

Residency Program Leadership

Please see the Program Director welcome letter to learn more about both Dr. Laura Minikel & Dr. Sarah Wilson

Lasha Pierce, MD Alameda Health System (AHS) - Highland Site Director







I am Dr. Lasha Pierce, an Oakland California native and a JEDI warrior. I have served the Oakland community for two decades. I am the Highland Site Director for the Kaiser Permanente Oakland OB/GYN residents and UCSF Medical Students. When I'm not at work I am using the force to fight evil. I attended Oakland High School, earned my Bachelors of Science in Physiology from San Francisco State University, and my medical degree from the University of California at Irvine. I completed my residency in Obstetrics in Gynecology at Kaiser San Francisco and received midwifery training from community midwives in the Bay area. I am married, the second of seven children and mother to three adult human beings. I am a very proud grandmother!

I am dedicated to improving healthcare quality, patient safety and eliminating healthcare disparities. For 19 years I have been an OB/GYN physician at Highland Hospital (in Alameda Health System) and for over 10 years have provided care for incarcerated women at various jails. I am the founder of the Women's Reproductive Health Equity Fellowship at Highland Hospital in the Alameda Health System. Mentoring and teaching residents and students bring me great joy professionally and family (and bee keeping) bring me great joy personally.









RESIDENCE FROGRAMS

Maria Woods, MD
Assistant Residency Program Director – Clinical Competency Committee Director, Program Evaluation Committee Director; Mentorship & Wellness Lead



I'm Dr. Maria Woods and was born and raised in Oakland. I attended UC Davis for undergrad and then earned a Masters in Medical Science at Drexel University prior to attending USC for Medical School. I moved back to the Bay Area to complete my OBGYN residency at Kaiser East Bay. I am a generalist OBGYN out of the Pinole office, and one of the residency assistant program directors, where I focus on our residency mentorship program, proctor intern outpatient clinics and chair the Clinical Competency Committee and the Program Evaluation Committee. I also serve the department as the Peer Review Lead and as a Communication Consultant. At home, my husband and I keep busy raising our 3 daughters. We love to recreate desserts from the Great British Baking Show and watch anything Marvel. I am a huge Elvis fan and volunteer as a competitive Greek dance instructor.

Leslie Hardy Hood, MD Assistant Program Director for Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity







I'm Dr. Leslie Hardy Hood. A native Oaklander, educated at The University of California, Davis and Michigan State University College of human medicine. I completed my OB/GYN residency at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak Michigan. I practice general Obstetrics and gynecology at our Richmond facility. My work encompasses improving cultural humility, equity, and experience in the clinical setting. As well, I am the lead proctor of our Richmond resident continuity clinic and specialize in operative hysteroscopy. Away from work I'm a wife, basketball mom, little jazz band manager and re-inspired golfer.



Eve Zaritsky, MD Assistant Program Director / Laparoscopic Specialist / Resident Research Liaison







I am a New York transplant who is here to stay because I love the outdoors and lifestyle Northern California has to offer. I came to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1995 after receiving my undergraduate degree in Community Health at Brown University in Rhode Island, the smallest state in the Union. I attended medical school at Stanford University. During my time at Stanford, I spent a year in El Salvador, which was one of the best things I did for my medical school education. I provided medical care, conducted healthcare research, and became fluent in Spanish. After completing internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco in 2005, I attended a yearlong fellowship (or the 26th grade) in laparoscopy at Stanford University Medical School in 2006. I wanted to become more skilled in laparoscopy so I could offer my patients more minimally invasive surgical options. Since starting at Kaiser, I've had the opportunity to travel all over the Northern California region teaching other attendings how to do more advanced laparoscopy.

I chose the field of obstetrics and gynecology because I love the opportunity it gives me to establish ongoing relationships with women throughout their lifetime. I enjoy teaching patients about their bodies and addressing their health issues. While I enjoy all aspects of obstetrics and gynecology, my interests are diverse and include queer health, minimally invasive surgery, and international women's health. I also started a minimally invasive surgery group.

