First-year medical student Brianna Miner made Orange County history long before she arrived at UC Irvine this fall to study medicine.

In 1990, Miner and her three siblings became the first set of quadruplets to be conceived and born in Orange County through the use of Gamete Intrafallopian Transfer, or GIFT. The procedure involves taking sperm and eggs and implanting them directly into a woman’s fallopian tubes rather than allowing them to develop in test tubes or a laboratory dish.

Her monumental birth at UC Irvine required the assistance of more than 40 medical workers and drew media attention across the state.

Now, Miner has returned to the institution where she was born for a chance to study alongside Manuel Porto, the doctor who delivered her at UC Irvine Medical Center 23 years ago.

Although some might say Miner was destined to be a doctor at UC Irvine, she said the calling didn’t come naturally. Miner didn’t grow up wanting to be a doctor and the idea didn’t come to her in the middle of the night, she said.

SCENT THERAPY FOR AUTISM

What’s in a scent? UC Irvine researchers have discovered that stimulating the senses of autistic children — including their sense of smell — can greatly reduce symptoms of the disorder, which affects one in 88 children in the United States.

Professor Michael Leon and assistant project scientist Cynthia Woo found soothing scents such as vanilla, lavender and lemon and other types of sensory stimuli yield significant improvements compared with traditional therapies.

First-year medical student Brianna Miner returns to UC Irvine and the hospital of her birth to study medicine.
Friends and family congratulate Victoria Cerda after she receives her white physician’s coat.

More than 100 aspiring doctors from UC Irvine School of Medicine’s Class of 2017 donned physician coats at the school’s annual White Coat Ceremony at Irvine Barclay Theatre last month.

Dr. Manuel Portos shows Brianna Miner the room where he delivered her and siblings in 1990. The room used to be an operating room and is now a labor and delivery room. Dr. Manuel Porto shows Brianna Miner the room where he delivered her and siblings in 1990. The room used to be an operating room and is now a labor and delivery room. Dr. Manuel Portos shows Brianna Miner the room where he delivered her and siblings in 1990. The room used to be an operating room and is now a labor and delivery room.

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