



Ob/Gyn Inside Story

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As many of you know, David Guzick, our dean and former chair (1995-2002) of Obstetrics and Gynecology has taken the position of Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and President of the University of Florida & Shands Health System at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The following is a summary of some of the many accomplishments he achieved during his chairmanship. We are a better department because of his leadership.

In 1995 David wrote to then Dean Marshall Lichtman "Under Dr. Thiede's leadership, the Department has gained national recognition for its excellent residency training program and the quality of clinical care provided." It was on the shoulders of that gentleman and chairman for over 20 years that David Guzick accepted the position as the fourth chair in 73 years of Obstetrics and Gynecology. It often is said that "events make the man." But in this case, the successes that the Department would experience over the next 7 years were a direct result of David's leadership.

In his first Departmental Annual Report, David established achievable yet visionary goals "to promote various clinical and basic research, to train future leaders in the field as skilled practitioners and to set the standard for Women's Health care in this region." He chose to achieve those goals through consensus building, ethical conduct, a sense of responsibility and financial prudence. We all know that these goals also have been the driving forces for his 7 years as Dean. He also recognized the importance of strengthening the bonds between our community physicians and faculty, a model fostered originally by Dr. Thiede. His challenges over the next 7 years were sizeable. But his focus would be to "reinvest in existing faculty." So what were his challenges?

He had to learn the role of an active and contributing community-based clinical faculty. He encountered our long-standing tradition of a clinical faculty intimately involved and passionately committed to teaching medical students and OB/GYN residents. He demonstrated his thoughtful and careful approach to issues by first observing this hybrid model of a department and then recognized its great teaching strength. (Continued on Page 2)



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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

In OB/GYN the part-time clinical faculty not only supply an essential non-clinic population for the students and residents to work with but also link the students and residents to the real-world general practice of OB/GYN and primary women's health care.

Among the academic faculty, the Gynecology Division was non-existent. David recruited David Foster, a nationally known vulvologist, to lead that cause, later carried brilliantly by Fred Howard and now Sireesha Reddy, that

departments for Federal Funding in the U.S.

Were there black clouds during those 7 years? You betcha. Confronted with the sudden closing of Genesee Hospital, David steered most of their obstetrician/gynecologists to Highland Hospital, thus growing the maternity program from 1700 to over 3500 deliveries a year, growth that mandated new operating rooms, and increased renovation of maternity services. Today Highland Hospital and Strong Memorial

“... winds of change were felt... And a new day began.”

FORMER STUDENT UPDATES

- ◆ Patrick J. Wier, PhD has been named Senior Vice President for Worldwide Toxicology at GlaxoSmithKline.
- ◆ Tacey White, PhD who is Study Director in Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology at GlaxoSmithKline presented a paper entitled, “Disruption of Visceral Yolk Sac Proteolysis Underpins Developmental Toxicity of Multiple Catepsin Inhibitor (SB-462795) in Rodents.”
- ◆ Patte Bittner, MS was promoted to International Product Coordinator at the Consumer Products Safety Agency and is also Chair of the Public Affairs Committee of the Teratology Society.
- ◆ Steven Gilbert, PhD gave a paper on “Scientific Consensus Statement on Environmental Agents Associated with Neurodevelopmental Disorders.”

now enjoys an eight-member generalist group, a regional fellowship in minimally invasive surgery, an ACGME recognized fellowship in Pelvic Floor Disorders, and national recognition in chronic pelvic pain, vulvar disease and incontinence.

Reproductive Endocrinology and Maternal Fetal Medicine needed to expand their clinical and national images. We now have NIH funding in Reproductive Endocrinology, and regional recognition of our preimplantation genetics. Meanwhile our Maternal Fetal Medicine group canvasses the region with their patient referrals and ultrasound network, while often having up to 10 major presentations at each of our national society meetings.

Our research budget in 1995 was \$1,574,114. By 2002 it had more than doubled to \$3,494,018 and that linear growth has continued unabated, due in part to David's continued support of our Departmental research efforts. We now rank among the top 10 Ob/Gyn

hospital share nearly equal delivery numbers but have 61% of the market share of Monroe County.

