baby rooming in. Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 (critical care) newborn nurseries are on the sixth and seventh floors. We perform antenatal and prenatal diagnostic testing with 3D & 4D ultrasounds at the Medical Foundation Inc. (MFI) building.

The OB/GYN resident call room and resident library are also located on the seventh floor, adjacent to the Labor and Delivery Suite. The library contains computers with internet access, e-libraries, textbooks, CD's, and videos. Laparoscopic pelvic trainers to enhance surgical skills and obstetric pelvic mannequins to practice delivery techniques are also in the library. Residents have access to the internet, Wi-Fi, ORCHID (our eMR system) and the LA County Intranet from any hospital computer utilizing their own password.

The residents perform GYN surgery in our state-of-the-art OR on the second floor. We occupy eight full time operating rooms per week. On average, our residents are the primary surgeon for over 100 elective, urgent, and emergent cases per month. Residents also have the opportunity to train on our dual-console Da Vinci Surgical System.

The Women's Health Clinic space, located on the first floor of the Medical Center, includes 14 exam rooms and 4 procedure rooms, and operates Monday-Friday. Our GYN Ambulatory clinics provide robust training for residents, including specialty specific clinics for GYN Oncology, REI, abnormal cytology/colposcopy and FPMRS. Last year we provided care for over 25,000 patients and performed over 300 minor procedures including Essure Sterilization, Diagnostic and Operative Hysteroscopy, Endometrial Ablation, Sonohysterography, D&Cs for pregnancy termination, and LEEP procedures. Our unique GYN Urgent Care allows our patients walk-in access for acute issues such as first trimester pregnancy complications, PID and ovarian torsion, just to name a few. Ultrasound machines for transvaginal, transabdominal, and hydrosonography pelvic examinations are readily available and utilized by our residents to aid in diagnosis and treatment planning.

The OB Clinic, located in the MFI building, is one of 27 national demonstration sites for "MAMA's Neighborhood," a new model of obstetrical care funded through the Strong Start Program from CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services). In our maternity medical homes, residents, midwives, generalists, and MFM specialists integrate the medical care of patients in a team approach to address

the broader medical, mental, and social support needs of our patients. This innovative model of care extends beyond the medical home and engages community-based agencies in the care process to support housing, substance abuse, nutrition, and behavioral health services. In addition, on the High-Risk OB Service our MFM Faculty coordinate multi-disciplinary patient care with the Departments of Medicine, Cardiology and Neonatal. Lastly, much of the care delivered in the Women's Health Clinics is through individual residents' weekly Continuity Clinics, which permit them to follow their own cohort of patients throughout training.

Affiliated Training Sites

Kaiser Downey Medical Center

The Kaiser Downey Medical Center (KP Downey) is a large community hospital operated by Kaiser Permanente, which is the largest HMO in California with approximately 3,500 deliveries, 1,000 major and 1,800 minor gynecologic surgeries annually. During PGY 2 – PGY 4 residents spend 10 weeks per year at KP Downey on an inpatient OB/GYN rotation. They work one-on-one with OB/GYN faculty, which include several Generalists and sub-specialists in MFM, REI, GYN Oncology and Urogynecology.

Kaiser South Bay Medical Center

The Kaiser South Bay Medical Center (KSB) site, also operated by Kaiser Permanente, provides a robust OB experience for residents with over 2,200 deliveries per year. During PGY 2 residents spend 5 weeks per year at KSB working with Generalists and MFM sub-specialists learning both low risk and high-risk OB care.

Kaiser Bellflower Surgical Center

The Kaiser Bellflower (MIGS) is an advanced Gynecology surgical rotation where PGY 3 and PGY 4 residents receive experience in minimally invasive Laparoscopic surgery under the guidance of expert surgeons. This is a high-volume center, where most cases are performed using minimally invasive techniques under the mentorship of MIS, OBGYN specialists.

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

The newly added City of Hope Hospital (COH) site is an Oncology Gynecology service where PGY3 and PGY4 residents receive experience in advanced MIS and Robotic surgeries, under advanced skilled surgeons. The COH service is a busy surgical service with four Oncologists, a Urogynecologist, and generalist who provide both outpatient and inpatient care.

