

# Our Residents

## St. Joseph Hospital OB/GYN Residency

### PGY-4 Residents (Class of 2025)



#### **Leslie Carandang, MD**

**Medical School:** Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** Boston College

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I was first drawn to the large Spanish speaking population served by the Seton Women's Center, and I wanted to train at a high-volume institution with strong surgical and procedural training with a supportive residency culture and great camaraderie-all those characteristics describe St. Joe's. Plus being near the mountains was a huge draw for me.

**Career goals and interests?** I aspire to be an OB/GYN Generalist working with a large Spanish Speaking Population.



#### **Jennifer Huynh, MD**

**Medical School:** Chicago Medical School

**Undergraduate:** University of California, Los Angeles

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** Even with the virtual aspect of everything during the pandemic I felt that the residents and faculty were genuinely down to earth, fun, and supportive, which was an environment I knew I could thrive in. The diverse patient population, high volume of deliveries, and strong surgical training will help prepare me to become an outstanding generalist. The great outdoors life is a plus!

**Career goals/interests:** Working as a generalist in a diverse, underserved population. I love teaching and would like to continue working medical students. I love traveling and hope to go global health work in the future.



#### **Ann-Sophie Van Backle, DO**

**Medical School:** Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Undergraduate:** Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** The supportive culture was the main draw. Never felt more support in my training even before starting! Clinically the high volume and great surgical experience was a major draw. Also, the diverse patient population and being near all things outdoors!

**Career goals/interests:** I am interested in becoming a general OB/GYN or OB Hospitalist and work specifically with underserved populations.



#### **Jessica Warffuel, MD**

**Medical School:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Graduate:** University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Master of Public Health

**Undergraduate:** University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I chose St. Joe's because of the people, the opportunity to work with underserved populations, and the location near the Rocky Mountains. I thoroughly enjoyed every encounter during my interviews and found that St. Joe's is the ideal environment for me to grow as a resident. Also, I have always wanted to live in Denver. I am an avid rock climber, hiker, and all-around outdoor enthusiast.

**Career goals/interests:** MFM

## PGY-3 Residents (Class of 2026)



### Allan Barraza, DO

**Medical School:** Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Undergraduate:** Nova Southeastern University

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I chose St. Joe's for the outstanding patients, residents, and faculty. I easily connected with the patients as many of them are Spanish-speaking and come from backgrounds like mine. I felt especially fulfilled participating in their cases as a medical student and learning from residents and faculty who are welcoming, patient, and enjoy teaching. The team is a big family who enjoys spending time together during and after work.

**Career goals/interests:** MFM



### Marcella Israel Rocha, MD

**Medical School:** Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais-Brazil

**Undergraduate:** Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais-Brazil

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I chose Saint Joe's for their commitment to diversity, not only for providing high-quality care to underserved populations, but also for being an inclusive environment for the staff and residents.

**Career goals/interests:** General OB/GYN



### Mandy Ortiz, MD

**Medical School:** Central Michigan University College of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** University of Colorado

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I did a sub-internship at St. Joe's during my fourth year of medical school and really enjoyed it. I felt that it was a positive learning environment and was a place where residents truly supported each other.

**Career goals/interests:** I would like to become an OBGYN generalist and practice in a rural or urban underserved community.



### Andrew Tannous, MD

**Medical School:** University Colorado School of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** University of California, Santa Barbara

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I was looking for a program that provided excellent clinical and surgical training within the field. Most importantly, I wanted to surround myself with residents and faculty who are supportive, hard-working, and eager to take care of their community. I had the pleasure of witnessing this first-hand during my medical school clerkship, which reinforced my decision to become an OB/GYN

**Career goals/Interests:** Gyn Oncology

## PGY-3 Residents (Class of 2026)



### **Anissa Zimmerman, MD**

**Medical School:** Creighton University School of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** Creighton University

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I was able to experience St. Joe's during my fourth year of medical school and I loved every aspect of the program! I couldn't imagine a better fit for my future training. I was initially drawn to the program because of the large Spanish-speaking population served by the Seton Women's Center and the fact this program was community drive while still being academically minded. I got to know many of the residents and attendings and knew St. Joe's would be a supportive environment that would provide me with amazing opportunities for training.

