

POG's Personal Perspectives

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency: Vital for Iowa Women

I knew right away when I came to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for my residency interview that it was where I wanted to complete my training; and now that I am done with residency and continuing on in fellowship, I've never had one regret about choosing to come to Iowa. Iowa is a unique place – it is a nationally recognized program with faculty that are leaders in their fields, yet it is also a close-knit program where the trainees are treated with respect. The ObGyn residents receive well-rounded training and fortunately, many find that after 4 years in Iowa, they want to stay.

It would be devastating if the University of Iowa no longer had a training program not only for future ObGyn providers, but also for the women of Iowa. There are residents at the hospital 24/7 and with almost every patient encounter, there is a resident or fellow involved. They are in every surgery, every delivery, they are seeing patients in clinics, taking care of them in the inpatient units, answering patient phone

calls. They care about their patients and do so much to make sure the women of Iowa are getting the best care possible. The loss of the program would have consequences beyond the loss of the residents and fellows. The attending physicians who work at Iowa chose to pursue academic medicine because they truly care about educating the future generation of providers – and if this were not the case, many would likely seek positions elsewhere.

Throughout training I have seen many women have to make extremely difficult decisions. Women who had premature rupture of membranes at very early gestations, and who made the decision to leave the rest of their family for months as they were admitted to the hospital. Women with advanced cancer deciding to undergo hospice care. Women who decided to invest so much of their time, money, and hopes with IVF to take a chance on having a baby. Finally, I have worked with women who found out the baby they were carrying had severe congenital anomalies who

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made the tough decision to end a pregnancy. All of these women also made the decision to come to Iowa because of the wonderful care they receive. These women benefit greatly from having medical students, residents, fellows, and attending physicians involved in their care, and likewise, all of the providers at Iowa benefit from having some of the best patients in the country; and all benefit from the exceptional ObGyn department at the University of Iowa.

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