

General Obstetrics and Gynecology Research Fellowship **(Carceral Health Track Curriculum)**

Fellows will dedicate 50% time to research training and experience and 50% time to clinical activities within the Division of General Obstetrics and Gynecology.

This track within the fellowship was designed for fellows committed to learning to practice as clinician-researchers in jail, prison, and other carceral settings. Fellows will be supported to obtain a designation as a Certified Correctional Health Professional through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care during the fellowship.

Research training and experience:

- Fellows in the carceral health track will join Dr. Knittel's lab focused on the obstetric and gynecologic health disparities that result from involvement with the criminal legal system. Research opportunities can be tailored to specific interests, including the intersections of incarceration with perinatal substance use disorders, sexually transmitted infections, HIV prevention, cervical dysplasia, menopause, and other gynecologic and obstetric conditions.
- Fellows in this track can choose to complete either a 24-month fellowship either with a Masters' degree or with selected courses at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (recommended), or a 12 month fellowship without Masters' degree coursework. The Master of Science in Clinical Research (MSCR) through the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health is focused on core disciplines in clinical research, including epidemiologic methods, biostatistics, clinical trials, and qualitative methods. This program also offers a grant-writing class in the second year. The application to the MSCR program is separate from the Fellowship application and should be completed upon acceptance into the fellowship.
- Fellows receive mentorship in academic writing from Division faculty and collaborate on reviews and ongoing projects relevant to their interests to build and hone their CV.
- Fellows engage with their mentors and research team to conduct studies in their areas of interest. Ideally, we envision fellows working on at least two primary fellowship projects: 1) a short-term retrospective analysis of existing data to enhance their statistical analysis skills and 2) a longer-term project involving primary data collection.
- Fellows have access to other investigative teams within the Division that conduct research in cervical dysplasia, menopause, chronic medical conditions in pregnancy, contraception, and substance use disorders. Additionally, Fellow may elect to conduct research with faculty in other divisions across the department and from the Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Clinical activities:

- **North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women:** Carceral Health Research Track fellows will have the majority of their outpatient clinical time within the central state prison facility in Raleigh where the Division provides obstetrical and gynecologic care. With a heavy emphasis on moderate-risk prenatal care, fellows in the clinic at NCCIW receive training and mentorship to prescribe buprenorphine and methadone as part of a pregnancy-based integrated MOUD clinic as well as on other aspects of carceral medicine.

- **Gynecologic surgery** at UNC Hospital and UNC Hillsborough Hospital
- **Labor and delivery coverage** at UNC Hospital
- Fellows may also elect to participate in some of the other **outpatient clinics**
 - **Prenatal care and office-based gynecology** at outpatient faculty clinics including:
 - [Weaver Crossing](#)
 - [Panther Creek](#)
 - **Women and Girls with Bleeding Disorders Clinic:** A multidisciplinary clinic with Pediatric and Adult Hematology staff for adolescents and adults with known or suspected bleeding disorders.
 - **Menopause Clinic:** A resident teaching clinic with a substantial didactic component focused on managing menopause symptoms and menopause-specific preventive care.
 - **Dysplasia Clinic:** Referral clinic for patients from UNC and across the state for diagnosis and management of cervical dysplasia. It serves approximately 900 women per year and has been the site of various clinical trials for HPV screening and treatment methods.
 - **Horizons Clinic:** The outpatient component of the UNC Horizons perinatal substance use disorder treatment program.
 - **Latina Clinic:** Fellows who are bilingual/fluent Spanish-speakers can provide language-concordant general obstetric and gynecologic care through clinic appointments designated to serve the large and growing monolingual Spanish-speaking population in North Carolina.