

CURRICULUM VITAE

Kathleen M. Zacherl, MD, FACOG

CONTACT INFORMATION

Work Address: UConn School of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology (Ob/Gyn)
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine, Farmington, Connecticut

CURRENT POSITIONS

Vice Chair of Quality, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Maternal Medical Director, UConn Health
Chair, Perinatal Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Committee
Instructor, Obstetric Life Support

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Mansfield Ob/Gyn Associates, Ob/Gyn physician, Mansfield Center, CT. 08/2012- 02/2015
Community Health Services, Inc., Ob/Gyn physician, Hartford, CT. 03/2010-08/2012
Carolinas Physician Network, Charlotte Ob/Gyn Associates, Ob/Gyn physician, Charlotte, NC.
September 2008- March 2010

CERTIFICATIONS/LICENSURES

Active Diplomate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (#9016427)

General Board Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology, 11/2009

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Maintenance of Certification yearly 2010-2021

Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS). Certified December 2022

Improvement Science Leadership Course. Duke University Medical Center. Certified June 2023

Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Basic Certification. 07/19/22

Connecticut Medical License #048502, 03/2010-current

North Carolina Medical License # 2008-00741, 08/2008-04/2010, 04/2022-04/2024

EDUCATION/TRAINING

- Fellowship: Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC
Quality & Safety in Women's Health
July 2022- July 2023
- Residency: UConn School of Medicine
Farmington, CT
July 2004-July 2008
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Degree: Graduate, Conferred July 2008
- Medical School: UConn School of Medicine.
Farmington, Connecticut.
August 1999-May 2004
Degree: M.D., Conferred May 16, 2004
- Other: International clerkships and research, Costa Rica
UConn School of Medicine
2002-2003
- Undergraduate: Boston College
September 1995- May 1999
Field: Biology
Degree: Bachelor of Science Conferred May 1999

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Quality Safety and Peer Review Committee (QSPR), Duke Health, 2022-2023
2. Obstetric Peer Review Committee, Duke Health, 2022-2023
3. Gynecology Peer Review Committee, Duke Health, 2022-2023
4. Obstetric Core Safety Committee, Duke Health, 2022-2023
5. Patient Safety Committee. Duke Health, 2022-2023
6. Chair and Founder, Perinatal Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Committee, UConn Health, August 2018-current
7. Instructor, Obstetric Life Support Simulation based-course, UConn Health, 2021-current
8. Connecticut Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative (CPQCC), member, 2020-current
9. Obstetrical Simulation: Developed and implemented several maternal safety bundles (see details below in Quality Improvement work)
10. Surgical Quality Committee, member, UConn Health. March 2020- June 2022
11. COVID-19 Think Tank, UConn Health, April 2020-2022
12. Transfusion Committee Member, UConn Health 2019- 2022
13. Perinatal Quality and Safety Hemorrhage Task Force UConn Health, 2016-2018
14. Perinatal Quality and Safety Hypertension Task Force UConn Health, 2016-2022
15. UConn Health/Connecticut Children's Medical Center Perinatal Working Group, 2019-June 2022
16. Preterm Deliveries Task Force, 2019-2022

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology (ACOG), Fellow

American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL)

The Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics & Gynecology (SASGOG)

GRANTS:

Collaborator (Instructor for Obstetric Life Support), National Pregnancy Resuscitation Program (PRP): Development of a Simulation-based Maternal Cardiac Arrest Program for Credentialing Specialists and First Responders, PI: Dr. Andrea Shields of University of Connecticut Health, R18HS026169: Advances in Patient Safety through Simulation Research (R18). 5/22/21-7/31/23, \$796,981 dollars direct cost for overall period.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

1. Improvement Science Scholars Course: Quality improvement course for fellows and medical students, 2023-2024.
2. Quality improvement curriculum: Gave a series of lectures to residents and medical students at Duke University School of Medicine: 2022-2023
3. Quality improvement project mentoring: mentored first year OB/Gyn residents on a quality improvement project for Asthma in pregnancy, Duke University School of Medicine: 2022-2023, Duke University School of Medicine: 2022-2023
4. Quality improvement journal club: Formed and led a multi-disciplinary journal club for quality improvement, Duke Health, 2022-2023.
5. Individualized Learning Opportunity (ILO) course for 2nd year medical students on “Introduction to Gynecologic Surgery” 2016-current: Developed a 5 day course involving simulation of surgery, live viewing of real surgeries, pelvic anatomy, and ethics
6. Coaching of medical students, 2016-current: academic and career coaching for 1st-4th year med students
7. Capstone Project Mentor for medical students: Mentoring of medical students on projects for obstetric hypertension, hemorrhage, and maternal cardiovascular disease

