Overview of Ob/Gyn & Reproductive Health and Some Relationships to Engineering and Beyond

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Abstract
Studies support the concept that when women are healthier – children, families, and their communities are healthier. So much goes into healthier communities beyond healthcare, and most will agree that interdisciplinary approaches are integral to health improvement for individuals and populations. There have been many advances in healthcare, but, interestingly, even in the US and in Texas, maternal mortality has increased over the last several decades. This seminar will highlight a few aspects of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive health and healthcare as well as some connections to biomedical engineering related topics. From infertility, fertility, to prenatal and fetal screening, placental development, surgical approaches to care, devices for treatments and prevention, cancer, vaccinations, pharmaceuticals, and beyond, this seminar will highlight some various aspects of care related to ob/gyn & reproductive health and some of the connections to other fields, progress in care, and considerations from the past, currently, and into the future.

Biosketch
Kimberly A. Pilkinton, M.D., M.P.H, is a clinical associate professor at UH’s College of Medicine and a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist physician. She co-directs the Reproductive and Endocrine Systems, Transition to Clerkships, and Transition to Residency courses. She is the Clerkship Director for the Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is Director of the MD-MPH dual-degree program. She previously directed several educational activities at McGovern Medical School, her alma mater where she graduated as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Prior to McGovern Medical School, Pilkinton was a faculty member at Texas A&M COM for over a decade, as a program director for the Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program in Temple, TX. In addition to her passion related to educational endeavors, Pilkinton has enjoyed compassionately practicing the full breadth of OB-GYN and reproductive sciences for over 20 years.