

Noelle C. Bowdler, MD



Dr. Noelle C. Bowdler is a Clinical Professor in the Generalist Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She received a BA from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. She completed her MD at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. She completed an Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at the University of Michigan Affiliated Hospitals. Dr. Bowdler sees patients in the Gynecology Clinic.

She received the 2019 Excellence in Quality Award from the University of Iowa Physicians. This award is given to in recognition of outstanding quality of care provided to patients. Recipients will have demonstrated excellence in reportable measures of quality, benchmarked patient outcomes, or improvements in internally measured outcomes

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

Two disparate fields outside of the “pre-medical curriculum” held my attention when I was an undergraduate, and either might have served as a basis for a career other than medicine: environmental science and art history. Using the chemistry of air pollution, water pollution, and toxic waste to direct changes that result in a healthier environment could have been the basis of a very rewarding career. Alternatively, a background that valued the arts led to an interest in art history, which would have provided an area of focused study, but probably not the sense of providing a service that a career in medicine or environmental science would.

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Why did you choose to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology?

My father is a retired hematologist-oncologist and during my pre-clinical years in medical school I envisioned becoming an internist. However, I was also influenced by hearing about the experiences of my mother, who was a British-trained nurse-midwife. In the United States she worked in a "Model Cities prenatal clinic" and for the Womens, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. As I considered various areas of medicine during my 3rd year medical school clerkships, I found that I gravitated towards Obstetrics and Gynecology, undoubtedly influenced by my mother's experiences..

What is the best part of working in academics?

The opportunity to provide a service by caring for some of the most disadvantaged patients, the opportunity to think about some of the more complex problems that patients present with, helping to teach the next generation of clinicians, and working with those who are exploring issues at the forefront of what is known in the specialty and in medicine.

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

Follow the path that you find most interesting while always doing your best for the patients you see.

What book would you recommend for other people to read? Why?

The Fifth Risk by Michael Lewis. This

provides a commentary on what the United States government has provided behind the scenes and how that may be threatened. This is an important topic as we consider who to vote for in upcoming elections and what role government should play going forward

How would you summarize your personality using just three words?

Interested. Optimistic. Helper.

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

The political climate, so that there would be greater attention placed on collaboration to solve large issues.

Who is the person in your life (past or present) you would most like to thank?

Dr Robert Weiss, who provides the inspiration for me to do my best every day.

My parents and brother, who provided the foundation that allowed me to do what I do today.

My chair, Dr Kim Leslie, for her support to pursue Quality and Safety efforts.