I've been put in the role of Resident Research Advisor as well as in charge of simulation education. I enjoy helping the residents create a project from start to finish. The residents have been presenting at conferences and submitting their work to peer-reviewed journals. It has been great to see the residents show off all the great research they are doing. I work with the residents regularly in the operating room and help them to hone their laparoscopic skills. Our residents are getting a lot of experience in laparoscopy since I joined Kaiser Oakland in 2006. When I am not busy caring for my patients, you are likely to find me outdoors surfing, biking, snowboarding, backpacking etc. I also love to travel and have worked and adventured in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, most recently Tibet and Nicaragua.

Erika Deraleau, MD Assistant Residency Program Director for Ambulatory Care Director of Chronic Pelvic Pain & Vaginitis Clinic





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Christie M.J.L. Cooksey, MD, MS
Assistant Residency Program Director for Gynecologic Surgery







I grew up as an East Coast nomad, living in many different locations prior to college as we followed my parents' career opportunities. I matriculated for undergraduate education at the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) as a Foundation Fellow and from there, my academic path was set. I attended the Medical College of Virginia (now Virginia Commonwealth University -Go Rams!) for medical schoo as an Aesculapian Fellow,I and completed my obstetrics and gynecology residency in the United States Air Force. After leaving the Air Force, I spent two years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Go Heels!) as a generalist obstetrician gynecologist, a master's student in the department of epidemiology, and a research trainee under an NIH T32 training grant. I completed my thesis on the topic of empiric methotrexate therapy for pregnancy of unknown location before relocating to Kaiser Permanente Oakland where I found my home. My practice includes obstetrics, gynecologic surgery, family planning, transgender health, accreta spectrum care, overseas medical missions, and primary care. My journey has been described as "unconventional" and I wouldn't have it any other way. My time at Oakland has been fruitful and satisfying as a clinical educator in the clinic, emergency room, labor and delivery, and the operating room. It is gratifying to see a trainee progress from nervously inserting their first laparoscopic trocar to confidently leading a junior resident through a complex surgical case at the end of four years. It is my hope to give you the building blocks for a lifelong pursuit of excellence - to show you how to keep pushing yourself to excel and improve. Medicine is not a static field, and the best in medicine do not become complacent.

I'm an assistant program director with a broad range of activities. I've organized didactic education in the past, and I'm currently involved in risk management, quality improvement, and curriculum development. I assist Dr. Zaritsky with resident research, especially with hypothesis development, study design, and biostatistics.

When outside of the office, I can be found doing what northern Californians do – biking, surfing (poorly), hiking, and camping. I'm still nomadic in my travels, and I volunteer overseas for the underserved. You can also find me at concerts, music festivals, and visiting ohana in Hawaii. My time outside of work is dedicated to my "modern family" which includes my partner Kevin, my stepson Greyson, and our newest addition Kieran Kekoa.







Regional Director
Culturally Responsive Care & Inclusion
Carla Wicks, MD







Dr. Wicks joined The Permanente Medical Group after residency at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and has been in practice at the Richmond facility since 2006. Dr. Wicks held several leadership roles including Site Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Richmond, Assistant Chief of Service for East Bay Obstetrics and Gynecology, Assistant Physician-In-Chief (APIC) of Care Experience and Diversity in Kaiser Permanente, East Bay, and a host of other roles.

Dr. Wicks is currently serving as the TPMG Medical Director of Culturally Responsive Care and Inclusion for NCAL. In this new role for TPMG, her vision is to cultivate a culturally responsive and inclusive care climate by aligning the intentions, practices, and actions to meet the needs of the people, patients and communities we serve in Northern California.

Dr. Wicks' clinical practice embodies general Obstetrics and Gynecology in which she is dedicated to serving a diverse and underserved community. She recently co-led the first TPMG Centering in Pregnancy group for African American women and families. Dr. Wicks is also a collaborator in the TPMG Health Equity for Women Advisory Group, a lead in the work around SB464 legislation for implicit bias training in the perinatal space, a faculty leader in the ACGME Obgyn Residency Health Equity Collaborative, as well as a host of other important initiatives and projects aimed at reducing disparities for black women and other vulnerable populations in the maternity space.

Dr. Wicks is a member of numerous professional medical societies, social organizations, and is very involved in several volunteer organizations in the community. When at home, she enjoys spending time with her loving husband and three adorable children.

