

**Women's Health Scholar (WHS) Certificate Program**  
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania  
*Established 2006, jointly sponsored*  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology - and - FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women  
(Primary contact: Susan Primavera: [sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu))

**Goal:** To provide concentrated experiences for medical students (men and women) in women's health\*--spanning research, clinical training and community outreach. (\*women's health defined broadly)

**Four Component Requirements:**



Note: It is the student's responsibility to notify Susan Primavera ([sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)) within the month following completion of any of the four program components below, in order to have credit applied toward this Certificate.

**1. Intensive Summer Experience in Women's Health**

6 to 8 weeks during the summer between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Choose one of the following two options:

**A. Bridging the Gaps: Community Internship Program** ([http://www.med.upenn.edu/btg/BTG\\_AboutCHIP.htm](http://www.med.upenn.edu/btg/BTG_AboutCHIP.htm))

Project at a women's health/ maternal child/related site (\$3,000 stipend)

For more information, please contact: **Ellen Martinak, MS** ([martinak@upenn.edu](mailto:martinak@upenn.edu)) or [www.BridgingtheGaps.info](http://www.BridgingtheGaps.info)

Required reporting handled through BTG program.

**-or-**

**B. Independent, Mentored Women's Health Research Project**

Find a mentor / Create a proposal / Obtain approval

For guidance about research opportunities and for approval of your project idea/proposal, please contact: **Courtney Schreiber, MD MPH** ([cschreiber@obgyn.upenn.edu](mailto:cschreiber@obgyn.upenn.edu))

**Required proposal and reporting** (for option B only):

- Project proposal <[download form](#)>
- Final report <[download form](#)> and <[abstract template](#)>
- Mentor evaluation (student to complete) <[download form](#)>
- Student evaluation (faculty mentor to complete) <[download form](#)>

## 2. Seminar Attendance in Women's Health

Attendance at 12 seminars (minimum) or equivalent between 1st year and mid-December of final year of medical school

Seminar requirements can be completed through:

- Grand Rounds in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Endocrinology, Medicine, Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health, and other Department/Division presentations focused on women's health
- FOCUS Lunchtime Seminars or other program presentations relevant to women's health
- Outside presentations pertaining to women's health at meetings/conferences in any location (e.g., professional meetings and societies)

For more information and to be placed on email list for notification of Grand Rounds, please contact:

**Marian Rossi** ([mrossi@obgyn.upenn.edu](mailto:mrossi@obgyn.upenn.edu)).

Seminar attendance must be tracked using the grid provided below:

**Required tracking/reporting:** Seminar Attendance Grid <[download grid](#)>

Students must submit a detailed list of all seminars attended (see grid above that includes date, presenter(s), seminar title, location, and brief description of each) to **Marian Rossi**.

## 3. Elective in Women's Health

1 month (*Prerequisite:* Obstetrics & Gynecology clerkship)

A one month elective in women's health can be satisfied by taking any one of the elective options described below. The oversight committee is also willing to consider other electives but these will require prior approval.

For more information about participating in any of the electives below, please contact:

**Philip McCabe** ([philip.mccabe@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:philip.mccabe@uphs.upenn.edu)).

**A. The elective in Maternal Child Health (Fam 350) --or-- Any elective in the UME course catalogue listed under:**

Obstetrics & Gynecology -- Breast Imaging or Women's Imaging in Radiology -- Breast Surgery in Surgery

-- or --

**B. One of the following three additional elective options (see full descriptions that follow):**

Penn Health at Radnor – Ludmir Center at Pennsylvania Hospital – Family Planning

- **Penn Health for Women at Radnor**

Coordinators: Dr. Ann Honebrink, Director of Penn Health for Women, and Dr. Allison Oler, internist

Description: Penn Health for Women is an interdisciplinary program dedicated to providing the highest quality health care to women of all ages. Comprehensive services are provided in one convenient location by a team of gynecologists, obstetricians, internists, pediatric & adolescent gynecologist, urogynecologist, reproductive endocrinologists, breast surgeon, psychologists, and nutritionist. Special programs including yoga, Pilates, weight control & sleep disorders. Close collaborative relationship with other available services on site such as radiology, dermatology, cardiology and GI.

Objective: To expose the student to multi-disciplinary, collaborative approaches to primary health care for women. Students will have an opportunity to participate in patient care with different team members as well as meet with the Director of Operations and Patient Services and the practice manager to gain an appreciation of management issues.

Goals:

- To understand the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach to Women's Health care
- To understand the components of appropriate preventive care for women
- To appreciate administrative challenges and benefits of operating a multi-disciplinary ambulatory program

Availability: All months except July, August and October.