Even as our clinical and research reputations were growing, so was our national reputation under David's direction to guide our residency to be competitive with any of the best. He chose Diane Hartman to lead our residency from 1997 until 2001, and she did, to national recognition, at which point Ruth Anne Queenan assumed the helm. The one statement that I have heard repeatedly, said in a complimentary manner at national education meetings simply is “What is Rochester doing now?” And Diane now has become the chair of the RRC, an amazing trajectory that David envisioned from the start.

And then in 2002, on a single day in early July, winds of change were felt. David got up from his desk and moved to the Dean's office, I got up and moved to David's office, and Eva Pressman, moved into my office as director of MF. And a new day began.

WELCOME ADAM GRIFFIN!

The Division of Reproductive Endocrinology is pleased to announce that Dr. Adam Griffin will be joining the division this summer and will be seeing new patients in August 2009. Dr. Griffin is familiar to many in the area as he completed his residency at the University of Rochester in June 2006. While a resident at Strong, Dr. Griffin was awarded the Dr. William Clay award, the Medical School Student teaching award, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching award twice, the Urogynecology award, The Dr. Curtis Lund award, the Jerome Rudolf award, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) Resident surgery award and the APGO Medical Education Foundation Scholar award. Quite a list in the 4 years of his residency!



He went on to a fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital where he has excelled in his surgical education and continued to distinguish himself as an outstanding teacher and investigator. He was awarded the Reproductive Endocrinology teaching award, and an NIH T32 grant for his research characterizing amniotic fluid-derived stem cells. He has also been awarded an Expanding the Boundaries Research grant to investigate public opinion regarding the status of human embryos.

Dr. Griffin joins the Reproductive Endocrinology bringing a unique approach to fertility-sparing surgery with application of the da Vinci robotic system to surgical care of infertility. He will also be associate director of the Advanced Pelvic Surgery fellowship under Dr. Fred Howard. He has a strong interest in *in vitro* fertilization and will be helping to set up an oocyte freezing program, principally aimed to assist cancer patients with difficult fertility choices as they face treatment for their cancer. We are excited with the additional strengths that Dr. Griffin brings to the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and look forward to a bright future as the division expands its array of fertility services.

WELCOME EMILY BARRETT!



Emily S. Barrett, Ph.D. is a Research Assistant Professor in the Reproductive Epidemiology Research Group in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Her research focuses on life course health development, specifically how pre-conception, prenatal, and early postnatal development can shape health trajectories through the lifespan. She also studies ways in which this research can be applied to improving health policy and systems. Emily is excited to join the National Children's Study (NCS) and the Infant Development and Environment Study (TIDES) teams at the University of Rochester and is looking forward to helping with the establishment of the new Center for Women's Health and the Environment.

Before coming to the University of Rochester, Emily was a post-doctoral fellow at UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities. She holds a PhD in Biological Anthropology from Harvard University, where her doctoral research focused on determinants of reproductive function in Norwegian women, particularly factors impacting ovarian steroid hormone levels.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK TO OUR 2009 CHIEF RESIDENTS



CLASS OF 2009

(left to right)

Back Row:

Amy Zastrow, Amy Benjamin-Pratt,
Sradha Prativadi, Stephanie Ahmed

Front Row:

Anita Gandhi, Kristin Knight,
Marcy Mulconry, Camille Barnes

RESIDENT PICNIC AND ROAST, BANQUET AND AWARDS

The annual Hello/Goodbye Picnic and Roast were held at the Burgundy Basin Inn on Thursday, June 25 where residents and their families as well as faculty and staff celebrated our incoming interns and our outgoing chief residents. The Chief Resident Commencement Banquet was held at Casa Larga on the following evening. The chief residents received their residency certificates, and department awards were presented.

The Curtis J. Lund Awards for meritorious scientific papers were awarded to **Abigail Tucker, MD**, 3rd place; **Yekaterina Rabkin, MD**, 2nd place, and **Jocelyn Vardo, DO**, 1st place.

The Ward L. Ekas Award established in 1968, in recognition of the resident who has demonstrated characteristics of leadership among his/her peers. The award was presented to **Kristin Knight, MD**.

