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My initial career goals involved basic science with a Master of Science degree in Microbiology and Molecular Medicine. I fortunately was able to pursue these research interests at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla California investigating the pathogenesis of The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and its membrane proteins on the hippocampus as it relates to AIDS dementia. The focus of my work related to electrophysiologic changes in the mouse model with differing glycoprotein 120 concentrations and time intervals. Contributing to the works of this lab were rewarding, however soon after I matriculated into medical school, I found success in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology with a continued interest in research. Within my residency and Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship, I was able to explore clinical research with the mentorship of Drs Leveno, Dashe, Wendel and Sheffield (UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX), pioneers at challenging and defining the basic core of clinical science utilized in defining national guidelines, especially in regard to sexually transmitted diseases. I subsequently joined faculty at the Louisiana State University, New Orleans Maternal Fetal Medicine department to continue research in the direction of clinical medicine involving maternal care in a population that faces unique morbidities and published the largest case series of perinatal syphilis outlining gaps in treatment and risk factors for congenital syphilis among pregnant women in New Orleans, LA. With my basic science training in microbiology, I had a unique clinical perspective on pathogenesis that added to the collaborative work between the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Microbiology. I was awarded the prestigious basic science grant at the school of medicine to continue *M. genitalium* research during pregnancy during my tenure there. Projects surrounding *Mycoplasma genitalium* and pregnant women initiated with Dr Chris McGowin, PhD and Dr David Martin as his lab and I have created a new bridge between the basic and clinical science departments that continues to benefit the school of medicine, fellows, residents and medical students at the Baylor College of Medicine and University of Texas Health Science Center/McGovern Medical School who continue to work with me and excel. Several publications and oral presentations, along with an institutional grant surrounding antibiotic resistance profiling for *M. genitalium* in pregnant women was awarded to a pathology resident under my mentorship. I advanced my career by joining University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston/McGovern Medical School where my research interests are supported by team collaborators and leaders in the field of maternal fetal medicine with unparalleled institutional support.

My most recent publications concerning syphilis infection during pregnancy titled “Ending Congenital Syphilis” was published in the Journal of the American Medical

Association (2019) describing challenges in syphilis management facing this nation. I am currently a core member of the Fetal Infant Mortality Review board (FIMR), supported by the Centers for Disease Control; which serves the greater Houston area where state health and human services, along with core faculty, Baylor and University of Texas personnel review congenital syphilis cases and collect pertinent data to determine gaps in care and missed opportunities.

My research focus as a Maternal Fetal Medicine specialist is driven by maternal health, and critical care issues surrounding high acuity situations that lead to disastrous outcomes for mothers and newborns. As such, I am dedicated to the field and embrace the talents and relationships that will cultivate my goals and produce excellent results.

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