

The Olson Center for Women's Health

Founded 1993

Leland Olson, MD, and his wife Dorothy had a vision to do something special in women's health back in the late 1980's. In concert with McClure Smith, MD, the Ob/Gyn chairman at that time, and John Niemann, Vice President of the University of Nebraska Foundation, the Olson Center was born on January 13, 1993. The center was made possible through a generous donation from the Olson Family Foundation. The endowment which they created, and have added to many times since then, is an ongoing contribution to women's health in Nebraska. The Olson Center is a part of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is also supported annually by the University of Nebraska Foundation through other matching gifts.

As stated in the original formation documents, the mission of the Olson Center is:

To provide a national comprehensive health science center at UNMC for women, focusing on women's health issues and new frontiers of science, medicine, and nursing practice related to health care for women.

The generosity of the Olson family is matched only by their vision to improve women's health in the region. UNMC and all Nebraskans are grateful for their service and contributions to healthcare, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is dedicated to seeing their vision through for many years to come. We are proud to have recently surpassed \$8 million dollars in research activity funded by the Olson Center! This research investment has leveraged many investigators to also obtain external funding from the National Institutes of Health and other funding entities, in our ongoing efforts to unravel the secrets of infertility, hormones, and cancer.

One major component of the Olson's vision came to fruition in October 2007 with the opening of the Olson Center for Women's Health outpatient facility on the campus of UNMC. This healthcare center has the unique distinction of being the only one of its kind nationally: combining general and specialty Ob/Gyn, internal medicine, prenatal diagnosis, physical therapy, and mammography/women's imaging in a single location. The Olson Center is one of the largest ambulatory clinic operations at Nebraska Medicine.

A national advisory committee governs the use of funds and direction of the Olson Center's endowment operations. Led by the current chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Carl Smith, its members are:

Karen Olson, MD	David Olson, MD
Nancy Olson	Gail Walling-Yanney, MD
Kendra Swanson, MD	Donald Gibbens, MD
Jennifer Larsen, MD	

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