Together with our affiliated training sites, Harbor-UCLA offers a balanced resident experience in managed care, private community, and academic hospital settings, preparing residents for multiple practice settings upon graduation. Harbor provides clinical training in an academic setting for a primarily high-risk, high acuity, indigent population and provides significant exposure to chronic medical disease, intensive care, and trauma OB/GYN cases. The residents provide not only OB/GYN care for these patients but also comprehensive care for their medical conditions in their continuity and specialty clinics.

At Harbor, residents work in teams, assuming the primary responsibility for each patient's surgical, hospital and/or clinic care while working under the supervision of faculty. During their four years of training, residents assume graduated responsibility to make their own diagnostic management and surgical decisions, which prepares them to practice independently. Residents are a part of the "business" of health care where there is routine evaluation of cost-containment, efficiency and efficacy, and standardized care plans are followed. Our curriculum is driven by evidence-based medicine and clinical trials. In contrast, the resident experiences at KP Downey and KSB provide an acute hospital care

experience with a high volume of low to moderate risk patients who generally receive regular health care. The residents are involved in all aspects of acute GYN and OB care, including pre- and post-operative care, intrapartum evaluation and management, and postpartum hospital care. The Kaiser Bellflower rotation provides advanced surgical training and a broad community experience.

Research

Residents are encouraged to participate in faculty ongoing basic and clinical research projects. An active Clinical Study Center provides facilities for research on campus. Residents have dedicated research time each year of their training.

Research types may include Clinical (Prospective or retrospective, case control or Cohort), Focus (QI/QA or Scientific), and Basic Science (human, animal, and laboratory).

Teaching Conferences

Our Program provides a comprehensive didactic component, with several standing conferences and lectures. Including, but not limited to, the following:

Monday M&M Conference, Grand Rounds, Pathology Conference, Pre-Op Conference

Tuesday OB Case Review/Lecture by rounding Attending, FPMRS Lecture

Wednesday Core Curriculum Lecture, Resident Education (once per month), Internal and Family Medicine Primary Care Lecture

Friday MFM Conference

Monthly Journal Club

Summer Essentials Review

During July – August (in place of Grand Rounds) there is a two-hour weekly series of basic core OB/Gyn lectures. Workshops in shoulder dystocia, operative vaginal delivery, surgical instrumentation, and laparoscopy are also included. Throughout the year, there are special workshops scheduled on a range of subjects such as advanced laparoscopy using animate models, Implanon, and Essure. We also hold practice drills in conjunction with nursing and anesthesia to prepare for OB emergencies such as urgent cesarean surgery, obstetrical hemorrhage, and shoulder dystocia.

Annual Retreat

Annually, in February, we have a resident retreat off campus with the goal of resident wellness, program improvement, patient care improvement, career planning and resident team building. Residents are involved in planning topics for discussion and devising creative approaches such as workshops, role-playing, outside speakers, and small group breakouts. Importantly, goals for the next academic year are decided.

Teaching Responsibility

Teaching by house staff is an important component of any university-affiliated residency. Residents are expected to participate in both formal and informal teaching of UCLA medical students, sub-interns and non-Ob/Gyn house staff.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Malpractice Insurance

The County of Los Angeles provides professional liability coverage (includes claims filed after completion of training).

Health and Dental Insurance

Residents are employees of the County of Los Angeles, and as such, they (along with their dependents) are eligible to enroll in one of several health and dental insurance programs offered by the County. The County provides a pre-established dollar amount for insurance costs, with any remaining balance payable by the employee. Enrollment occurs within the first 90 days of employment. Insurance is effective 60 days after enrollment. Annual open enrollment occurs every October.

Disability Insurance

Rivetti, Clark & Associates provides disability insurance to County-paid Housestaff. Contact them at 818-878-7800 or www.rivetticlark.com/

Life Insurance

The County provides a \$2,000 life insurance policy to employees at no cost. Additional life insurance for employees and their dependents can be purchased annually during open enrollment.

Vacation

The County provides post-graduate physicians up to 24 paid vacation days each year. The Program schedules 20 days of paid vacation each year. The option to defer unused vacation time, up to 10 days per year, is available each year until the post-graduate physician leaves or completes training, at which time there is full payment for all unused vacation time.

Sick Leave

The County provides a maximum of 8 days of sick leave each year, which is accrued monthly.