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES AT DUKE HEALTH

1. Ensuring safe discharge: A quality improvement initiative for postpartum hypertensive patients. Implemented strategies to improve postpartum hypertensive care including remote home blood pressure monitoring program at Duke Health, 2022-2023.
2. Gynecologic surgical site infection (SSI) bundle: Developed and implemented this bundle for the Duke Ob/Gyn department with a team of stakeholders, presented at Duke Ob/Gyn Grand Rounds, April 26, 2023.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES AT UCONN HEALTH

Simulation Training: Developed and implemented multidisciplinary simulation training

1. Obstetric Hemorrhage: 2018
2. Obstetric Hypertension/Eclampsia/Stroke: 2020
3. Obstetric Airway Management: 2021
4. Cesarean Section in the COVID-19 positive pregnant patient: 2020
5. Shoulder Dystocia with review of Obstetrical Hemorrhage: 2021
6. Obstetric Hypertension/Eclampsia: unscheduled mock unit drills, 2022

Obstetrics Quality Presentations:

1. “Obstetrics at UConn Health: Our History and Vision for the Future”: presented to hospital administration including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other stakeholders regarding our Obstetrics quality work and plans for the future.

Obstetrics Cardiovascular Disease Bundle and Maternal Cardiovascular Disease Program:

Developed a bundle including order sets, education, multidisciplinary coordinated care with Maternal Fetal Medicine, Cardiology, and Emergency Medicine, 2021-2022

Obstetric Life Support:

Instructor for simulation based NIH-funded Randomized control trial (See “Grants” section above).

Obstetric Hemorrhage Presentations:

1. Maternal Safety: Obstetric Hemorrhage. November 2016. Oral Presentation to Ob/Gyn Department.
2. Obstetric Hemorrhage: Stages of Hemorrhage. April 3, 2017. Presentation to Ob/Gyn Department
3. Obstetric Hemorrhage: Stages of Hemorrhage. April 2017. Presentation to Labor & Delivery and Postpartum Nursing Staff
4. Quantitative Blood Loss. December 11, 2017. Presentation to Ob/Gyn Department
5. Obstetric Hemorrhage. 1/5/18. Presentation at Anesthesia Department Meeting
6. Maternal Safety: OB Hemorrhage, March 21, 2018.
Multidisciplinary meeting including nursing, OB and MFM physicians, Residents, Medical Students, Nursing supervisors, Anesthesia department, Blood Bank, and Quality officers.
7. Maternal Safety: Hypertension/Eclampsia, Hemorrhage, 12/1/2020 presented to the Anesthesia Department
8. OB Hemorrhage quality data. Obstetrics Morbidity and Mortality meeting, 04/2021. Presented data on blood product usage and access to blood products on the UConn labor and delivery unit before and after implementation of the hemorrhage bundle.

Obstetric Sepsis Presentations:

1. Cooper, S., Manfredi, K., Zacherl, K. “Sepsis Resuscitation Bundle.” December 2019. Presented to Ob/Gyn Department, residents, medical students, nurses.

Obstetric Hypertension Presentations:

1. Obstetric Hypertension in the Emergency Department. 2/26/20. Presented at Emergency Room Department Meeting.
2. Maternal Safety: Obstetric Hypertension. March 4, 2020. Presented to Ob/Gyn Department, Nursing staff, Residents, Medical Students.
3. OB Safety Bundles: Hypertension/Eclampsia and Hemorrhage. 12/1/20. Presented to Anesthesia Department.
4. OB Hypertension Quality Improvement Data. 3/3/21. Presented quality metric data for OB M&M.

