

# WHMC NEWSLETTER

MAY  
2025



## About Us!

The Women's Health Multidisciplinary Consortium is a student led organization here at UNC.

Our mission is to create a trainee-focused, unified community of faculty, clinicians, and researchers with a vested interest in women's health research and sex-specific pathologies.

## Hot Off the Press!

A recent study examined the effects of hormone therapy on cardiovascular disease biomarkers in post-menopausal individuals.

They found that hormone therapy had a favorable impact on several biomarkers, including decreases in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, increases in high-density lipoprotein, and reductions in insulin resistance.

Investigators hope that these findings may inform decisions for symptomatic postmenopausal patients.



Access through your UNC Library Account [here!](#)

## Upcoming Events

3

May

**NC Diaper Bank Volunteering**

9:30-11:30AM

6

May

**Hot Topics Seminar: Benign Gynecologic Pain**

12:00-1 PM

6

May

**WinS Annual Women in Science Symposium**

10:30- 3 PM

9

May

**NC Diaper Bank Volunteering**

9:30-11:30AM

23

May

**NC Diaper Bank Volunteering**

9:30-11:30AM

See flyers for more info!

Last chance for the semester!

**SIGN UP  
HERE!**



**Huge shoutout** to WHMC's core committee member **Raeanne Geffert** who received the 2025 Boka W. Hadzija award!  
Read more [here!](#)



# COME JOIN US!



**Asha McClurg, MD, MSCR**  
Assistant Professor, Minimally Invasive  
Gynecologic Surgery, UNC

**Jasmine King, PharmD, PhD**  
Research Assistant Professor, Biomedical  
Engineering, UNC



**Vanessa Miller, MPH, PhD**  
Research Instructor, Obstetrics and  
Gynecology, UNC



## Hot Topics in Women's Health Research Seminar Series

Presented by the  
Women's Health  
Multidisciplinary Consortium

## "Benign Gynecologic Pain"

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**  
**12:00-1:00 PM in Bondurant G010**

Hybrid Seminar: Join us on Zoom  
<https://zoom.us/j/93213657113>  
Meeting ID: 932 1365 7113



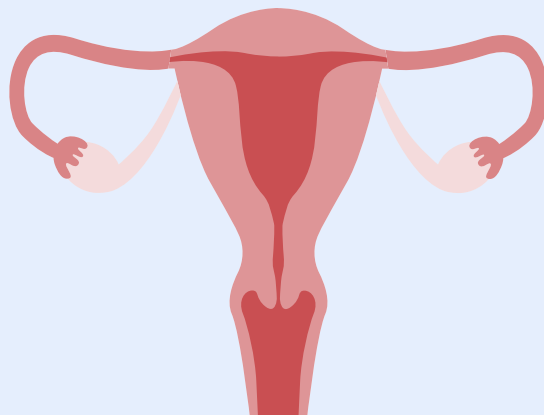
Supported by



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Center for Women's Health Research



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine



# Women in Science (WinS) Annual Spring 2025 Symposium

## “Take the Fork in the Road: Career Development for WinS”

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**KIM BOGGESS,**  
**MD**



**Tuesday, May 6th**

**10:30 AM - 3PM**

**Bioinformatics Building**

**REGISTER HERE**



For questions please email  
[wins@unc.edu](mailto:wins@unc.edu)

**Funding supported by GPSP**

HOSTED BY WHMC AND FAMILY MEDICINE INTEREST  
GROUP



[HTTPS://GO.UNC.EDU/B4DBE](https://go.unc.edu/B4DBE)

**JOIN US**

MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 9:30 - 11:30 AM

MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 9:30 - 11:30 AM



I'VE NEVER ASKED  
ANYONE TO PROM BEFORE,  
SO I'M JUST GOING TO

*wing it*



WILL YOU GO TO

*Period Prom*

WITH ME?

May 17, 2025  
7PM - 10PM

UNIVERSITY CLUB,  
DURHAM



PERIOD  
POWER

a proud program of Dignity for All

# WHMC TEAM MEMBER INTERVIEW:

## KAYLA BRUCE, MD-PHD STUDENT



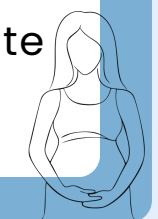
### **Could you tell us briefly about your background and how it shaped your academic interests?**

After completing my undergrad in Public Health and a master's in Epidemiology, I worked as an epidemiologist for 5 years with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. I worked as the Maternal Morbidity and Mortality epidemiologist at the Louisiana Department of Health. I collaborated with physicians and nurses who split their time between patient care and “big picture” public health work. Seeing how their clinical experience informed their public health policy and research was a big part of what inspired me to pursue the MD/PhD program. I also got to participate in Louisiana’s statewide Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

This experience deepened my understanding of the structural barriers that limit access to quality obstetric care, especially in rural areas. It also highlighted key research gaps in maternal health and reaffirmed my interest in this field.

### **What research or other work in women's health are you involved in currently?**

I’m working on research related to maternal anemia at delivery and adverse postpartum outcomes, and whether IV iron can help reduce these risks. This research stemmed from a project I worked on as part of the Postpartum Patient Safety Learning Lab, which looked at the relationship between low hemoglobin on admission to L&D and postpartum acute care use.



