

Colleen K. Stockdale, MD, MS



Dr. Colleen K. Stockdale is a Clinical Professor of General Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She received a BS in Nursing from Eastern Washington University, Post Baccalaureate Pre-Med at the University of Pennsylvania, MD from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, MS in Epidemiology from the University of Iowa, and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She has served as the Program Director for the Medical Student Clerkship and is now the Associate Residency Program Director. She is the Director of the Colposcopy Clinic and the Vulvar Vaginal Disease Clinic. Dr. Stockdale

worked in private practice in Washington State before returning to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. At Iowa, she is involved in research as well as caring for patients and mentoring learners at all levels.

Why did you choose to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology?

Diversity! Obstetricians & Gynecologists do it all!

We provide women's health care from infancy to geriatrics, including medicine, surgery, pregnancy, and delivery.

If you had not chosen medicine as a career, what field might you have gone into instead? Why?

I cannot imagine a career other than medicine!

I did have a circuitous route to where I am today – orderly, nurses' aid, student nurse, registered nurse, physician. (Yes, every one of those was a "job title" with increasing responsibility). Been there, done that!

It has been an honor and privilege – every step of the way.

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Who in Obstetrics and Gynecology do you find most inspirational? Why?

My patients. Wow, they have trust.

What do you enjoy most about your current job? Why? Why did you choose to work in academics? What is the best part of working in academics?

Same answer for both questions - Diversity! (my theme, it seems).

Day to day my schedule varies and may include clinic, labor and delivery, the operating room, teaching, learning (academics), and whatever I have forgotten.

I get to work with the brightest individuals every day – my colleagues, residents, medical students, patients. I enjoy the constant challenge to keep up with new innovations and ways to improve patient care delivery.

If you could give one piece of advice to physicians in your field, what would it be?

Be the provider you would want for your mother/sister/daughter.

How do you balance work life and home life in your busy career?

Ha ha - I don't!

It helps that I met my husband who is quite independent and self-sufficient.

How would you summarize your personality using just three words?

Persistent, flexible, resourceful.

If you could make one change in the way medicine is practiced in your field, what would it be? Why?

Provider/patient autonomy – no prior authorizations or interference from outside interests.

Policy is on the population level, whereas health care is on the individual level. At times we forget that health care is “personal”.

If you could change one thing about the world we live in, what would it be? Why?

World peace – I have been asking for ‘world peace’ for Christmas for as long as I can remember – still waiting!

Who is the person in your life you would most like to thank?

My parents (sorry - that's two, but growing up they felt like one).

What do you feel is the greatest strength of the University of Iowa Residency Program in Obstetrics and Gynecology?

We are a hidden gem! Excellence in training combined with “Iowa nice”.

I realized how fortunate I was, after I completed my residency training in Obstetrics & Gynecology – Iowa – some time ago; left and came back.