

Women's Health Research Consortium

Winter Newsletter 2020

From the leadership committee of the WHRC, we would like to thank all of the faculty, residents and students who have worked hard all year to complete important and relevant research that has worked to further the field of women's health. The mission of the WHRC is to increase research opportunities for students, improve research quality, and provide much needed analysis on the state of women's health in South Louisiana. The accomplishments of each participant in the WHRC showcase the successes of that mission. We especially want to thank those of you who have contributed to the WHRC over the past nine months despite the accommodations we have had to make due to the SARS-coV-2 virus.

not mention the other pandemic that is occurring in our country at this time: racism. With COVID-19 afflicting our most vulnerable communities, the health disparities that exist within our community were brought to the forefront this spring. However, health care disparities have been present in our community for many years in relation to chronic diseases and healthcare accessibility. As a research consortium, we are committed to the pursuit of research in health care disparities, systemic racism, and the effects that it has on women's health. Heading into the New Year, we hope to add contributions to the field of research in this arena. We have a lot to learn, both as investigators and future physicians.

2020 Updates

COVID-19 has directly impacted our nation in the past nine months. Due to this virus, our medical students were pulled out of rotations and had to adapt to a new world of virtual learning and telemedicine. We have adapted our curriculum to an online format with consortium meetings held through Zoom. As a group that values in-person discussion and troubleshooting with faculty and students, we are sad that we have had to suspend our in-person meetings. However, we continue to find new ways to advance research opportunities in the field of women's health. Through Zoom, we have been able to include our faculty in Lafayette allowing for collaboration and diverse research experiences. In the wake of COVID-19, we are currently working on expanding our infectious diseases and pregnancy research projects including those involving COVID-19 and the effects on women's health. However, we would not be doing our due diligence if we did

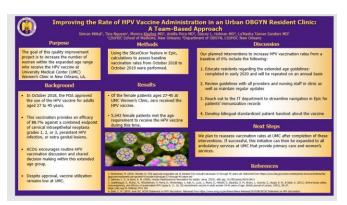
Completed Projects & Poster Highlights

Summer & Fall 2020

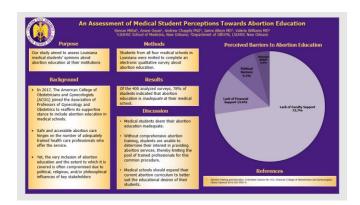
- McDougal, M., Nair-Fairless P., Weiss T., Dao, E., Chapple, A., Jernigan, A. "Practice Patterns and Results of Tumor and Germline Genetic Evaluation of Women with Endometrial Cancer in South Louisiana" Submitted to Gynecology Oncology Report.
 - We would like to highlight Morgan McDougal's hard work on this project over the past three years and we congratulate her on completing her manuscript!
- Lanza, M., Beerman, S., Depaula-Cox, R., Chapple
 A., Holman, S. "Compliance with Postpartum

- Follow-up in LSU Ob-gyn prenatal clinics."

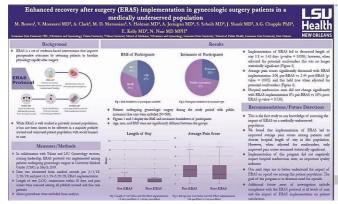
 Presented at Medical Student Research Day 2020.
- Roth, M., McNeely, M., Olister, S., Freehill, N.
 "Aligning Obstetric and Neonatal Care to Optimally Manage Neonates Exposed to Herpes Simplex Virus." Submitted to ACOG, ACP, and AMSA National Convention.
- Taylor K., Noel, E., Chapple, A., Sutton, E. "Risk Factors for Peripartum Hemorrhage in a Tertiary Hospital in South-Central Louisiana." Manuscript in process.



Simran Mittal and Tina Nguyen presented their work at ACOG Medical Student Conference



Simran Mittal and Polly Gwan presented their work at ACOG Medical Student Conference and AMA. It was also accepted to APGO/CREOG and included in Doctors for America National Leadership Conference booklet



Morgan Brown presented her research on Zoom at the 8th Annual Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Forum on June 4th, 2020. Her abstract was also accepted to AAGL

Message from the Senior Advisors

The WHRC was co-founded in 2018 by two former medical students Aubrey Schachter and Ashley Duhon. Aubrey Schachter is now a first-year general surgery resident at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center, and Ashley Duhon is a first-year Ob-Gyn resident at Montefiore Medical Center-Albert Einstein College of Medicine. We are grateful for their ingenuity and collaboration with Dr. Jernigancarving the path for women's health research at LSUHSC. We acknowledged their hard work at our banquet in April 2020!



Sam and I are honored to follow in their footsteps as the Senior Advisors to the organization this year. We will continue to build upon the mentorship model we have created at LSU for women's health research and are looking forward to what the New Year will bring.

Sincerely, Maya Roth and Sam Kamal

2020-2021 Leadership

Senior Advisors (L4)

Maya Roth, Saman Kamal

Chairs (L3)

Polly Gwan, Tina Nguyen

Chair-Elects (L2)

Katie Henry, Madison Lanza

Resident Representative

Yetunde Akinde

Advisors

Dr. Amelia Jernigan, Dr. Judy Crabtree, Dr. Stacey Scheib

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Rebekah Gee as our new faculty advisor!