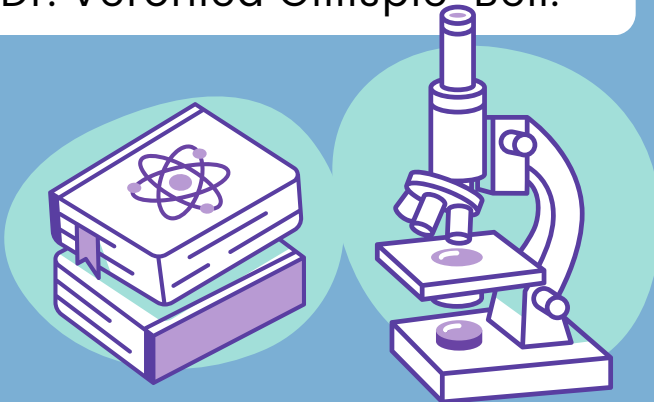
# INTERVIEW, CONTINUED

My current project uses similar methods to look at the relationship between anemia at delivery and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders. I plan to look at whether receiving IV iron before discharge alters the association between anemia and adverse postpartum outcomes, to identify whether the anemia itself is the problem or more of a marker for other unaddressed health and access issues.

## **Who inspires you academically or otherwise?**

The folks I worked with at the Louisiana Department of Health were a big source of inspiration for me, including Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell.

My advisors, Dr. Stephanie Engel and Dr. Alison Stuebe, are also a huge source of inspiration. I took a winding path to the MD/PhD program, and Dr. Engel was so incredibly supportive. I was fortunate to join Dr. Stuebe's research team when I first came to UNC and have learned so much from her in the past 4 years. Whether shadowing her in the hospital or following her around at a conference, I'm constantly in awe of her dedication to her patients, her research, and her students/mentees. Lastly, my PhD cohort in the Epi department has been a constant source of inspiration and support. My peers are so smart, thoughtful, and intentional about their research. They inspire me to keep learning and hold me accountable to doing work that I can be proud of.



# MONTHLY CALENDAR



## MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 NC Diaper Bank Volunteering
4	5 Women in Science Symposium	6 Hot Topics Seminar	7	8	9 NC Diaper Bank Volunteering	10 UNC Graduation
11  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 NC Diaper Bank Volunteering	24
25	26 Memorial Day 	27	28	29	30	31



# congrats to all the graduates!!





# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



*Bolin Creek Walk*

The WHMC community met up this month to take a leisurely stroll down Bolin Creek trail to Cafe Driade for a lovely spring day coffee. It was so great meeting all of you!

Stay posted for our next social event!

We held a fundraising bake sale for InterAct, an organization dedicated to ending the cycle of domestic and sexual violence in Wake County. InterAct saves, rebuilds lives, and secures safer futures for victims, survivors, and their families. Thanks to everyone who showed their support!



*InterAct Bakesale*

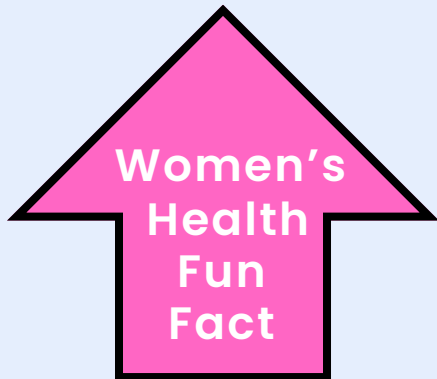
## WHMC BOOK (PLAY) RECOMMENDATION OF THE MONTH **The Vagina Monologues** A Play by Eve Ensler



Watch through [UNC Libraries](#)

This revolutionary play is composed of interviews from over 200 women, detailing their experiences on female sexuality, body image, menstruation, and violence against women. Since debuting in 1996, this play has highlighted struggles unique to women and calls for an end to violence against women. Around the country, annual “V-Day” performances benefit local rape crisis centers, women’s shelters, and organizations that lobby for change. Some criticize the play for its perpetuation of binary gender norms and lack of transgender representation. In 2004, the first all-transgender performance debuted with three new stories about violence against transgender women.

**YOUR MAMMOGRAM MIGHT  
REVEAL MORE THAN JUST  
BREAST CANCER—IT COULD ALSO  
PREDICT YOUR HEART HEALTH!**



A groundbreaking study presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session in March 2025 introduced an AI-powered method that analyzes mammogram images to assess breast arterial calcification (BAC), a key indicator of cardiovascular risk. This innovative approach allows for the identification of early signs of heart disease, especially in women under 60, by leveraging routine cancer screenings. The deep learning model demonstrated high accuracy in predicting cardiovascular events, offering a dual-purpose tool that enhances both cancer and heart disease detection.

For more: [AI-powered mammograms: A new window into heart health](#)

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE WHMC!



Visit our website!

Submit your work, recent publications, upcoming events, and more **here** to be featured in our monthly newsletter!



Share the WHMC listserv with others!

It's your WHMC communication engagement team here!

We're looking for your submissions! This is a space for a community bulletin – a place to look for research or work positions, fill professional needs, submit shoutouts, and submit photos to be used in future newsletters!

Kate Aberman



Sarah Rebbeor



Kylie Hutchison



Mehnaz Shafquat



Emily Perou