COVID-19 Presentations:

1. COVID-19 in Obstetrics Grand Rounds presentation, March 2020.

Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) presentations:

1. OB Hemorrhage cases, September 4, 2019
2. OB Hemorrhage Cases, March 6, 2019
3. OB hemorrhage cases, February 28, 2018
4. Identify cases for M&M in Perinatal QAPI committee and assist fellows/residents in developing presentation

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed journals

1. Zacherl KM, Hughes BL, Sterrett EC, et al. Ensuring safe discharge: a quality improvement initiative for postpartum hypertensive patients. *BMJ Open Quality* 2023;12: doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-IHI.11
2. Zacherl KM, Gatta LA. What does a good birth look like for you? Reimagining our consent in obstetrics *BMJ Qual Saf blog*, July 13, 2023
3. Wickenheisser N, Dillon M, Broadwater G ; Zacherl K ; Bixel, Kristin ; Levine, M ; Newton, M ; Thel, H ; Tucker, K ; Gehrig, P ; Khetan, V; Brunette, L; Matsuo, K;

Khouri, O ; Duhon, A ; Gowthaman, D ; Cowan, M; Mojdehbakhsh, R; Rose S; Olawaiye, A, Davidson B ; Moss H ; Havrilesky L. “Radical Hysterectomy Case Volume and Cervical Cancer Treatment in the Era of COVID-19: A Multi-Site Analysis (2185).” *Gynecologic Oncology*, vol. 176, 2023, pp. S247–S247, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ygyno.2023.06.306>.

4. Morgan AS, Mackay L, Bernstein B., **Cusick K**. Craniocerebral gunshot wounds: Predictors of survival and discharge status. *Panamerican Journal of Trauma*. 2002; 9(1): 10-12.
5. Morgan AS, Mackay L, **Cusick K**. Outcomes of Persons with Brain Injury. *Panamerican Journal of Trauma*. 2002; 9(1):1-4
6. Balkema GW, **Cusick K**, and Nguyen T. Diurnal variation in synaptic ribbon length and visual threshold. *Visual Neuroscience*. 2001. 18: 789-797
7. Morgan AS, Mumtaz M, Calderon S, Mackay L, Barba CA, Gionfriddo R, **Cusick K**. Risk factors for early post-traumatic seizure. *Brain Injury Source*. Winter 1999.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

International

1. Zacherl K, O’Sullivan K, Karwoski L, Shields A. Hypertension Bundle Implementation to Improve Severe Hypertension Management and Reduce Disparity in Black Pregnant and Postpartum Patients. 7th International Congress on Cardiac Problems in Pregnancy, Porto, Portugal. Oct 19-22, 2022.

National

1. Institute for Healthcare Improvement Forum 2023. Zacherl KM. Ensuring safe discharge: a quality improvement initiative for postpartum hypertensive patients. Dec 2023
2. Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) Obstetric Emergency Readiness Community of Learning, Session 8: Debriefs and Systems Improvement After an Obstetric Emergency webinar, invited faculty member to design and lead a 90-minute session, August 2023
3. Marinelli A, Paulo D, Young J, Loza A, Kuo C, Zachariah R, Zacherl K, Shields A. Identification and Diagnosis of Patients at High Risk of Cardiovascular Disease. Poster presentation, 43rd Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine; San Francisco, California; February 2023.

Regional

1. O’Sullivan K, Shields A, Zacherl K. Interventions to Improve Adherence to an Obstetric Hypertension Bundle. New England Perinatal Society (NEPS) presented 4/9/22.
2. Khangura R, Cooper S, Loza A, Zacherl K. Accuracy of Determining Obstetrical Blood Loss. New England Perinatal Society, March 2020. Accepted for Oral Presentation but cancelled due to COVID-19.
3. Cooper, S, Manfredi K, Zacherl K. Obstetrical Sepsis Management. New England Perinatal Society, March 2020. Accepted for Oral Presentation but cancelled due to COVID-19.
4. Hypertension bundle implementation to improve severe hypertension management and its effect on racial disparities. *Connecticut Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative*. 2022
5. Obstetrics Hypertension Bundle: Our Experience at UConn Health. Connecticut Perinatal Quality Care Collaborative. Presentation to multiple hospitals across the region, 2021
6. Heart Health in Pregnancy. *American Heart Association*. Go Red Event Series: Virtual presentation for the public, 2021

