



Maimonides Health

Maternal & Neonatal Morbidity Reduction Symposium

Collaborative Frontiers in Maternal and Newborn Health:
Promising Practices and Diverging Views

September 8, 2026



This **symposium**, now in its fourth year, has become a flagship educational event for the maternal and newborn health community, drawing obstetricians, neonatologists, pediatricians, nurses, and allied health professionals from across New York State. Morning plenaries pair with an afternoon hands-on workshop and roundtable sessions, blending expert instruction with candid multidisciplinary dialogue. This year's agenda captures both the scope of the field and the debates shaping it. Faculty from seven leading institutions will share promising practices and examine where evidence and expert opinion diverge.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Apply current evidence-based practices and emerging research to improve health outcomes for mothers and newborns.
- Collaborate across interdisciplinary teams, sharing insights and strategies to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity.
- Evaluate areas of clinical uncertainty and diverging expert opinion to strengthen care delivery.

Program

Jointly hosted by the Departments of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology

7:00–8:00 am

Badge Pick-up, Breakfast & Networking

Room 2C—2nd floor Admin Building

8:00 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Scott Chudnoff, MD, MSc, FACOG

Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health.

Maimonides Medical Center

8:10 am

Between Two Worlds: The Future of Care for Prematurity & Congenital Heart Disease

Ganga Krishnamurthy, MD

Garrett Isaac Neubauer Professor, Pediatrics; Section Chief, Neonatal Cardiac Care.

Columbia University Irving Medical Center

8:40 am

Perinatal Palliative Care

Elvira Parravicini, MD

Director, Neonatal Comfort Care Program, Division of Neonatology; Professor of Pediatrics.

NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital; Columbia University Irving Medical Center

9:10 am

Prenatal Genetics & Genomics: Achieving Parity in Screening for Autosomal Recessive Disorders

Tirtza Strauss, MD, FACOG, MFM

Attending Physician, Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Director, Prenatal Genetics.

Maimonides Medical Center

9:40 am

Comprehensive Overview of Cleft & Craniofacial Defects: Innovative Approach to Corrective Surgery

Jessica G. Li, DDS, BS, FAAP

Attending Surgeon, Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial.

Maimonides Medical Center

10:10 am

Novel Research at Wyckoff Heights: Maternal Obesity before Birth & Effect on Childhood Growth Disorders

Sanjivan Patel, MD, FAAP

Chair, Pediatrics.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

10:30 am

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 am

Keynote: Maternal & Neonatal Health in the Public Health Context

Marilyn A. Kacica, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Division of Family Health.

New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

11:30 am

Planning Your Fertility Journey: Maximizing Success

Mohamad Irani, MD, FACOG, HCLD

Assistant Professor, Reproductive Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Weill Cornell Medicine

12:00 pm

Selective Placental Vessel Embolization, Resection & Reconstruction of the Lower Uterine Segment (SPERR): A Novel Technique for Uterine Preservation in PAS

Itamar Futterman, MD

Attending Physician, Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Director, Complex Obstetrical Surgery; Associate Program Director, MFM Fellowship.

Maimonides Medical Center

12:30 pm

Fear & Overwhelming Hope: The Legacy of Fetal Surgery Research in Maternal-Fetal Research

Luke A. Gatta, MD

Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

1:00 pm

Closing Remarks, CME Code & Event Evaluation; Announcing Afternoon Activities

Sandra McCalla, MD, FACOG

Attending Physician, Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Vice Chair of Clinical Quality, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Maimonides Medical Center

1:00–2:00 pm

LUNCH & NETWORKING

2:00–3:00 pm

Track A—Hands-On Workshop

Cesarean Closure Technique to Prevent Placenta Accreta Spectrum

Sim Lab—Rooms MP1 & MP2

Clarel Antoine, MD, FACOG

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Dwaita Patel, MD, FACOG

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Track B—Roundtable

Diabetes & Pregnancy: Maximizing CGM Applications & Use of Related Technology

Room 2C

Rodney McLaren, MD

Director, Ambulatory Maternal Specialty.