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division

Kaiser Oakland has one of the most diverse patient populations In the United States. Our patients are ethnically, racially, socially and socioeconomically diverse which leads to wide range of clinical presentations and pathology. Our residents become well versed in high risk and general obstetrics. We have three perinatologists who bring their own expertise and teaching styles.



RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Betsy O'Donnell, MD



Gaea Moore, MD



Veronica Gonzalez, MD



Mara Greenberg, MD





After medical school at University of Pittsburgh, I finished my Obstetrics & Gynecology residency at The University of California, San Francisco and then completed Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship at Stanford University in 2011. I came to Kaiser East Bay after fellowship and have been a very proud member of the OBGYN department ever since. I am passionate about teaching our residents evidenced based obstetric care and enjoy giving lectures, working on the antepartum unit, and in our outpatient MFM clinics and PDC with our residents and students. I wear multiple clinical and administrative hats and love to have residents join me in examining evidence-based care delivery whenever possible, either through local quality improvement efforts or research or both. I lead our sub-regional Fetal Treatment Case Conference and regional Ultrasound/Genetics Conference. My regional leadership roles include being one of the founding members of KPNC Health Equity for Women Task Force, and Director of the Regional Perinatal Service center, a telehealth service providing home monitoring for pregnant patients with conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. I also lead obstetric research both locally and regionally, serving as PI for many resident research projects that have led to national conference presentations and publications. Regionally I am a founding member of the Women's Health Research Steering Committee, and I serve at the Division of Research as the PI for our regional comprehensive Obstetric Database. My main research interests include impact of care delivery on obstetric outcomes, and racial/ethnic disparities in obstetric care and outcomes. Outside of Kaiser, I participate actively in the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine as a member of the Publications Committee and Liaison to the ACOG Ethics Committee. Outside of work I'm happiest when spending time with my partner and my two sons, ages 14 and 6. We spend time hiking, biking, traveling, dancing, gardening, cooking, and creating art together.



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Kristi VanWinden, MD



I grew up in the North Bay Area and attended the University of California Davis for college before relocating to Southern California to attend medical school at the University of California Los Angeles. After completing medical school and a postgraduate diploma in global infectious diseases (and working at a medical tech start-up for a bit!) I moved to Arizona for my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix. I then headed back to So Cal for my fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC). After fellowship I worked as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Southern California for two years before moving back to the Bay Area to join Kaiser Permanente in 2017. I have a full-scope MFM practice and split my time between two Kaiser service areas, with the bulk of my time spent at Kaiser San Leandro and Kaiser Oakland Medical Centers.

I am passionate about patient education and health optimization for pregnancy. In addition to my MFM practice, I am also board certified in Lifestyle Medicine and involved nationally with the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, serving as co-chair of the Pregnancy and Reproductive Health subcommittee and as an active member of the Women's Health group and the HEAL (Health Equity Achieved through Lifestyle) Initiative. In 2021 I became the Chief of Health Education and Promotion for the Greater Southern Alameda Service Area of KP, which has allowed me to work with Quality leaders and providers from a wide range of specialties on initiatives promoting health throughout the lifespan. I also tremendously enjoy working with and teaching residents, supporting resident research projects, and encouraging trainees to do their own personal version of health promotion. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my husband and two sons, racewalking, cycling, plant-based cooking, and a variety of creative pursuits.

Family Planning Division

Crystal Goldsmith, MD



-Rosanne Botha, MD



Meredith Warden, MD



Our division is deeply committed to reproductive justice for our patients and teaching our residents family planning. We are a Ryan Residency Training Program and are proud to serve the East Bay community.



Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) Division

Rebecca Margulies, MD







Dr. Margulies grew up in New York City. Since then, she has lived in Providence, RI (undergrad), Seattle, WA (for a brief but glorious career as a bagel baker, then medical school), back to NYC (OB/GYN residency), Ann Arbor, MI (Urogynecology fellowship), and finally Oakland, CA where she was thrilled to become the Urogynecology division director at Kaiser East Bay.