Media

1. Press Conference with Governor Lamont on Maternal postpartum bundles in State of CT. 6/7/22.
2. COVID-19 in pregnancy commercial for Connecticut Department of Public Health, 2021
3. UConn Health Minute. “Maternal Health Matters.” on Connecticut Public Television. 07/7/22 and 7/14/22.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Peer reviewed

1. Whelan, K, Shunk, A, Havrilesky, L, Ferrera, T, Swartwood, A, Bauer, S, Morello, M, Miller, L, Hughes, B, **Zacherl, K**. Piloting Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring with Patient-Generated Health Data Tools. Duke Health Data Science Poster Showcase, April 24, 2023.
2. **Zacherl K**, Sterrett E, Hughes, B, Talley H, Whelan K, Bauer S, Swartwood A, Wilson K, Personius A, Ferrera T, Bloedau K, Miller L, Tyler-Walker J, Joubert E, Olsen J, Penderman P, Robson H, Locus S, Havrilesky L. Ensuring Safe Discharge: A quality improvement project for postpartum hypertensive patients. Duke Health Quality & Safety Conference, March 2023.

3. Wickenheisser N, Dillon M, Broadwater G, **Zacherl K**, Bixel K, Levine M, Newton M, Thel H, Tucker K, Gherig P, Khetan V, Brunette L, Matsuo K, Khouri O, Duhon A, Gowthaman D, Cowan M, Mojdehbakhsh R, Rose S, Olawaiye A, Davidson B, Moss H, Havrilesky L. Radical hysterectomy case volume and cervical cancer treatment in the era of COVID-19: A multi-institutional analysis. Society for Gynecologic Oncologists Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer, 2023.
4. Nkemeh C, Sobh O, Okang C, **Zacherl K**. Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Postpartum Follow-Up: A Quality Improvement Project. AMEC medical student conference, April 8, 2023.
5. O'Sullivan K, Shields A, **Zacherl K**. Interventions to Improve Adherence to an Obstetric Hypertension Bundle with Race Stratification Analysis. 17th Annual UConn Health Dean's Symposium on Quality Improvement, June 6, 2022.
6. Nkemeh, C., Sobh O., Okang C, **Zacherl K**. Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Postpartum Follow-Up: A Quality Improvement Project. 17th Annual UConn Health Dean's Symposium on Quality Improvement, 6/6/2022.
7. O'Sullivan K, Shields A, **Zacherl K**. Hypertension Bundle Implementation to Improve Severe Hypertension Management and Reduce Disparities in Black Pregnant and Postpartum Patients. New England Perinatal Society (NEPS), presented on 4/9/22.
8. Zachariah R, Rodier L, Shields A, **Zacherl K**. The Risk of Transfusion after Implementation of a Standardized Obstetric Hemorrhage Protocol. 42nd Annual Pregnancy Meeting, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, 2022. Accepted for poster session.
9. Khangura R, Cooper S, Loza A, **Zacherl K**. Accuracy of Determining Obstetrical Blood Loss: Comparing estimated, visual and calculated blood loss. 40th Annual Pregnancy Meeting, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, Feb 2020.
10. Egan JFX, **Cusick KM**, Esters DM, Borgida AF, Ling PY, Campbell WA. Trends in the Ultrasound Detection rate of fetal anomalies. *Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine National Meeting*. Jan '99.

AWARDS/HONORS

Duke Quality & Safety Conference 2023, Rebecca Kirkland award for best overall QI project. "Ensuring safe discharge: A quality improvement project for postpartum hypertensive patients."

Top Fellow award, Hammond Research Day, Duke University, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, 2023

SASGOG Faculty Award (The Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics & Gynecology). In recognition of their commitment to excellence in clinical care of women and career development of academic specialist in obstetrics and gynecology. 2022

Outstanding Laproendoscopic Resident Surgeon Award, Society of Laproendoscopic Surgeons (SLS), 2008

Outstanding Resident Research paper, Dr. Neckles Spero Award, 2007

Order of Cross and Crown, honor society of Boston College, 1999.

Cum Laude, Boston College

Scholar of the College, Boston College

Big East All-Academic Team, Boston College

All-Big East, Track & Field, Boston College

All-American, Irish Step Dancing

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish, proficient