- ***The Ludmir Center at Pennsylvania Hospital***

Coordinator: Dr. Sabrina Sukhan

Description: The Ludmir Center, formerly Women's and Children's Health Services (WCHS), is dedicated to providing health care services to women of all ages from our community and surrounding areas. Most of our patients are underserved and enjoy coming because of our reputation for excellence in a caring environment. Health services include: family planning, prenatal care, colposcopy and gynecology. The care is provided by a team of physicians, nurses, social workers, and nutritionists.

Objective: To familiarize the student to gynecologic and obstetric issues faced by women from underserved and diverse populations. The student will have the opportunity to be an active participant in the care of these women, and have exposure to the challenges and dilemmas in providing health care to them.

- ***Family Planning***

Coordinators: Dr. Courtney Schreiber, Director of Penn Family Planning & Pregnancy Loss Center, and Dr. Steve Sondheimer

Description: Penn Family Planning and Pregnancy Loss Center provides a full range of contraceptive choices, option counseling, as well as medications and surgical abortion care.

Objectives: To expose students to family planning and abortion services in the Family Planning and Pregnancy Loss Program. Students will participate in patient care, as well as meet with counselors, lawyers, and others involved in the provision of abortion services in Philadelphia.

Goals:

- To understand each of the contraceptive choices available, including benefits, efficacy, counseling issues, and contraindications
- To understand options counseling and its components
- To understand the components of the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act
- To learn about abortion services in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia
- To understand the components of medications and surgical abortion

#### **4. Scholarly Pursuit Project in Women's Health**

3 months minimum

##### **Find a mentor / Create a proposal / Obtain approval**

See ideas of projects and faculty mentors (not necessarily current) listed [here](#).

- The [FOCUS Medical Student Fellowship](#) (6 months) or another funded research experience (minimum of 3 months) that has been approved by the WHS Certificate faculty can be used to fulfill this requirement.
- A Master's thesis focused on women's health can fulfill requirement *if topic approved* by WHS Certificate Committee.

For guidance about research opportunities and for approval of your project idea/proposal, please contact:

**Hillary Bogner, MD MSCE** ([hillary.bogner@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:hillary.bogner@uphs.upenn.edu))

For general information about this component and the FOCUS Fellowship, please contact:

**Susan Primavera** ([sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:sprimave@pennmedicine.upenn.edu))

##### **Required proposal and reporting**

- Project proposal <[download form](#)>
- Final report <[download form](#)>
- Mentor evaluation (student to complete) <[download form](#)>
- Student evaluation (faculty mentor to complete) <[download form](#)>

**WHS Certificate Oversight Committee:** These multi-disciplinary faculty and staff represent diverse areas of women's health and oversee and manage the requirements of the Certificate. Students who pursue the Certificate will meet once a year with the Committee for a brief, informal check-in and to answer any questions about completing the requirements. The faculty on the Oversight Committee are also available to provide students with career mentoring on an individual basis and for any guidance to navigate the requirements to complete the WHS Certificate.

**Faculty:**

**Deborah Driscoll MD**

Luigi Mastroianni, Jr. Professor and Chair  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Director of the Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health

**Stephanie Abbuhl MD**

Professor and Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs  
Emergency Medicine  
Executive Director, FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women

**Hillary Bogner MD MSCE**

Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Research  
Family Medicine & Community Health  
Director of Research Programs, FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women

**Courtney Schreiber MD MPH**

Associate Professor,  
Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Lucy W. Tuton PhD**

Adjunct Professor, |  
Medicine; Epidemiology: Prevention and Population Health  
Associate Director, University of Pennsylvania Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program  
Director of Professional Development, FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women  
Executive Director, Bridging the Gaps

**Staff:**

**Susan Primavera**

Operations  
FOCUS on Health & Leadership for Women

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**WHS Certificate Advisory Council:** These additional faculty represent a diverse range of specialties that encompass the broad field of women's health and are available to students pursuing the Certificate as a resource when considering research mentors and project topics. They also are willing to provide general guidance and advice about careers in women's health.

**Aletha Y. Akers, MD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Pediatrics  
Division of Adolescent Medicine  
Department of Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

**Angela Bradbury, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Medicine  
Division of Hematology Oncology  
Assistant Professor of Medical Ethics and Health Policy*

**Ellen Casey, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Sports Medicine  
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*

**Emily Conant MD**

*Professor, Radiology  
Chief, Division of Breast Imaging  
Vice Chair of Faculty Development*

**C. Neill Epperson, MD**

*Professor, Psychiatry  
Director, Penn Center for Women's Behavioral Wellness*

**Richard Shlansky-Goldberg, MD**

*Professor, Radiology*

**Steve Sondheimer, MD**

*Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology*

**Julia C. Tchou, MD, PhD**

*Associate Professor, Clinical Surgery  
Division of Endocrine & Oncologic Surgery*