The Jerome H. Rudolph Award established in 1981, in recognition of the Ob/Gyn resident who has best demonstrated the personal qualities that distinguished the late Dr. Jerome H. Rudolph—a warm, compassionate, skilled physician whose untiring efforts on behalf of his patients resulted in an immense following of devoted friends and grateful families. This year the award was presented to **Marcy Mulconry, MD**.

The George C. Trombetta Award established in 1988, in recognition of the Ob/Gyn resident who has consistently demonstrated excellence in teaching of medical students and fellow residents. **Lily Tsai, MD** was the recipient of this award.

The William Clay Award established in 1995, in recognition of the intern who has demonstrated outstanding skills as a teacher and compassionate physician as exemplified by the life and career of Dr. William Clay, Jr. This year's recipient is

Lisbeth Murphy, MD.

The Richard E. Fullerton Award established in 1995 in recognition of the second year Ob/Gyn resident who has best demonstrated the outstanding skills as a teacher and compassionate physician, as exemplified by the life and career of Dr. Richard E. Fullerton. **Brianne Brandt-Griffith, MD** was the recipient of this award.

The Gilford Woodrow Wilson Memorial Award established in 1999, in recognition of the resident who has consistently displayed the compassion to his or her patients that was displayed towards Fletch and Hollis Wilson during Gilford's life. **Sradha Prativadi, MD** was presented with this award.

The Faculty Awards were established in 1973 by the interns and residents in the Department of Ob/Gyn, in recognition of a faculty member for his/her excellence in teaching and his/her interest in the professional development of the house staff. This year the awards went to **J. Steven Burkhart, MD** (Highland Hospital) and **Julie C. Sandruck, MD** (Strong Memorial Hospital).

The Oncology Resident Award in recognition of the Obstetrics-Gynecology Resident who has demonstrated high achievement in Gynecologic Oncology on the CREOG In-Training Examination. **Amy Zastrow, MD** was the recipient of the award.

The Urogynecology Award in recognition of the third resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology who has demonstrated outstanding understanding and ability in the treatment of women with incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. This year two residents were recognized for their abilities, **Kathryn Miles, MD** and **Jocelyn Vardo, DO**.

RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY

The Resident Research Day was held on Thursday, May 14. The morning began with the 29th Annual Rudolph Lecture. This year's Rudolph lecturer was John Steege, MD, Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Director of the Division of Advanced Laparoscopy and Pelvic Pain at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Steege's lecture topic was *Surgery and Gynecologic Pain: Cause of it; Treating it*. Following the morning's research presentations, Dr. Steege was also available to oversee the resident case presentations.

Following the Rudolph Lecture, awards were presented as listed below:

AAGL Excellence in Endoscopic Procedures Award and **The Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons Resident Award** presented annually to the chief resident who has special excellence in endoscopic procedures, were presented to **Anita Gandhi, MD** and **Sraddha Prativadi, MD**, respectively.

The 2009 APGO Excellence in Teaching Award was given to **Michael Flynn, MD**.

The CREOG National Faculty Award was given to **Loralei Thornburg, MD**.

The Obstetrical Perinatology Award was established in 1982 to recognize the ob/gyn nurse and resident who have demonstrated interest, compassion, and a progressive attitude toward the care of complicated obstetrical patients. This year's awards were presented to **Allyson Bailey Farchione, RN** and **Kathryn Miles, MD**.

Five third year residents presented their research project reports as listed below:

- ◆ Abigail Tucker, MD, *Evaluation of predisposing factors for periumbilical mass in ovarian malignancy: Exploring Sister Mary Joseph's nodule*
- ◆ Yekaterina Rabkin, MD, *Long-term opioid use in patients with chronic pelvic pain*
- ◆ Showieb A Shuja, MD, *Inflammatory markers in PCOS adolescents before and after intervention with metformin or placebo*
- ◆ Joycelyn Vardo, DO, *Elective labor induction in nulliparous women and risk of cesarean delivery*
- ◆ Olufunmilayo Odunuga, MD, MPH, *Menstrual cycle frequency and the age of natural menopause in women with PCOS*

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE NEW INTERN CLASS TO YOU



OB/GYN INTERNS 2009/2010

(left to right)

Back Row:

Brandy Becker, Holly Stevens,
Christopher Schwartzburg,
Natalie Whaley

Front Row:

Jennifer Myers, Susan Bradford,
Mara Semel, Leigh Berven

HOW DOES NIH DEFINE “NEW INVESTIGATOR”?

