

## About Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas

Parkland Memorial hospital, a 1000-bed facility, is the main teaching institution of the University of Texas Southwestern medical School, located in Dallas, Texas. Parkland delivers more babies each year than any other hospital in the USA. In 2003 15,796 babies were delivered. This large number of deliveries provides excellent experience in both the common and rare complications of pregnancy. The obstetric division serves not only Dallas county, but also serves as a referral source for complicated obstetrical cases for a surrounding 30 county area. Several maternity patients are transported by ambulance or care-flight helicopter annually.

Women identified as having a pregnancy complication are appointed to one of several specialty clinics staffed by maternal-fetal faculty and residents staff.

Individual clinics, each specialized to manage a specific pregnancy complication meet weekly. These clinics manage problems such as diabetes, multiple gestation, genetic abnormalities, hypertension, infectious disease, preterm labor, and postterm gestation. Maternal-Fetal experts in these areas use data from these clinics for their research efforts. In addition to the specialty clinics, the 30-bed High Risk Pregnancy Unit within Parkland Hospital is dedicated to the care of maternity patients who require hospitalization and treatment for complications such as preterm labor, pregnancy induced hypertension, preterm rupture of membranes, and placenta previa. The in-patient volume on this high-risk ward, over 1000 patients a year, also affords the division an important research resource. Much of this research is made possible by a computerized database, begun in 1982, and managed by the division's own statistician. This same patient data also adds to the understanding of antenatal disorders on a national scale. The division participates currently in several National Institutes of Health Maternal-Fetal research networks.

Within Parkland Hospital are three Labor and Delivery Units that receive patients from a contiguous third trimester obstetric emergency room (triage unit). All of these units function interdependently. From triage, laboring women are transferred to 1 of 3 Labor & Delivery units, each designated to care for a specific level of medical acuity. Our Labor & Delivery unit with the highest acuity level is staffed by faculty and residents; the lower acuity units by faculty, residents, and certified nurse midwives. Generally, multiparous women with uncomplicated pregnancies are triaged to Labor

& Delivery “4-South”. This unit consists of 6 labor and delivery rooms. Nulliparous women with predominantly uncomplicated pregnancy are triaged to Labor and Delivery East which consists of 12 labor and delivery rooms and 2 operating rooms. Both Labor and Delivery “4-South” and “East” are staffed by nurse midwives with supervision of OB/GYN residents and faculty. Most nurse midwives are graduates of the Parkland School of Midwifery. Labor and Delivery West receives complicated pregnancies from the triage unit. It has 18 labor rooms, 9 delivery/ and operating rooms with a contiguous obstetric recovery room and a 5 bed obstetric critical care unit. Similarly, postpartum recovery care is triaged. Medical staff members provide immediate postpartum care in two obstetrical recovery rooms, each staffed to manage different levels of problem severity. Altogether our Parkland facilities provide a total resource of 30 labor rooms, 8 combined Labor/Delivery/Recovery rooms, 7 delivery rooms, 7 obstetrical operating rooms, a 7-bed obstetrical recovery room and a 5-bed obstetrical critical care unit. Because our obstetrical patients and newborns often require services from other medical specialties, our division has several faculty members who share joint appointments with other departments such as radiology, anesthesiology, and neonatology. These physicians allow us to provide superior patient care and comprehensive medical professional training.

There are a total of 72 obstetrics and gynecology residency positions. This dynamic diverse group of residents physicians comes from different social ethnic geographic and academic backgrounds. Residents spend 4-6 month during each year of training on services which deal with labor and delivery skills, with comprehensive routine obstetrics, with high-risk obstetrics, or with ultrasound and prenatal genetics. Residents have faculty available in house to serve as instructors and consultants around-the-clock. At night, no less than four faculty remain within the hospital for this sole purpose. The obstetric division has a 27-year history of providing Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowships. Currently accredited to train 6 fellows, the 3-year program offers extensive training in pregnancy complications from the simple to the extreme. Fellows gain experience with ultrasonography, amniocentesis, percutaneous umbilical sampling (PUBS), and operative obstetrical skills. Additionally, fellows spend 18 months of the fellowship involved in research activities directed toward a graduating thesis.