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and

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Dr. Catherine Spong is Chief, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine and Vice Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Prior to this position she had a 23 year career at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health where she served in many capacities including as Deputy Director, Acting Director, Associate Director for Extramural Research and Director of the Division of Extramural Research, and Chief of the Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch.

Dr. Spong received her M.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) in 1991. After serving as Chief Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, she began her career at NICHD as a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow, including clinical work at Georgetown University. Then, she became a Clinical Associate and Senior Staff Fellow in NICHD's intramural research program. Among Dr. Spong's areas of expertise are maternal and child health, emphasizing prematurity, fetal complications, and improving child outcomes. One of her major research interests has been the developing fetus. She holds several patents for neuroprotective agents that help prevent fetal injury. She is a passionate advocate for inclusion in research for underrepresented groups. In 2017 she was named the Chair of the Federal Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women.

Dr. Spong is board-certified in maternal-fetal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology. She is an Editor of William's Obstetrics, Management of High Risk Pregnancy, Protocols of High Risk Pregnancy, and Stillbirth: Prediction, Prevention and Management. She has received numerous research awards, including the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine Achievement Award, the UMKC Alumnus of the Year Award, and a Surgeon General's Certificate of Appreciation for her work on prematurity. She has published more than 270 peer-reviewed papers and been featured on national television and radio, including The CBS Early Show, the Diane Rehm Show, NPR's All Things Considered, CNN, and Voice of America, discussing women's health and pregnancy topics.