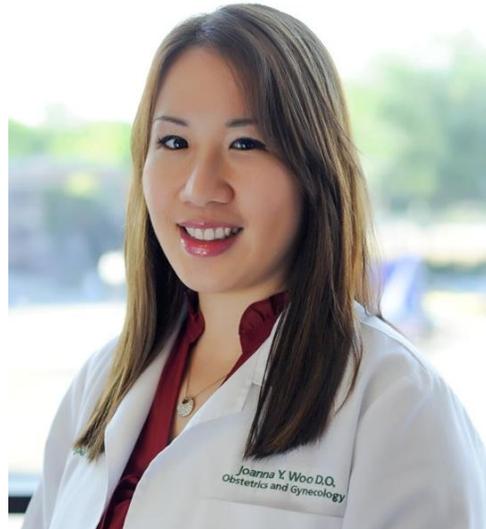


Dr. Joanna Y. Woo

Dr. Joanna Woo grew up in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, a city of nearly 7 million people including surrounding areas. She was the type of child who liked and excelled at many things. She loved music and took piano and flute lessons. She was an active member of her middle school orchestra, which won numerous awards and competitions. She also enjoyed ballet and traditional Chinese dancing and participated in many local performances. Additionally, she was also trained in Tae-Kwon-Do and earned her second degree black belt. While she excelled in school, arts, music, and sports, she had a thirst for even more opportunities which led to her decision to move to the United States to pursue her education.

In 2000, at age 15, Joanna Woo, who spoke no English, flew alone to the U.S. to attend high school at the New Hope Solebury High School (a boarding school) in the small town of New Hope, Pennsylvania. After landing at the airport, the school picked her up. She recalls the amazing and never before seen images of driving through and past large corn fields. [As they say here in the U.S., “Dorothy, you are not in Kansas anymore !”]



Joanna Y. Woo, DO

Moving to a new country at such a young age was challenging! Not only did Joanna have to learn English, she also had to quickly adapt to the culture and become independent. Joanna spent her high-school years in the small town of New Hope, Pennsylvania, which was a very different environment than the large metropolitan city (Taipei) where she had grown up. This experience has given Joanna a much more informed view of the world and its diversity, and she feels that this is why she is able to relate to different people with ease and understand the differences in people’s personal beliefs.

While in High School, Joanna helped teach her fellow students Tae-Kwon-Do, calligraphy and origami (the art of paper-folding). One of Joanna’s high school teachers, Mrs. Wappel, has become her good friend and mentor.

Mrs. Wappel says, **“I have known Joanna for more than 16 years and have had the pleasure of watching her become a successful adult. She thrives on challenges and has the utmost integrity. Not only did she excel in academics, she has always been engaged in the community and building friendships. She is compassionate, with a kind spirit and a sense of humor. Selfishly, I wished she would move back to the East Coast after her residency, but I know she will succeed wherever she goes, and Pasadena is lucky to have her.”**

Joanna continued to explore different academic areas and learned to appreciate life, animals, and nature. Amongst her myriad areas of interest, Joanna was most intrigued by the field of medicine -- not only by the scientific ability to learn about the human body, but also by the power of healing that involves more than science alone. In 2003, she enrolled as pre-med at the University of Southern California (USC), and in 2007, she earned her Bachelor’s of Arts in Health and Humanity with a minor in Nature Sciences.

While at USC, she also continued to follow her love of music and Joanna joined the world renowned Trojan Marching Band as a flute player. Being the university’s largest spirit organization, The Trojan Marching Band attended every single football game. It was during this time that Joanna saw her first football game and learned all about this great American sport! While a member of the band, Joanna had the opportunity to perform in the Pasadena Rose Parade, Rose Bowl, and even on the Great Wall of China. During her 4 years in Los Angeles, Joanna also volunteered with the Much Love Animal Rescue Organization, helping set up adoptions for rescued animals.



Joanna Woo, far right, USC Trojan Marching Band

For her medical education, Joanna moved to Arizona and in 2012, she earned her medical degree (DO) from the Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine receive special training in the musculoskeletal system, the body's interconnected system of nerves, muscles and bones, and are fully licensed physicians who practice in all areas of medicine.