Project Spotlight

Visual Representation of Vulvar Skin Conditions in Major Gynecology Textbooks: Are Skins of Color Underrepresented?

Gwan, A., Tanner-Sanders, L. Chapple, A., Nair, N., Jernigan, A.

Purpose: To evaluate images of vulvar conditions (VCs) in major gynecologic textbooks and determine whether there is a diverse representation of skin tones.

Background: Familiarity with the appearance of vulvar pathology on women of different skin tones is critical for obstetrician/gynecologists (ObGyns) to skillfully and equitably identify and treat VCs.

Methods: Images of VCs in gynecologic textbooks for medical students, ObGyn residents, and fellows were compiled. Skin tones were scored according to the Fitzpatrick Scale (FS) and categorized as benign, infectious/inflammatory, dysplasia, or cancerous. Publishing and author demographics were collected.

Results: Of 512 images from 21 textbooks, 75% [N=395] were of lighter skin tones (FS I-III). VCs were represented on darker skin (FS of VI) in 19.6% of images in texts targeting residents, compared to 8.5% and 4.5% in fellow and student textbooks, respectively (p <.001). Compared to a cornerstone surgical atlas, the pediatric and adolescent gynecology text consisted of lighter skin tones (OR 0.59, CI 0.35-0.98) and a prominent general gynecology text used darker skin tones (OR 2.97, CI 1.51-5.83). Images of inflammatory/infectious conditions were more likely to be of darker skin tones (p = 0.010).

Conclusion: Most textbook images of VCs represent lighter skin women and darker skin tones are particularly underrepresented in texts geared at fellows and students. Inadequate exposure to the appearance of VCs on darker skin

may promote racial inequities in healthcare. Medical textbooks should aim to present visually diverse images of vulvar pathologies to train physicians well versed in caring for patients of all skin tones and promote health equity for all patients.

This project has been accepted to APGO & CREOG National Conference.



Katherine Henry; Deidre J. Devier, PhD LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA

Katherine Henry presents her research at the Medical Student Research Virtual Symposium Fall 2020. She was selected as the 1st place winner in the L1/L2 Category!

Quality Improvement

Since the WHRC was founded, we continue to work on improving the organization. Every year the WHRC sends out an annual survey to track student satisfaction with research opportunities and barriers to completing research projects. Check out our abstract that was presented by Maya Roth at AMSA National Conference April 2020:

BACKGROUND: Participation in research during medical school is recommended for successful match into residency; however, access to research can be difficult to obtain and the research process arduous to navigate without assistance. Additionally, medical research focused on women is historically lacking. To address these issues, the authors sought to identify a mechanism in which to improve access to and support for medical student research in the broad field of women's health.

METHODS: The Women's Health Research Consortium (WHRC) was established as a student-led collaborative venue to increase access to research opportunities and provide support as students learn to complete their own

high-quality research projects. The authors developed an online resource bank composed of research questions solicited from clinical faculty in a variety of fields, recruited faculty mentors, and created guides to navigate the research process. Quarterly meetings led by the WHRC leadership committee include educational lectures on different aspects of the research process and a collaborative check-in where each research team shares details on their current projects and the group problem-solves any roadblocks. The WHRC encourages a diverse research team composed of students from every year in order to promote a mentorship model and allow for the completion of longitudinal projects. An annual survey has been distributed to track student satisfaction with research opportunities and changes in barriers to research project completion after the development of the consortium. Survey participant satisfaction was determined by a Likert scale graded one to five. Two years of survey data have been collected with plans to continue data collection annually.

RESULTS: Since the inception of the WHRC in 2018, over 110 students have participated. There are currently 38 projects in process, and 8 poster presentations have been completed. Research projects are ongoing, and many are approaching the manuscript stage. Student satisfaction with research opportunities has increased from 2.32 prior to the inception of the program to 3.06 one year later (p < 0.01).

CONCLUSION: Preliminary data shows the formation of a medical student research consortium has been shown to improve student satisfaction with research opportunities and has increased participation in women's health related research. The mentorship model of the consortium allows students to learn from those more senior and then to serve as a mentor as they gain experience. The WHRC model is easily replicated and may improve research knowledge and accessibility for medical students across the country.

Future Plans





Anwei Polly Gwan

Tina Ngyuen

Our current co-chairs- Polly and Tina are taking the lead on our new project for spring 2021 titled: Implications of Student Faculty Collaborative Research Efforts on Departmental Research Output. The purpose of this study is to retrospectively review the research output of both the WHRC and the Musculoskeletal Research Committee to determine if these organizations have improved research output within their respective departments and identify faculty-level barriers towards manuscript publication.

We are excited to see the results of this study and hope to address barriers to manuscript completion this upcoming year!

For more information or to join the WHRC, visit www.medschool.lsuhsc.edu/lsuWHRC or email WHRC@lsuhsc.edu.