Maimonides Medical Center

Speakers



Clarel Antoine, MD, FACOG

*Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology;
Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.*

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

With a career spanning over four decades, Dr. Clarel Antoine has dedicated himself to advancing the field of Maternal-Fetal Medicine. A graduate of Columbia University's Medical School and a fellow at NYU Medical Center, Dr. Antoine has held various leadership positions at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, including a decade-long tenure as Director of Obstetrics at Tisch Hospital. As a renowned obstetrician and gynecologist, he is a strong advocate for cesarean safety and has devoted his research to understanding the intricacies of cesarean surgical techniques. He firmly believes optimizing uterine closure techniques is key to significantly reducing long-term complications, such as placenta accreta spectrum.



Scott Chudnoff, MD, MSc, FACOG

*Chair, Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology and Women's Health.*

Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Scott Chudnoff is Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Maimonides Medical Center and a recognized leader in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. He previously served as Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Stamford Health and Director of Gynecology at Montefiore Medical Center, and is Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. A Brooklyn native who was born at Maimonides, Dr. Chudnoff earned his MD at Rutgers Medical School and completed his residency and fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery at Montefiore. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



Itamar Futterman, MD

*Attending Physician, Maternal-Fetal
Medicine; Director, Complex Obstetrical
Surgery; Associate Program Director,
MFM Fellowship.*

Maimonides Medical Center

Born and raised in Israel, Dr. Itamar Futterman completed his military service before earning his medical degree at Ross University School of Medicine. He then completed his Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at New York Medical College, followed by his Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Maimonides. His research focus has been related to placenta accreta spectrum, artificial intelligence and its use in clinical obstetrics, along with other research interests. Dr. Futterman is the recipient of multiple teaching awards and serves as a reviewer for several peer-reviewed OB/GYN journals. He lives with his wife and two children on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.



Luke A. Gatta, MD

*Assistant Professor, Obstetrics
and Gynecology.*

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Luke A. Gatta is an Assistant Professor of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Vanderbilt Health, and Core Faculty in the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He did his Obstetrics and Gynecology residency and Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Duke, and his Clinical Medical Ethics fellowship at the University of Chicago. His research interests include the management of pregnancies with fetal diagnoses expected to be life-limiting, as well as complex obstetric decision making. He grew up in Brooklyn, NY.

Speakers



Mohamad Irani, MD, FACOG, HCLD
Assistant Professor, Reproductive Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Mohamad Irani is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He completed his fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and is double board-certified in OB/GYN and reproductive endocrinology and infertility. His clinical expertise spans all aspects of reproductive medicine, including IVF, fertility preservation, preimplantation genetic testing, and minimally invasive reproductive surgery. Dr. Irani has received numerous honors for his clinical, surgical, and research excellence, including the American Society for Reproductive Medicine Star Award in 2022, 2023, and 2025, the AAGL award for surgical excellence, and four grants from the Maimonides Research and Development Foundation. He has published 41 peer-reviewed manuscripts in leading journals and serves as a reviewer for several scientific journals in reproductive medicine.



Marilyn A. Kacica, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Division of Family Health, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

Dr. Marilyn A. Kacica is Medical Director of the Division of Family Health at the NYSDOH and Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the College of Integrated Health Sciences, University at Albany. A pediatrician subspecialized in Infectious Disease and Preventive Medicine, she oversees the state's maternal and child health portfolio to improve outcomes, and represents the Department across agencies and nationally. She leads the New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative, the Maternal Mortality Review Initiative, and the State Maternal Health Innovation Initiative. She also participates in policy, program planning, and evaluation for the Title V program serving NYS's maternal and child health populations. Previously, she served as Medical Director in the Regional Epidemiology and Infection Control Program in the NYSDOH Division of Epidemiology, including emergency preparedness activities that continue today.