- ◆ A “new” investigator may not have successfully competed as a PD/PI of most research grants.
- ◆ PIs who did not initially compete for a major research grant but were later designated as PD/PI are still considered “new.”
- ◆ A new investigator who is within ten years of completing the terminal research degree or is within ten years of completing medical residency.
- ◆ ORPA strongly encourages New Investigators, particularly Early Stage Investigators to apply for R01s.
- ◆ New investigator status applies only to R01s.
- ◆ New investigators who are unsuccessful in an initial R01 submission may shorten the time to their next review (if they can address the concerns in the Summary Statement in that time frame).
- ◆ For multiple PD/PI applications, **all** PD/PIS must meet the Early Stage Investigator requirements.

For more information on New Investigator and Early Stage Investigator status, please visit: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/

CONGRATULATIONS!

GRANTS

- ◆ Shanna Swan received a grant from NIEHS to help support the Researching Women’s Environmental Health Workshop which is part of the Rochester Women’s Health Week September 13 – 19.
- ◆ Rich Miller received an R03 from NICHD to study “Nanoparticles in the Human Placenta: Toxicokinetics.”
- ◆ Vivian Lewis has begun a clinical trial with Wyeth to evaluate changes in mammographic breast density associated with the use of certain medications.

HONORS

- ◆ Anne Tedrow and Ann Partridge received their “25 years of service” certificates for their continued service to the University.
- ◆ Nancy Stanwood was selected to serve on the Executive Committee for Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health.
- ◆ Kathy Hoeger graduated in May with her MPH in Clinical Investigation.
- ◆ Kathy Hoeger was an invited lecturer at the British Endocrine Society Annual Meeting in Harrogate, UK in March.
- ◆ The work that Chris Stodgell and Louisa Bennetto are doing on taste, smell and feeding behavior in autism was featured at President Seligman’s Garden party as one of the innovative lines of research being conducted at the University.
- ◆ Shanna Swan’s paper “Decrease in anogenital distance among male infants with prenatal phthalate exposure” was chosen as the *Environmental Health Perspectives* paper of the year.

PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ Amber Rinderknecht was selected to present in the Student/Post-Doctoral Fellow Platform Session at the Meeting of the Teratology Society on “Nanoparticles and the Maternal-Fetal

Barrier: Do They Cross?” She was also selected to be the recipient of the Teratology Society Student Travel and the Eli Lilly Women and Minorities Award.

- ◆ Chris Stodgell was an invited speaker on “Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors for Autism Spectrum Disorders” in the Teratology Society’s President’s Symposium on Autism.
- ◆ Rich Miller was an invited speaker on “Placental Transfer of Drugs and Infectious Agents” at the Teratology Society’s Public Affairs Symposium. He also moderated the symposium on research as part of the OTIS meeting.

PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Dan Grace, Lorelei Thornburg, Angela Grey, Tulin Ozcan, and Eva Pressman published an article in *Prenatal Diagnosis* entitled “Training for percutaneous umbilical blood sampling during Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship in the United States.”
- ◆ Lorelei Thornburg, Marcy Mulconry, Annalisa Post, Amanda Carpenter, Daniel Grace and Eva Pressman published an article entitled “Fetal nuchal translucency thickness evaluation in the overweight and obese gravida” in *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*.
- ◆ Lorelei Thornburg, Kathryn Miles, Monique Ho and Eva Pressman published an article entitled “Fetal anatomic evaluation in the overweight and obese gravida” in *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology*.
- ◆ Rick Stahlhut, Wade Welshons, and Shanna Swan published an article in *Environmental Health Perspectives* entitled “Bisphenol A data in NHANES suggest longer than expected half-life, substantial nonfood exposure, or both.” For this publication, Rick Stahlhut received the Robert A. Infurna Award for the best scientific publication by a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Environmental Medicine.

ORA FLASH

NIH CHANGES TO PEER REVIEW AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

In the latest update from NIH, several important changes were made to the Peer Review System. These changes are outlined below.

