



Advancing the Next 50 Years of the Academic Department
Obstetrics & Gynecology at UMass Memorial Medical Center
and UMass Chan Medical School

2026

Advancing the Next 50 Years of the Academic Department Obstetrics & Gynecology at UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Chan Medical School

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the academic Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Chan Medical School, we do so with deep gratitude for the generations of leaders, clinicians, educators, scientists, and trainees who have shaped our department's history—and with a bold vision for the next 50 years.

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology is a leading academic department dedicated to improving the health of women, gender diverse individuals, and families through innovative research, transformative education, community partnership, and exceptional clinical care. With a commitment to all mission areas, we integrate discovery, training, and care within a unified system—advancing science, shaping policy, and preparing the next generation of leaders in women's health.

Philanthropic support for the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology will help advance our mission by investing in the people, education and development programs, and innovations that shape the future of women's health.

Celebrating Our Progress – How Far We've Come

Our **clinical programs** provide comprehensive, evidence-based, compassionate care across the reproductive lifespan. We serve as a tertiary care, high-risk regional referral center across central Massachusetts and beyond, **with more than 5,200 deliveries, 100,000 outpatient encounters, and 2,000 surgeries annually.** Our clinical programs and expertise are deeply integrated with education, research, quality improvement, and community-engaged initiatives.

On the **education front**, our residency program has recently **grown to training six residents each year with an aim to expand further.** All medical students spend time with our clinician-educators during their required core obstetrics and gynecology clerkship. Fellowships in Urogynecology and Maternal Fetal Medicine round out our formal current training programs that nurture the next generations of specialists and subspecialists in obstetrics and gynecology.

Our **research mission** extends from clinical and translational research to population health, and includes implementation science, reproductive health, perinatal mental health, obstetrics, gynecology, quality improvement, and community-engaged scholarship. Our **community and equity mission** is central to who we are. We serve a diverse region and are committed to ensuring that our workforce, partnerships, and care models reflect and respond to the needs of our patients and communities.

Together, these missions define the academic department we are—and the department we seek to strengthen for the future.

Comprehensive care spans the full reproductive lifespan and is delivered by experts in:

- Complex Family Planning
- General Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Gynecologic Cancer
- Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
- Obstetrics and Gynecology Research, Innovation, and Leadership
- Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
- Pelvic Health and Urogynecology
- Pregnancy and Childbirth
- Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Investing in the Future of Our Department – Why the Time is Now

Today, our department stands at a pivotal moment. The need for outstanding obstetrician-gynecologists and subspecialists is growing, while academic departments across the country face increasing pressures: workforce shortages, constrained funding for education and research, threats to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and widening disparities in maternal and reproductive health outcomes. Departments such as ours play a vital and expanding role, but the work that defines our impact—training physicians, advancing research, improving systems of care, and addressing inequities—is not fully funded by clinical revenue or traditional grants.

This 50-year milestone is not only an opportunity to honor our shared legacy; it is a moment to invest intentionally in the people, programs, and innovations that will define the future of obstetrics and gynecology. This moment calls for bold investment. Philanthropy provides flexibility and is critical to supporting learners and faculty, strengthening education, accelerating research, enabling innovation in care delivery, and promoting health equity. Overall, it sustains the academic mission that advances women's health.

Recent Momentum and National Impact

Over the past 5 to 10 years, the department has demonstrated remarkable growth and impact. These select accomplishments reflect a department that is not only delivering outstanding; it is also shaping the future of women's health nationally:

- **Research Expansion:** External funding has increased more than 15-fold from 2021 to 2025, including a current \$20M PCORI-funded regional collaboration with Yale and University of Buffalo. The department has its first federally funded K-awardees, establishing an early pipeline of independent investigators.
- **Education and Workforce Development:** We have expanded our residency and fellowship programs, with strong match outcomes and national recruitment. We established the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship to train future leaders in high-risk obstetrics, leveraging our high-volume tertiary referral center to advance clinical excellence, multidisciplinary care, and innovation in maternal and fetal health.
- **Equity-focused Innovation:** We are advancing inclusive, patient-centered care through initiatives such as our Doula Program, which supports underserved birthing individuals, and the Rainbow Clinic, which provides affirming, specialized care for LGBTQ+ patients, reinforcing our commitment to reducing disparities and improving outcomes and experiences across diverse populations. We developed "Day in the Life of an Ob/Gyn" with community partners to create pipeline opportunities for local high school students.
- **Transformative Care Models:** We founded the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program for Moms which has impacted national policy resulting in 29 state/regional programs and two national perinatal psychiatry access programs supporting obstetric care clinicians across the country in addressing mental health and substance use disorder. All access programs participate in the UMass Chan Lifeline for Moms national network of perinatal psychiatry access programs, a collaboration between Ob/Gyn and Psychiatry.
- **Clinical and Systems Leadership:** We expanded and integrated obstetric and gynecologic services across UMass Memorial Health, strengthening access to high-quality care in Central Massachusetts. We grew our minimally invasive and robotic surgery programs, improving patient recovery and outcomes, and we continue to deliver cutting-edge cancer therapies through GOG/NRG clinical trials while expanding comprehensive reproductive services through the launch of an on-site IVF laboratory.

- **National Leadership:** Our faculty serve in prominent leadership roles across ACOG, ABOG, SASGOG, AUGS, ASRM, SMFM, SGO, and FIGO and contribute to national guidelines, policy initiatives, and advocacy in reproductive and maternal health.

Our Philanthropic Priorities

Philanthropic support is essential to advancing the full academic mission of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at UMass Memorial Medical Center and UMass Chan Medical School. Our priorities include:

- **Graduate Medical Education and Trainee Development:** Support for trainees strengthens education, mentorship, scholarly activity, and wellness. Support to develop more robust simulation-based and interdisciplinary training programs will enhance clinical preparedness. Support for attendance at conferences will enable our trainees to present scholarship and extend networks. Many alumni recall the transformative impact of their training; philanthropy ensures that today's learners experience the same — and greater — opportunities to grow as clinicians, educators, advocates, and leaders.
- **Faculty and Leadership Development:** At a time of national workforce challenges, investment in faculty as educators and mentors is essential. Philanthropy supports protected academic time, leadership development, mentorship, and recruitment, ensuring continued excellence in clinical care, research, and education.
- **Research and Innovation:** Philanthropy provides critical seed funding for early-stage, high-impact research, enabling faculty and trainees to generate preliminary data, secure external funding, and translate discoveries into improved care, particularly in perinatal mental health, reproductive health, cancer care, and population health.
- **Equity, Access, and Community Impact:** Philanthropy advances maternal health equity, strengthens community partnerships, and supports pipeline programs that build a diverse workforce and improve outcomes across the communities we serve.
- **Quality, Safety, and Systems Leadership:** Academic departments have a responsibility not only to provide excellent care but to improve the systems in which care is delivered. Philanthropy can support quality improvement training, data infrastructure, implementation science, simulation-based team training, safety initiatives, and projects that spread best practices across sites. These efforts strengthen patient outcomes, trainee education, faculty engagement, and system performance. They also position the department to enhance its local, regional, and national leadership in areas such as maternal safety, surgical quality, postpartum care, perinatal mental health, and equitable outcomes.

The Impact of Philanthropy – A Legacy Worth Honoring, A Future Worth Building

A philanthropic gift to the **Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Academic Excellence Fund** will directly support the people and areas that define academic medicine: trainees, faculty, leadership, research, innovation, and equity.

Our alumni and faculty community has helped build that legacy. Now, we ask for help to build what comes next. Together, we can honor 50 years of the department and safeguard the next 50 years.