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To those physicians who have taken stands against medical corruption;
may you look in your mirrors with pride.

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Contributors

Olukayode Akinlaja, MD, MBA
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Tennessee College of Medicine
Chattanooga, TN

Melanie D. Altizer, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of OB/GYN
Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine

Heather Anaya, DO
Clinical Assistant Professor
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Leah W. Antoniewicz, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of OB/GYN
Baylor College of Medicine

Isaac Babarinsa, MBBS, MSc, MRCOG, FWACS
Senior Attending Physician
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Sidra Medical and Research Center, Doha, Qatar

Anitra Beasley, MD, MPH
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Jasjit K. Beausang, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Drexel University College of Medicine

Alexandria Betz, DO
Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellow Associate
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine

Natalie Bowersox, MD, FACOG
Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Phillip L. Bressman, MD
Affiliated Assistant Professor
University of Tennessee College of Medicine
Nashville, TN

Jeremy P. Campbell, MB ChB (Hons.), MRCSEd, FRCA
Consultant Anaesthetist
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
London, UK

Christinne Canela, MD, FACOG
Attending Physician
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Carilion Clinic
and
Assistant Professor
Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine

Frances Casey, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
VCU Medical Center

Kenneth K. Chen, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine & Assistant
Professor of ObGyn
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

David Churchill, MD, FRCOG
Consultant Obstetrician
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust,
New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton, UK

Shontreal M. Cooper, MD
Resident Physician
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Hahnemann University Hospital

Contributors

Lauren Coyne, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Charles Cox

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, New Cross
Hospital Wolverhampton, UK

George H. Davis, DO, FACOOG

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Quillen College of Medicine
East Tennessee State University

Julie DeCesare, MD, FACOG

Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Florida College of
Medicine Pensacola

Marygrace Elson, MD, MME

Clinical Professor Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
Iowa City, IA

Georgia Ferrell, MD

Instructor
University of Tennessee, Nashville

Heather Frey, MD

Assistant Professor, Clinical
Department of Maternal Fetal Medicine
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Etoi A. Garrison, MD, PhD

Associate Professor
Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine
Department Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vanderbilt University

William Gist, MD

Assistant Professor and Program Director
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Tennessee College of Medicine
Chattanooga, TN

Aaron Goldberg, MD

Assistant Professor
Department Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical College of Virginia

William Goodnight, MD

Associate Professor
University North Carolina Dept. Ob/Gyn

Cornelia R. Graves, MD

Medical Director, Tennessee Maternal Fetal
Medicine
Medical Director, Perinatal Services,
St. Thomas Health Systems
Professor, University of Tennessee
Clinical Professor, Vanderbilt University
Adjunct Professor, Meharry Medical College

Gareen Hamalian, MD, MPH

Department of Psychiatry
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Mohamad Hamdi, MD

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and
Gynecology (Clinical)
The Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Providence, RI

M. Camille Hoffman, MD, MSCS

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine and
Department of Psychiatry
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Jessica R. Jackson, MD, MSBS

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Sonia Jackson, MD

Resident
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Meharry Medical College Nashville, TN

Zachary C. Kuhlmann, DO

Clinical Associate Professor
Program Director
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
University of Kansas School of Medicine — Wichita

Gwinnett M. Ladson, MD

Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Meharry Medical College
Nashville, TN

Julia Lagow, DO, FACOG

University of Florida, Department of OB/GYN
Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program
Sacred Heart Health System

Heidi Leftwich, DO

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and
Gynecology
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Contributors

University of Massachusetts
Medical School/UMASS
Memorial Medical Center
Worcester, MA

Kimberly R. Looney, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Meharry
Medical College Nashville, TN

Anjali Martinez, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
The George Washington University
Washington DC

Sarina Martini, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Iowa City, IA

Gene La Monica, MD, FACOG
Adjunct Assistant Professor and Attending in
Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Weill-Cornell Medicine — Qatar, Sidra Medical
and Research Center, Doha, Qatar