Ganga Krishnamurthy, MD
Garrett Isaac Neubauer Professor, Pediatrics; Section Chief, Neonatal Cardiac Care, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Dr. Ganga Krishnamurthy is the Garrett Isaac Neubauer Professor of Pediatrics at Columbia and Section Chief. She was the inaugural medical director of the nation's first dedicated neonatal and infant cardiac ICU. A pioneer in neonatal cardiac intensive care, she leads a multidisciplinary team caring for newborns with complex congenital heart disease and is a founding board member of the Neonatal Heart Society.



Jessica G. Li, DDS, BS, FAAP
Attending Surgeon, Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial, Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Jessica G. Li is a pediatric cleft and craniofacial surgeon, and a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon. She earned her BS at Cornell University and her DDS at Touro College of Dental Medicine, then completed her residency at Nassau University Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center and highly competitive program. During residency, she developed extensive expertise in facial trauma, management of TMJ disorders and myofascial pain, administration of sedation and general anesthesia, management of complex pain disorders such as trigeminal neuralgia and complex regional pain syndrome, dentoalveolar reconstruction, and dental implantology. She went on to complete an advanced subspecialty fellowship at the University at Buffalo and Oishei Children's Hospital, training in the comprehensive management of cleft and craniofacial patients with congenital differences, including primary cleft lip and palate repair, orthognathic surgery, neonatal airway management, and pediatric facial trauma.

Speakers



Sandra McCalla, MD, FACOG

Attending Physician, Maternal-Fetal Medicine; Vice Chair of Clinical Quality, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Sandra McCalla is Vice Chair of Clinical Quality and Co-Director of the Regional Perinatal Center at Maimonides, home to one of the busiest obstetrical units in New York State, and previously served as Director of Clinical Obstetrics from 2000 to 2014. She received her medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency and her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Kings County Hospital/SUNY Health Science Center in Brooklyn. A recognized expert in high-risk pregnancy, Dr. McCalla has particular expertise in cervical insufficiency, prematurity detection and prevention, and cerclage placement in the first and second trimesters. She served on the ACOG Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Committee. Additionally, she has been an active participant in the District II Safe Motherhood Initiative and served as a co-chair in its early days. She also chaired the March of Dimes New York/Staten Island/Long Island Regional Program Services Committee until 2018.



Rodney McLaren, MD

Director, Ambulatory Maternal Specialty, Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Rodney McLaren is the Director of Ambulatory Maternal Specialty at Maimonides Medical Center. He received his medical degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and completed both his OB/GYN residency and Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Maimonides. Following fellowship, he served as MFM faculty and Director of MFM Outpatient Clinical Operations at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where he established the multidisciplinary Jefferson Diabetes in Pregnancy Program and helped oversee the Cardio-OB and MFM Plus programs. His clinical and research interests center on high-risk pregnancies, particularly diabetes in pregnancy, and he is the author of more than 60 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Dr. McLaren returned to Maimonides in January 2025, where he continues to expand his exceptional care throughout Brooklyn.



Elvira Parravicini, MD

Director, Neonatal Comfort Care Program, Division of Neonatology; Professor of Pediatrics.

NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital; Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Dr. Elvira Parravicini is a neonatologist, Director of the Neonatal Comfort Care Program, and Professor of Pediatrics at CUIMC, with a Certification in Palliative Medicine from Harvard University. Her passion for helping the most fragile neonatal patients inspired her to create a unique and innovative program for infants affected by life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. Supported by an interdisciplinary team, the Neonatal Comfort Care Program addresses the complex medical and nonmedical needs of infants and their families, establishing a state of comfort for babies in a compassionate environment. Dr. Parravicini is also actively involved with the Center for Prenatal Pediatrics, providing prenatal counseling and coordinating postnatal care plans for high-risk pregnancies alongside specialists in comprehensive, evidence-based care. She believes each baby's life is precious and should be welcomed and cherished, and is committed to giving babies a better chance toward a healthy life and improving their quality of life through the most challenging conditions.



