Initiating a Research Fellowship for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology:

The time is now!

Vanessa Jacoby, MD, MAS
Associate Professor
Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
University of California, San Francisco

Kristen A. Matteson, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Women and Infants Hospital
Agenda

- Why start a fellowship?
- What should the fellowship look like?
- How to pay for it!
Where oh where are AUB and fibroids?

- Women’s Reproductive Health Research Scholar (WRHR)/K12 annual meeting October 2017
- 30 junior faculty focused on developing a research career
- Not a single presentation on:
  - AUB
  - Fibroids
  - Pelvic pain
  - Vaginitis
  - Low risk pregnancies (labor dystocia, back pain, weight gain)
Advancement of women's reproductive health

Why academic specialists in general ob-gyn in research?
Why academic specialists in general ob-gyn in research?

- **T1**: Basic Research into Development of Interventions
  - Human studies & Phase I Clinical Trials

- **T2**: Human Study Discoveries into Patient-Oriented Research
  - Patient studies & Phase II/III Clinical Trials

- **T3**: Therapeutic Use of Interventions
  - Clinical practice, clinical outcomes research & Phase IV Clinical Trials

- **T4**: Effectiveness of Interventions at Population Level
  - Community & population-level outcomes

Translation into Human Science → Translation into the Clinic → Translation to Populations
Why start a research fellowship for academic specialists in general ob-gyn?
Why start a ANY fellowship?

- Move science forward in the field
- Create professional community with shared focus
- Increase academic focus, research productivity of specialty
- Improve (inter)national academic and policy presence/representation/leadership
  - Chairs, Deans, Chancellors
  - Professional society leadership
Why start a research fellowship for academic specialists in general ob-gyn?

- Small group discussion and report back
Why start a research fellowship for academic specialists in general ob-gyn?

- Underrepresentation of generalist topics in research
  - 3 months of Green Jo, 9/35 (25%) articles were generalist topics
  - Slows scientific advancement

- Limited infrastructure to develop and sustain a researcher who is an academic specialist in general ob-gyn
  - No training programs specific for academic specialist
  - No focused research meetings/symposiums
  - Few opportunities to develop strong collaborations, research networks, databases
Why?

Generalist Research Fellowship

Funding Opportunities

Students, Residents

Faculty Researchers

Scientific Advances

Improve women’s health
What should the fellowship look like?

- Small group discussion and report back
What should the fellowship look like?

Key ingredients:

- **Formal didactic research training**
  
  Master’s degree in clinical research or equivalent

- **Protected nonclinical time (a lot of it!)**
  
  2 years, 75% time

- **Strong mentorship and collaboration**
  
  Lead mentor at site
  
  Formal collaborations with other site fellows/mentors

- **Research resources**
  
  Existing data for secondary analysis
  
  Pilot studies complete to support K award application
Dare to Dream!

- 15 fellowship sites
- Annual in-person meeting to present research
- Research network for multi-centered trials
- Shared surgical/clinical database
How to Fund a Fellowship

- Non-ACGME Fellow
- Fellow can bill clinically as attending
- Salary/benefits are PGY 5 and PGY 6
- Remember cost of training/courses, housing allowance, research support (e.g., for programmer)
How to Fund a Fellowship

- Small group discussion and report back
How to Fund a Fellowship

- Local funding
  - Division/dept funds (equity with other divisions)
  - Endowed chairs
- Government
  - T32
- Professional society collaborations
- Philanthropy
Where are we now and next steps

- UCSF to open applications in Fall 2018, first fellow to start summer 2019
- 6 other sites interested
- Establish National Advisory Committee

The time is now!
Thank you!