Mahmoud Moussa, MD, MRCOG
Clinical Fellow
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust,
New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton, UK

Loriana Newman, MD
Assistant Professor
Clinical Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Martin Olsen, MD
Professor
East Tennessee State University
Department of Ob/Gyn

Damali Campbell Oparaji, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Women's Health
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Newark, NJ

Stephen K. Patrick, MD
Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Joseph E. Peterson, MD
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Health Sciences
University of Florida

Sara Petruska, MD
Associate Professor
University of Louisville

Felicity Plaat, BA, MBBS, FRCA
Consultant Anaesthetist
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
London, UK

Moune Jabre Raughley, MD, FACOG
Assistant Professor and Attending in Obstetrics and
Gynecology
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Weill-Cornell Medicine — Qatar, Sidra Medical and
Research Center, Doha, Qatar

Erin C. Rebele, MD
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vanderbilt University
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Nashville, TN

Scott D. Richard, MD
Associate Professor
Drexel University College of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Philadelphia, PA

Fidelma B. Rigby, MD
Associate Professor Maternal Fetal Medicine
Department OB/GYN
VCUHS
Richmond, VA

Natalie E. Roche, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Women's Health
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Newark, NJ

Stephen Rotholz, MD
Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Contributors

University of Colorado School of Medicine
Colorado Institute for Maternal &
Fetal Health

Karen M. Schneider, MD
Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Sarah Shaffer, DO
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of Iowa

Joseph Shumway, MD, MPH, FACOG
Senior Consulting Physician
Director of Education
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Sidra Medical and Research Center
Doha, Qatar
Weill Cornell School of Medicine, Qatar

Rolanda Standifer, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine
Department Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vanderbilt University

Colleen K. Stockdale, MD, MS
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

Theodore Tsaltas, MD
Assistant Professor
Department Ob/Gyn
University of Tennessee College of Medicine
at Chattanooga

Clinton A. Veselis, MD
Instructor
Drexel University College of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Philadelphia, PA

Roxanne A. Vrees, MD
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Women & Infants Hospital
Providence, RI

Selman I. Welt, MD, RDMS
Professor
East Tennessee University
Department of OB/GYN

Denise Willers, MD
Associate Professor
Dept. Obstetrics and Gynecology
Washington University School of Medicine
in St. Louis

Ann E. Williford, MD
Instructor- Department of Clinical Medical Education
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Nashville, TN

Preface

Practitioners of obstetrics and gynecology must have a thorough understanding of the breadth of the subject matter while also accepting the challenge of comprehending the depth of information required to give outstanding patient care to women. *Obstetric Care* is the second book in a series of three texts that cover the breadth of the Ob/Gyn specialty. Modern Ob/Gyn leaders divide our specialty into three divisions: office practice, obstetrics, and gynecology. *Office Care of Women* was the first book in this series and *Gynecologic Care* rounds out the subject matter. After a thorough understanding of the specialty, readers can then move on to literature review or subspecialty texts to further their knowledge on the depth of obstetrics and gynecology.

The care of pregnant patients is uniquely satisfying. The practice of obstetrics combines the need for outstanding technical skills with the intellectual challenges of medical management for both maternal

and fetal conditions. Outstanding psychosocial skills combined with crisis management abilities are also essential. The volume of material covering these and other topics within the discipline of obstetrics is vast. This book is tightly written and is designed to be read in its entirety. The basic information provided here can be used as a review or as a springboard to a more knowledgeable review of the literature in depth.

Advances in the care of obstetric patients and their fetuses have created dramatic improvements in maternal and newborn health in most, but not all, areas of the world. Obstetric care is critically important to the families that are served by each maternal care provider since the loss of a mother has a devastating impact on each member of that family. Entire societies benefit when maternal and child healthcare improvements occur. I hope this book inspires excellence in the practice of obstetrics.