Joanna Woo with her grandparents in Sedona, AZ



Medical School Graduation, with her mom and aunt

During those 4 long, hard (and hot) years of medical school, Joanna found time to volunteer and work part-time at a pregnancy clinic for uninsured poor residents. She also volunteered at the Halo Animal shelter, serving as a “foster parent” for kittens and puppies!



“Pepper”



“Mango”

Because her uncle is a practicing Ob/Gyn in Japan, Dr. Woo knew a lot about this area so she explored other areas of medicine during medical school. However, she soon realized that her calling was in Ob/Gyn, which allowed her to care for women of all ages. After experiencing four years of extremely hot summers (up to 120 degrees!), she decided to move somewhere cold for her Ob/Gyn training and chose to move to Michigan. Cold is an understatement !

Dr. Joanna Woo completed her Ob/Gyn residency at Sparrow Hospital, a very large and busy hospital in Lansing, Michigan. One of her honors was to be chosen as the **Academic Chief Resident** and in this role, she is credited with significantly improving the resident training experience by helping to get the faculty even more involved in teaching the residents.



Dr Woo (2<sup>nd</sup> row left) with L&D Nurses



Presenting a Poster at a Michigan Ob/Gyn Meeting

Dr. Woo really enjoyed working with this great group of people who were all dedicated to caring for women. But Residency is where she was trained, and in her final year there she started looking for her first real job as a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Her colleagues and staff tell us, **“We love working with Dr. Woo because she always brings a smile and positive attitude to work. She has a great bedside manner and she helps makes people feel comfortable even in scary situations. She is always considerate and kind to everyone around her. It has been a great pleasure working with Dr. Woo, and she will be missed by her ‘family’ at Sparrow Hospital.”**

While her mother still lives in Taiwan, Dr. Woo’s younger brother subsequently joined her to study in the U.S. and he now resides in Southern California as well. Because of this, her job search was focused on Southern California. Dr Woo applied for a position with Fair Oaks Women’s Health, in Pasadena, California. After learning a lot about our group and spending time with our staff she accepted a position as the fifth doctor in this busy and growing group of Ob/Gyn specialists.

Dr Woo happily moved back to Los Angeles and is again near her family. Dr. Woo is looking forwards to being able to work in partnership with the women she cares for, to individualize their care by educating, offering traditional or complementary medicine, or performing minimally invasive surgeries. She believes it is a privilege to guide women through the joys and challenges of their reproductive life cycles, from adolescence through menopause and beyond, and to empower women to make their own choices about caring for their bodies.

In her spare time, Dr. Woo enjoys hiking, baking, yoga, playing music, gardening, and volunteering at animal shelters. Dr Woo is fluent in English, Taiwanese, Mandarin Chinese and speaks some Spanish as well.

During her residency, Dr Woo acquired great surgical skills, and is quite proficient at using the Da Vinci surgical robot for laparoscopic minimally invasive surgery. Due to her busy residency training, Dr Woo has already delivered more than a thousand babies as well. We are confident that Dr. Woo has been extremely well-trained and brings a full set of well-honed Ob/Gyn skills to our practice. Fair Oaks Women’s Health is happy and proud to have Dr. Joanna Woo as part of our group!

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Bryan S. Jick, MD, FACOG  
Jennifer Y. Park, MD, FACOG  
Della J. Fong, MD, FACOG  
Michael S. Mitri, MD, Ob/Gyn  
Joanna Y. Woo, DO, Ob/Gyn  
Diane K. Guerrero, RNC, WHNP  
625 South Fair Oaks Avenue  
Suite 255, South Lobby  
Pasadena, CA 91105



[drjick@fowh.com](mailto:drjick@fowh.com)  
[drpark@fowh.com](mailto:drpark@fowh.com)  
[drfong@fowh.com](mailto:drfong@fowh.com)  
[drmitri@fowh.com](mailto:drmitri@fowh.com)  
[drwoo@fowh.com](mailto:drwoo@fowh.com)  
[www.fowh.com](http://www.fowh.com)  
Voicemail 626.696.2688  
Facsimile 626.585.0695  
Telephone 626.304.2626