**Career goals/Interests:** I see myself as an OB/GYN generalist

## PGY-2 Residents (Class of 2027)



### Jacqueline Anders, MD

**Medical School:** Georgetown University

**Undergraduate:** Dartmouth College

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** St. Joe's was a great fit for me because the program is tailored to my career goals and aspirations. When I spoke to the residents and faculty, they were incredibly welcoming and had glowing reviews of the camaraderie and positive learning environment. Friends I have in the area had always talked about how St. Joe's residents were surgically and clinically well-trained. Moreover, the community we serve is largely Spanish-speaking, and the St. Joe's team is passionate about health justice and advocacy. All these things made the program a perfect fit for me, and I am so grateful to be able to train here.

**Career /interests:** I am planning to become an OBGYN generalist and work with a primarily Spanish-speaking community.



### Sarena Gill, MD

**Medical School:** University of Michigan Medical School

**Undergraduate:** University of Colorado

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** The biggest factor was the program's warm, fun, and welcoming community; this was apparent because, even with virtual interviews, I felt a true connection with current residents. I loved how we shared interests outside of medicine, such as a love for exploring Colorado's natural beauty with hiking, skiing, rafting, and more.

**Career goals/interests:** Working as a generalist in Colorado with a focus on serving marginalized communities and advocating to address disparities in OBGYN patient populations.



### Sophia Khan, MD

**Medical School:** The George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences

**Undergraduate:** University of Maryland

**Why did you choose Saint Joseph Hospital?** The location of Saint Joe's in downtown Denver is what drew me initially as I could have quick and easy access to the gorgeous nature. Denver had it all for me in terms of opportunities to prioritize my wellness. In addition, I wanted to be able to use and improve on my medical Spanish through working with a Spanish-speaking population, which is a large percentage of the patients seen at the Seton Clinic. Finally, I was impressed by St. Joe's sincere focus on helping the local community in conjunction with their commitment to clinical excellence and providing evidence-based and up-to-date care.

**Career/Interests:** Generalist or MFM Fellowship



### Kim Lugo, MD

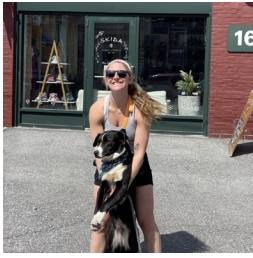
**Medical School:** Saint Louis University School of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** University of Colorado

**Why did you choose Saint Joseph Hospital?** I chose Saint Joe's because of their commitment to working with a diverse, underserved patient population. Also, the high volume, high acuity of obstetric and gynecologic patients that Saint Joe's serves aligns with my future career goals of being a full spectrum generalist. The additional exposure to dedicated rotations in minimally invasive surgery was a draw to me as well. Even with all things virtual, I was able to appreciate how close and supportive the Saint Joe's residency family was and could see myself thriving there in the future. A bonus was also Saint Joe's being located in Denver, which is in close proximity to various outdoor activities and family support.

**Career/Interests:** General OBGYN

## PGY-2 Residents (Class of 2027)



### **Liana Mathias, MD**

**Medical School:** Robert Larner College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

**Undergraduate:** Wesleyan University

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I could not stop smiling for days after my interview. I truly felt so much warmth and excitement from each person on interview day and felt so aligned with Joe's core values. I was excited by the patient population of Denver, to improve my Spanish speaking skills, to gain excellent surgical and obstetrics training, and hopefully get some good hiking and skiing in at the same time!

**Career goals/interests:** Open to anything! Right now, I am thinking generalist with an emphasis in family planning, working with underserved populations, and teaching.



## PGY-1 Residents (Class of 2028)



### Kari Anna Byrnes, MD

**Medical School:** East Tennessee State University Quillen College of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** University of Virginia

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** During a fourth-year away rotation at St. Joe's, I was easily swayed by the warmth and support of the OBGYN community. There was mutual respect between team members which created a comfortable learning environment. I was impressed with the surgical prowess of the attendings and residents, as well as their compassionate demeanor. As a mountain enthusiast, I was excited to trade the Appalachians during medical school for residency training in the Rockies! The decision to move to Denver was an easy one, and I am enthused about the skills and knowledge I will attain at St. Joe's!

**Career/interests:** I am passionate about broadening access to women's healthcare, and I plan to become a generalist serving rural communities.