Dwaita Patel, MD, FACOG

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Dr. Dwaita Patel is a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist at City OB+GYN. She performs all deliveries and major surgeries at Tisch Hospital/NYU Langone Medical Center in Manhattan. She has published and presented with the International Federation of Fertility Societies/American Society for Reproductive Medicine (IFFS/ASRM) on ovulation induction, IUI treatment, and embryo grading. Her clinical interests include endometriosis, labor and delivery techniques, as well as preterm labor syndrome and short cervix.

Dr. Patel completed her OB/GYN residency at The Brooklyn Hospital Center in 2014 and held faculty and clinical roles at Barnabas Health and CUNY School of Medicine until 2018. She then performed deliveries and surgeries at NYP Queens Hospital as part of a private practice group. Presently, she provides care as a solo physician in a private setting as well as in academic and community hospitals, and works alongside Dr. Clarel Antoine, assisting in teaching endometrium-free uterine closure, a technique she has used since her training.

Speakers



Sanjivan Patel, MD, FAAP

Chair, Pediatrics.

Wyckoff Heights Medical Center

Dr. Sanjivan Patel is a neonatal-perinatal pediatrician with over 40 years of experience. He is the Director of Neonatal ICU at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and completed his Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine fellowship at Long Island College Hospital/Downstate University. Dr. Patel is board certified in both Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine as well as Metabolic Health and Obesity Medicine and has dedicated his career to the care of newborns and their families in Brooklyn. He was president of Brooklyn Pediatric Society (2017–2019), and also served as a president of Chapter 2 AAP (2023–2025). Presently serving at Wyckoff Heights as a Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. Over the course of his career, Dr. Patel has secured several grant fundings for cutting-edge research in the treatment of developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Prevention of Retinopathy of Premature babies (ROP) by the NIH.

Dr. Patel's tireless dedication to serving Brooklyn communities and his national impact is selfless and remarkable, his international work is unreservedly inspiring. He has worked in Central America with the TELA Group in Honduras and Pushpdeep Children's Hospital and founder of Rameshbhai Patel Vaccination Center in Gujarat.

Dr. Patel currently resides in New York with his wife and four children and two grandchildren. He is an avid traveler and practices yoga and meditation.



Tirtza Strauss, MD, FACOG, MFM

Attending, Maternal-Fetal Medicine;

Director, Prenatal Genetics.

Maimonides Medical Center

Dr. Tirtza Strauss is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine attending and Director of Prenatal Genetics at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn. She was an Anne Scheiber Scholar at the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Yeshiva University, where she graduated summa cum laude, and at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Strauss completed her Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Northwell Health (North Shore-LIJ), where she served as Academic Chief Resident and received the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Award for Excellence in Obstetrics, and completed her Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at Mount Sinai West, Icahn School of Medicine. She has authored multiple publications and presented her research nationally on prenatal genetics, gestational diabetes mellitus, and expanding the use of ultrasound on Labor and Delivery.

Sponsor

This event is funded in part by the New York State Department of Health through the Regional Perinatal Center Grant Program.

Accreditation Statement

Maimonides Medical Center is accredited by the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Maimonides Medical Center designates this LIVE ACTIVITY for a maximum of 5.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Credit Designation

Text the code provided to 828-295-1144 to get attendance credit. This code will allow the attendee to sign in via website, mobile website, iPhone app, or Android app.

Disclosure Statements

The Medical Society of the State of New York relies upon planners and faculty participants in its CME activities to provide educational information that is objective and free of bias. In this spirit and in accordance with the guidelines of MSSNY and the ACCME, all speakers and planners for CME activities must disclose any relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies whose products, devices, or services may be discussed in the content of a CME activity, that might be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest. Any discussion of investigational or unlabeled uses of a product will be identified.

The opinions, results, findings, and/or interpretations are those of the Regional Perinatal Center and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health.

None of the planners for this educational activity have relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Commercial Support

This activity is not commercially supported.

Notes

Handwriting practice lines on page 10.

Notes

Handwriting practice lines on page 11.



Symposium Evaluation

Be sure to complete the symposium evaluation using the following link or QR code:
maimo.org/matneofeedback

