Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch

Background

• New branch in response to NICHD Vision
• Significant morbidity associated with Gyn disorders beyond impact on fertility or contraceptive choices
• Initial portfolio populated from other branches
  - Fertility and Infertility, Contraceptive
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Mission
• Promote basic science research, translational studies, and clinical trials in order to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of gynecologic disorders throughout the reproductive lifespan (adolescence through perimenopause)

Specific Areas
• Pelvic floor disorders
• Uterine fibroids
• Endometriosis/adenomyosis
• Abnormal menstrual cycles
• Pain disorders (CPP, vulvodynia and dysmenorrhea)
• Socioeconomic, racial and ethnic disparities
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GHDB Staff Members

Lisa Halvorson, MD
Branch Chief
Started June, 2014
Previously at UT Southwestern Medical Center
Clinically-trained in REI
Research interest molecular neuroendocrinology
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GHDB Staff Members

Susie Meikle, MD, MSPH
- Obstetrics and Gynecology; Preventive Medicine
- Project Scientist for the PFDN
- PO for other pelvic floor disorder grants
- Obstetric fistula and female genital mutilation (immigrant)

Estella Parrott, MD, MPH
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- PO for the WRHR Program
- Broad focus on remaining gynecologic areas and training grants
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Women’s Reproductive Health Research Program (WRHR)(K12)

• Initiated in 1998
• K12 funding mechanism awarded to department
• Mentored career development for junior OB/GYN faculty
• Basic, translational, or clinical projects
• Wide array of OB/Gyn research topics
• Currently 17 WRHR sites
• 200+ scholars since inception (junior OB/GYN faculty)

RFA: Submissions to be reviewed for next cycle to start in summer
Pelvic Floor Disorders Network (PFDN)

- Initiated 2001; Cooperative grant agreement (U); 8 sites
- Prevalence increasing with aging of the US Population
  - 28.1 million in 2010 to 43.8 million in 2050
- Pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, fecal incontinence
- Studies have focused on:
  - Multi-center treatment efficacy trials
    - surgical, pharmacologic, behavioral
  - Large data sets and biospecimen repository
    - allow new translational aims

3rd cycle ends June 2016: RFA in progress
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Ongoing Activities

• ‘R’ grants
• T32 grants
• Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health (BIRCWH)
  - Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH)
  - NICHD grants management/co-fund
  - Mentored career development
  - Women’s health research and sex differences
  - MD, PhD, MD-PhDs
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Future Activities

• Strategic Planning Workshop
• Proposed RFA: Expand the basic science component of the portfolio (Genomics/Epigenomics)
• PAR: Vulvodynia - Systematic, Epidemiologic, Etiologic or Therapeutic Studies
• Small Business Forums (SBIR/STTR)
• Outreach to stakeholders (professional, community)