### Courtney McDonald, MD

**Medical School:** University of Colorado

**Undergraduate:** University of Colorado

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I am a Colorado girl at heart. It was important to me to be near my support system during residency and to continue doing all of the fun outdoor activities I love. I did an away rotation at St Joe's and I finally understood what people meant by "look for your people!" During my rotation I found a happy, healthy, but also very hard-working group of OBGYNs at St Joe's and I couldn't be more excited to join the team.

**Career/Interests:** Generalist or MIGS fellowship. Global health career either working with refugee patients locally or out of the country.



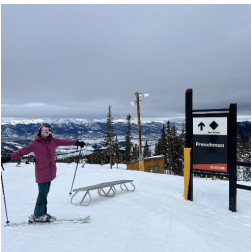
### Alexanna Nathan, MD

**Medical School:** UC San Diego School of Medicine

**Undergraduate:** University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I love everything about the program! I remember feeling so truly cared about during my interview day and that the program was just as excited about myself and the other applicants as we were them. Those values of support, joy, and enthusiasm were clear as I continued to learn more about the program, and I'm so excited to train in a program that loves their residents. The snowboarding, close friends and family, and all the great restaurants are all just icing on the cake!

**Career /interests:** I am a generalist at heart-I'm so excited about St. Joe's global health program as I hope to practice in the Pacific where there is a significant lack of resources and providers.



### Marissa Rayner, MD

**Medical School:** University of Virginia

**Undergraduate:** University of Virginia

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I initially was drawn to St. Joe's because of how supportive and inclusive the program felt and its location in Denver, which is close to family and a lot of outdoor hobbies I enjoy. The residents and faculty were so welcoming and emphasized wellness as a priority. The surgical and clinical training here is excellent, and I kept hearing so many great testimonials about the quality of training. I also really wanted to join a program with a diverse patient population inclusive of those in underserved communities and a program where I could focus on my Spanish-speaking skills – this program provides all of this and more. I'm so excited to be training here!

**Career/interests:** Generalist serving underserved populations and dedicate part of my career to global health or healthcare in remote areas of the US.

## PGY-1 Residents (Class of 2028)



### **Madison Summers, DO**

**Medical School:** Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Undergraduate:** Central Washington University

**Why did you choose St. Joseph Hospital?** I was initially drawn to this program based on the location and word of mouth from people within the field of OB/GYN - everyone I spoke to mentioned that the Saint Joe's residents were incredibly well-trained and incredibly kind. From the start of the interview, I had a special feeling about the program! I wanted to train somewhere that prioritized camaraderie and wellness among the residents while still providing state-of-the-art training, and this was a perfect fit. A huge plus is the proximity to the mountains, being outside is the best respite for me!

**Career goals/interests:** Ten years in the future, I see myself practicing as a general OB/GYN in a rural community (hopefully close to the mountains).

# Alumni

## St. Joseph Hospital OB/GYN Residency

### Class of 2024

#### **Hufriya Aderianwalla, MD**

Locum Tenens

#### **Abigail Barnes, MD**

Metropolitan OB/GYN, Denver, CO

#### **Iris Burgard, DO**

Fellowship: Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery  
University of Chicago

#### **Sarah McMahon, MD**

Advent Health Medical Group OB/GYN at Denver Tech Center, Greenwood Village, CO

#### **Annette van Swaay, DO**

Advent Health Medical Group OB/GYN at Denver Tech Center, Greenwood Village, CO

### Class of 2023

#### **Paulina Altshuler, DO**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

#### **Jania Arcia Ramos, MD**

The Women's Clinic of Northern Colorado, Fort Collins

#### **Anna Davids, MD**

Intermountain Health Central Park OB/GYN, Denver, CO

#### **Anna Newman, MD**

Intermountain Health Denver OB/GYN, Denver, CO

#### **Brandi Smith, MD**

St. Mark's OB/GYN Associates, Salt Lake City, UT



# Alumni



## St. Joseph Hospital OB/GYN

### Class of 2022

#### **Meghan Mahoney, MD**

Intermountain Health Platte Valley OB/GYN, Brighton, CO

#### **Laura Palmere, MD**

Fellowship: Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

#### **Corrie Poelman, MD**

Southcentral Foundation OB/GYN Anchorage, Alaska

#### **Sarah Rabice, MD**

Fellowship: Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery  
University of Iowa

#### **Hayley Thompson, MD**

Intermountain Health Amber Creek Clinic, Thornton, CO