- ◆ Enhanced review criteria based on: Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment
 - New scoring system—9 point scale – 1=Exceptional, 9=Poor
 - Will be implemented for FY10 funding consideration and ARRA opportunities
- ◆ Structured critiques which are designed to: decrease variability, increase quality of information in critiques, be more succinct, better organized, and ensure that reviewers address all criteria and considerations. The comments will be bulleted.
- ◆ Changes to three parts of the application (January 2010):
 - Biographical sketch
 - Personal statement
 - Publications limited to 15: 5 most recent, 5 best, 5 most relevant to application
 - Shorter Research Plans
 - Specific Aims – 1 page
 - Research Strategy (includes “old” Background & Significance, Research Design & Methods, Preliminary Studies/Progress Report) R01 – 12 pages, R21 – 6 pages
 - Introduction – 1 page
 - Resources will now include a statement about the Environment which must address how scientific environment will contribute to probability of success of the grant, etc.

For more information on enhancing peer review see <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/>



“NIH Applications will have new format requirements starting January 2010.”

GRANT FUNDING UPDATES

NIH FISCAL YEAR 2009 FUNDING

For fiscal year 2009 funding, NIH received a total of \$30.4 billion (an increase of 3.2% from FY 2008). They intend to fund 9800 new and competing renewal grant programs.

AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT FUNDING:

- ◆ There is about \$10 billion for NIH to spend within the next two years (\$8.2 billion for extramural funding). This is in addition to NIH’s “regular” budget.
- ◆ This funding requires recipients to account for, track, monitor, report on, provide for audit of, and closeout ARRA funding separately from non-ARRA funds.
- ◆ All ARRA awards will include a banner at the top of the NIH Notice of Award
- ◆ Special ARRA terms and conditions can be found here: http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/NIH_HHS_ARRA_Award_Terms.pdf



OB/GYN @ URM

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry is a leader in patient care, investigative research, and obstetric education. The Faculty is dedicated to promoting excellence in all areas that support women's health.

The Department is proud to offer care to our patients by physicians who were ranked among the nation's best in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Hospitals list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Rochester Women's Health Week is September 13 – 19!
- The next issue of *Ob/Gyn Inside Story* will be published in September. If you have something to include, please email Rebecca Rowley at rebecca_rowley@urmc.rochester.edu



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COMMUNITY NEWS

FACULTY DEPARTURES:

William Phipps will be joining the practice of Reproductive Medicine and Infertility Associates in Minnesota in July.

Anjali Martinez will be finishing her Endoscopy Fellowship effective 6/30/09 and has accepted a position at George Washington.

Dan Grace will be finishing his Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine in June and will be joining Unity Health.

FACULTY PROMOTIONS:

Eva Pressman was promoted to Professor effective 6/1/09.

C. Jeanne Peterson was promoted to Associate effective 4/1/09.

NEW FELLOW APPOINTMENTS:

Kristin Knight will start as the new Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow effective 7/1/09.

Amy Benjamin-Pratt will start as the GYN Endoscopy Fellow effective 7/13/09.

Varuna Raizada will start as the new Urogyn Fellow effective 7/1/09.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS:

Emily Barrett will be joining the Research Division as Research Assistant Professor effective 7/1/09.

Adam Griffin will be joining the REIU Division as Assistant Professor effective 8/1/09.

Elizabeth Heavey will be joining the Midwifery Division as Clinical Associate effective 7/1/09.

Katrina Nicandri will be joining the OB/GYN Division as Assistant Professor effective 8/17/09.

Sajcena Thomas will be joining the GYN Oncology Division as Assistant Professor effective 9/1/09.

MARRIAGES:

Kelly Quartieri and Kevin Chandler were married on Saturday, 6/6/09!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

The faculty and staff of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are proud of the work we do in service to the community in caring for women throughout the lifespan. Donations in support of our program are key to our success. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today.

Yes, I would like to donate funds payable to the Dept. of OB/GYN for the following purpose: (please mail to the attention of Carol Shay Acomb, Program Administrator, Dept. of OB/GYN, 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 668, Rochester, NY 14642).

_____ Joseph R. Scibetta Endowment

_____ Research work in Reproductive Health and the Environment

_____ Clinical Care of the Underserved

_____ Other: Please specify: _____

Amount of Donation: _____