

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch (GHDB)



**LISA HALVORSON, MD**

***EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER* NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**NACHHD COUNCIL MEETING, Bethesda MD**

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of Child Health and Human Development

# 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

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch



## 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

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch



## **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

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch



## **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

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch

## 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**

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## 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

**3<sup>rd</sup> cycle ends June 2016: RFA in progress**

# Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch



## 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)