Dr. L. Rebeca Rivera

General Obstetrician and Gynecologist | Richmond Hospital What does it mean to you to inspire inclusion and support gender equity?

Inspiring inclusion means taking definitive action to create and maintain a respectful, safe space for women of all diverse cultural backgrounds, socioeconomic life situations and self-identifications. This commitment requires confronting unconscious and systemic biases that impact the marginalized among us the most, notably Indigenous women as highlighted by the findings of the *In Plain Sight* report. As a person of colour and an immigrant, I am striving to address my own biases and hope to "walk the talk" in solidarity with all women in my personal and professional life.

With over 13 years of experience as an OBGYN, I consider it a privilege to support women through their most vulnerable life moments, guided by their trust in my care. To me, supporting gender equity means taking this responsibility seriously and advocating to ensure women's health care continues to be a priority within VCH. We must guarantee women equitable access to resources such as ready access to surgical care with a recognition of the unique needs of OBGYN. It also involves fostering collaboration across genders and surgical specialties and empowering women in leadership roles. I have a special interest in international women's health, and supporting gender equity is at the heart of working to ensure reproductive health is respected as a fundamental human right.

Having completed my training through medical school and residency at UBC, I am honoured to serve as a Clinical Assistant Professor at UBC Faculty of Medicine, and aspire to impart these values to future health-care professionals.