Parental Leave

In compliance with ACGME requirements, six (6) weeks of **paid leave** may be taken as parental leave or to provide care for children, parents, or certain relatives. In addition, in compliance with the Family Medical Leave Act, residents may use accrued vacation and sick time to cover leave beyond the six paid weeks, up to a maximum of 30 additional days (total of 12 weeks). Disability insurance and/or unpaid leave may or may not be available (depending on the circumstance) in addition to what is listed here. However, if additional leave is taken this would result in extended training time in the program.

Effect of Leave on Duration of Training and Board Eligibility

The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology provides the following criteria regarding absence from residency training (eg: parental leave): no more than 12 weeks of absence per individual year of training; and no more than 20 weeks of absence total during the entire training period. ***It is important to note that all types of leave/time away count toward this max total: vacation days, sick days, days away for interviews, personal days, and FMLA leave.***

To maintain board eligibility, time missed exceeding the limits above requires extension of training time in the program.

Housing

Housing is available in the immediate vicinity of the Medical Center at reasonable cost. Many residents prefer to live in adjacent beach communities even though rents may be higher because of the quality lifestyle and ambiance. Ob/Gyn residents are advised to obtain housing close to the Medical Center since they are required to provide "at home" backup call in the fourth year.

Meals

Harbor-UCLA residents receive one free breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the Doctor's Dining Room each day during Residency. Snacks are also provided by the Program.

Medical License & DEA

The law requires first year postgraduate physicians to register with the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance. It is the responsibility of residents, by December 1st of the second postgraduate year to have applied for their CA Medical License. All resident physicians must be fully licensed by July 1st of the start of their PGY3 year. Failure to have a valid license will result in suspension and or termination of employment.

As a Harbor-UCLA Medical Center trainee, you are eligible for DEA registration fee exemption. A fee exempt DEA is only valid at the exemption institution and any affiliated hospital rotations within the scope of your training.

Salary

Residents at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center are permanent-temporary employees of the County of Los Angeles. Negotiation of salaries occurs biannually between the Board of Supervisors and the Joint Council of Interns and Residents. Current annual salaries range from \$72,301 for PGY1 to \$84,123 for PGY4.

Departmental Educational Incentives

The department provides a \$300.00 annual stipend to all residents (PGY 1–PGY 4) for reimbursement of textbooks purchased for education.

Educational Bonus

The Los Angeles County provides an educational bonus of \$2,000.00 to Interns who advance to a PGY2 position in a Los Angeles County training program.

Program Director

Tajnoos Yazdany, MD, FACOG
Residency and Fellowship Director
Associate Professor

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Program Faculty

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Assistant Professor

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Assistant Professor

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Distinguished Professor

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Assistant Professor

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Omid Khorram, MD (REI)
Professor

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Faculty

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Faculty

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Assistant Professor

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Assistant Professor

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Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs

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Faculty

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Assistant Professor

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Faculty

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Faculty

Erika Morikawa, MD (Ob/Gyn)
Faculty

Erin Inman, MD (Ob/Gyn)
Faculty

Tirah Samura, MD (Ob/Gyn)
Faculty

Resident Emails

PGY 4	@dhs.lacounty.gov
Minette Finney	MFinney
Anjali Goswami	AGoswami
Kimberly Huynh	KHuynh7
Chelsea Jones	CJonesf6353
Madeline Scannell	MScannell
Jordan Towne	JTowne
PGY 3	
Daniel Baghdasarian	DBaghdasarian
Joshua Bellisario	JBellisario
Lauren Bernal	LBernal
Margaret English	MEnglish2
Kyle Kim	KKime13df
Helena Nguyen	HeNguyen6
PGY 2	
Alicia Lunardhi	ALunardhi2
Lauren Marcell	LMarcell
Patrick Marta	PMarta
Lena Sherif	LSherif
Melissa Toland	MToland
Sahar Zargar	SZargar
PGY 1	
Wendy Cervantes De Leon	WCervantesdeleon
Xochitl Green	XGreen
Denise Ornelas	Dornelas2
Erika Polanco	EPolanco
Lillya Roldan	LRoldan
Daniela Sharp	DSharp

Interview Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey on your interview experience with Harbor-UCLA Ob/Gyn.

Navigate to the following url:
<https://goo.gl/forms/WSS9LsSHeNjDsIUo2>

OR

Use your phone's barcode scanner app to scan the QR code below.



Your feedback helps us to provide the best interview experience possible and is much appreciated!

The survey is anonymous.

Thank You!