She says: "At work, my passions include caring for my patients, teaching residents and medical students about Urogynecology, performing surgery, and teaching surgical technique to residents. My patients struggle with pelvic floor disorders, such as pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence. I am a member of the Highly Reliable Surgical Teams Committee, which is devoted to surgical safety, as well as the East Bay Minimally Invasive Surgery Group. I am a volunteer with Operation Access, a service that provides surgical services free of charge for uninsured patients in the East Bay. I have had an active research career with numerous publications.

I currently act as a mentor for resident research projects in the Kaiser East Bay OB/GYN Residency Program. I was honored to receive the CREOG National Faculty Award from our residents after my first year at Kaiser East Bay.

When I am not at work, you will find me on my bicycle (commuting, or just tooling around town), playing outdoors with my husband and two children, or training in Aikido. I strive to balance work and family, and I have found that Kaiser is a great institution where this balance can be achieved! I look forward to meeting you and supporting you in your career in Obstetrics and Gynecology."

Olga Ramm, MD







RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Dr. Ramm is the Kaiser Permanente East Bay – University of California at San Francisco Fellowship Program Director in our Urogynecology Training Program. She joined Kaiser Permanente East Bay in 2013 after completing her Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery fellowship at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago following residency at Northwestern University. Her research interests include the impact of birth on the pelvic floor, obstetric pelvic floor trauma, and patient counseling and consent. She is also passionate about process improvement and surgical outcomes. She places great value and emphasis on surgical teaching. In her spare time she enjoys traveling with her family, spending time with her two daughters, and dedicating herself to ill-fated home and garden improvement projects.

Gynecologic Oncology Division

Giuseppe Ciaravino, MD



Liz Han, MD



Agnieszka Vay, MD



We have a busy hands-on gynecologic oncology service. We have the privileges of treating a diverse patient population and serving a large catchment area which allows us to see all types and stages of cancer. Residents work one-on-one with the gynecologic oncologists. Because there are no fellows, residents provide first assistance in the operating room for complex surgeries. Our residents are well trained in laparotomy, robotic, and laparoscopic techniques and provide our patients with excellent and compassionate care.

Our Oncology group is led by Dr. Giuseppe Ciaravino completed his residency at Stanford University and continued his gynecologic oncology fellowship at the joint UCSF/Stanford program. "Everyone loves Giuseppe". He has a contagious laugh and a laid-back style while maintaining impressive surgical skills. He has been celebrated as an educator for and was awarded the CREOG National Faculty Teaching Award in 2003, as well as the Best Surgical Teacher in 2008, 2011 and 2012. He also has regularly volunteered on surgical missions in the Philippines taking a resident with him for an incredible experience both in and out of the operating room.





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Dr. Liz Han trained at Baylor College of Medicine for residency and MD Anderson for fellowship. She completed a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in the United Kingdom which focused on ovarian cancer therapeutics development. She joined Kaiser Permanente Oakland in 2011. She is a true intellect with a sharp wit and sense of humor. She is dedicated to mentoring and supporting our residents who are interested in gynecologic oncology fellowships.



Agnieszka Vay completed her residency at Kaiser San Francisco and then worked in private practice for a few years before realizing her true passion was gynecologic oncology. She has started working at Kaiser after completing her fellowship at Wayne State. She is a dedicated teacher on all levels from volunteering at her children's school to requesting to provide the gynecologic oncology lecture series for our residents. Our residents truly appreciate her energetic teaching. She won the coveted CREOG Teaching Award in 2013. In her free-time she and her husband love to travel the globe with their children who are fluent in 3 languages!



Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Division

REI Division Director Alice Shapiro, MD



Janie Hirata, MD



Maria (Pia) Platia, MD





REI Site Director for Kaiser (Pleasanton) Tracey Telles, MD



I grew up in the East Bay, attending both grade school and high school in Hayward, then I moved on to University of California, Berkeley, for my college days. I attended medical school at Michigan State University and after a few winters, I moved to Arizona for my residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. After finishing my Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center, I worked as an Assistant Clinical Professor in REI for three years at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). This was a great learning experience for me, but wanting to be closer to my family, I accepted an opportunity to work for Kaiser Permanente that was too good to pass up. I now live in Danville, a few miles away from my dad and my brother and his family.

