New delivery site is just around the corner!

After many years and business plans, expanding our L&D and gyn services north to La Jolla is finally going to be a reality! In preparation, we conducted two half day retreats to brainstorm on improvements in how we deliver care. These efforts yielded 18 quick wins, 7 Just Do It projects, and 7 others to develop more fully. The main plans to be developed include: Dedicated L&D OR surgical team, improve triage process for patients and providers, and improve discharge process planning. This will enhance the patient experience as well as staff and provider experiences.

While we are preparing for our expansion north, we are also developing our new Hillcrest Ob Group. This is a nurse midwife and hospitalist (MD) collaboration model housed in our existing L&D space. These providers will partner closely to provide prenatal care during the day time Monday thru Friday as well as 24/7 in-house delivery coverage. Joining Gina Frugoni will be: Dana McQueen, Kelly Martinez, Julia Cormano, Siri Williams. These hospitalists will start September 1 and work alongside Christine Cortes and Elizabeth Kicko who are our nurse midwife partners. The physicians in this group form the new Hospitalist Division in the Department, being led by interim division director, Steve Hebert. Please join me in welcoming this new team!

New Clinics

On September 12, we will move out of the Perlman Clinic, our medical home for over 2 decades. The Ob/Gyn division will move to the La Jolla Village Professional Center on Villa La Jolla. The REI division will remain in Perlman and welcome the male fertility group to the space for a comprehensive destination for patients.

We are developing our new Hillcrest Birthing Group. Please join in welcoming the new team!
Research Recognition
Reproductive Medicine Faculty continue to bring in research funds!

Our faculty continue to attain notable achievements in research funding. After an extremely competitive process, Pam Mellon, Mark Lawson, Jeff Chang, Antoni Duleba, Shunichi Shimasaki, Sasha Kauffman, Irene Su, and others have been awarded the P50 Center Grant to be a National Center for Translational Research in Reproduction and Infertility. This grant provides nearly $9 million in direct and indirect costs over 5 years to perform cutting edge research in reproduction and infertility. Pamela Mellon is the Principal Investigator.

Burroughs Wellcome Grant. This is a highly competitive grant for biomedical scientists at the beginning of their careers. Candidates must garner institutional nominations and be reviewed by highly critical study sections. This is truly a well-deserved recognition!

Mimi Lukacz has been awarded the Pelvic Floor Disorders Network (PFDN) renewal. This was also a highly competitive grant renewal that was dependent on the center’s subject enrollment success and intellectual contribution to this network. The PFDN performs clinical trials in pelvic floor disorders.

Please join me in congratulating the hard work of all these scientists and PIs.

NIH Ranking
Based on 2015 NIH rankings for Ob/Gyn Departments, we moved up from 8th to 7th! This ranking does not include the Center Grant that was just recently awarded. Therefore, we should be in the top 5 by next years’ rankings! Great work everyone!