I am blessed to work with such great people at Kaiser Permanente. We are fully committed to providing outstanding care to our patients. My training at Stanford and UCSF has allowed me to learn from established programs and assisted me in building Kaiser Permanente's IVF program. I am thrilled to be part of such a great team!

When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I enjoy cycling (both road and mountain), running, snowboarding, and pretty much anything outdoors. I have traveled in Europe, India, Nepal, South America, and Australia. I am always on the lookout for some interesting adventure travel.

I tremendously enjoy teaching and I am the clinical site director for the REI rotation at Kaiser Oakland. The PGY2 residents spend 2 weeks with my team gaining exposure to REI in the clinic and IVF settings. Residents also spend days with my team during the clinic rotations in the PGY2, PGY3 and PGY4 years. In addition, on a monthly basis I also give a 2-hour REI didactic session which is part of the scheduled lecture series (protected teaching time) for the residents.

Amy Vallerie, MD Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology





Kaiser Permanente Oakland Certified Nurse Midwife Team



The Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNM) are so happy to be a part of the OB-GYN resident journey in Kaiser Oakland. We are here from your early didactics and hands-on training, coaching you through catching your first babies, participating in evaluating your progress, through collaborating and consulting with you as seniors and Chiefs of the service. I am so fortunate to have been the first CNM in this practice and midwifery service director since joining the team in 2014 as a fully integrated attending CNM service. We are on duty in the hospital 24/7 and many of our 9-person staff also see prenatal outpatients in all five of the East Bay sites. Some of the team also regularly participate in resident didactics with a focus on low-risk pregnancies and physiological labor. We all came to Oakland with varied experiences and backgrounds and we're so happy to share our journeys and perspectives with you.

Abby Pike, hospitalist CNM - graduated from Yale, MSN **Janelle Palacios**, hospitalist CNM, researcher and resident lecturer - MSN and PhD Nursing from UCSF

Katie Simms, inpatient and outpatient (Alameda) CNM- Yale MSN
Maggie Adams-McCormack, hospitalist CNM - USCF MSN
Michelle Baird, inpatient, outpatient (Pinole, Berkeley) and Centering CNM - Columbia MSN
Neel Arant, hospitalist CNM and resident lecturer - Columbia MSN
Rebecca Lesser, inpatient and outpatient (Oakland) CNM - Yale MSN
Ursula Crane, inpatient and outpatient (Richmond) CNM - UCSF MSN

Anne Galko

Hospitalist CNM and CNM Chief

SUNY Buffalo MSN, SUNY Stony Brook post-master's midwifery CNM Service Director, East Bay; Co-Chair, Regional CNM Chiefs Peer Group

I went to nursing school with the intention of midwifery but took a circuitous route of med-surg bedside nursing, then a Women's Health NP journey before midwifery. My first job as a CNM in Brooklyn, NY was in a parallel service with an OB-GYN residency program. I have since worked in multiple hospital-based systems on both the East and West coasts before finding a home for many years in Kaiser Permanente in Redwood City, then here in the fabulous East Bay. Clinically, I mainly work night shifts on L&D. I stopped counting babies I have caught at 2000, and that was more than a decade ago.



RESIDENCY PROGRAMS



Growing up in Niagara Falls, New York gives me permanent appreciation for the absolute weather perfection that is Northern California. My family lives near the Iron Horse Trail which is a running and biking trail in the East Bay that is more than 20 miles long (and flat!). This works very well for my later-in-life new hobby of running, as I seem to be continually training for some running event, with a couple destination marathons a year. If, and when, time allows for additional hobbies, I am an avid knitter, crocheter, wannabe weaver....and I even spin my own yarn from wool and have several (antique and modern) spinning wheels in my home. Hockey is almost always on at home for downtime, and Disney on either coast is a favorite destination.

Ayrika Mure Program Manager









I am an Oakland Girl. I am a proud mother of 2 children and am a dog mom to a French bulldog and a silky yorkie. At the age of 13, I learned Japanese and am always interested in learning something new. My hobbies include working out, hiking and playing cards with friends. I have worked in various roles in health care over the past 14 years and have a passion for people. I love being the program manager for the Kaiser Ob/Gyn Residency in Oakland and find deep joy in purpose-driven work and supporting our incredible residents.