



Ob/Gyn Inside Story

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

A driving force in the health care debate is the challenge to seek creative methods to bring attention to health care for women who are in large part insured, yet may not participate in their own health care. To successfully meet this challenge, we needed to identify the key stakeholders. They are the community of care providers, the scientific community, and the public.

To accomplish this daunting task, our Obstetric and Gynecologic Department at URMC, partnering with Mayor Duffy and the Rochester City Government, developed a full week of events to honor women's health. These efforts led to Mayor Duffy naming this week officially as **Rochester Women's Health Week**.

The week began with a clinical post graduate teaching day at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center on the Uniqueness of Women's Health, followed the next day by a scientific day-long seminar at URMC on environmental chemicals and their effects upon women's health, then WXXI's successful public Speaking for Women's Health, again at the Convention Center. The week culminated by a Women's Health Screening Fair that we held under a 100x60 foot tent at the Rochester Public Market on Saturday, September 19. This unique screening fair offered hands-on care to a wide sector of the community by testing for asthma, AIDS/HIV, bone (osteoporosis), cardiac disease, dental abnormalities, depression, diabetes, glaucoma, kidney disease, lead exposure, skin cancer and smoking cessation. One hundred seventy (170) health care volunteers provided the direct screening care. We insisted that physicians and mid-level providers be on hand to provide assistance, answer questions, and offer guidance.

The major sponsors besides the City of Rochester and URMC were Wegmans, M & T Bank, MVP Health, and Jim Boyle of Brighton Securities.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Cancer Survivor's Fertility Benefit Evening on October 16—see page 3!



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

In a four hour period, health care volunteers provided direct screening for over 250 women. The health issues that we identified by this unique form of health outreach were shocking. Seventy (70) of the women were hypertensive (>140/90 mmHg BP), over half by BMI were defined as overweight or obese; and yet most of them had health insurance.

We did not restrict the number of

ominous story. Thirty women were found to need treatment for severe dental caries. One pregnant woman and her three children had very high lead levels. Five women had undiagnosed glaucoma. Of the 70 hypertensive women, two had dangerously high values, one who also had chest pain that required immediate attention.

It is apparent that we have identified a novel and important new venue for

“The health issues that we identified...were shocking.”

UPCOMING RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Held in the Thiede Room (2-2355)

- ◆ 10/5 12:00-1:00pm
Steve Hammes,
M.D., Ph.D.
- ◆ 10/9 7:30 -8:30am
Craig Jordan,
PhD
- ◆ 10/16 7:30-8:30am
Steve Goldman,
MD, PhD
- ◆ 10/30 7:30-8:30am
Chris Stodgell,
PhD
- ◆ 11/9 12:00-1:00pm
Clinical Labs
and Clinical
Trials
- ◆ 12/7 12:00-1:00pm
Adam Griffin,
M.D.

screens that each participant could attend. Consequently, while 91 women used no more than two screening activities, 50 attended three screening sites, 32 used four, and 41 underwent five to 10 different types of health screens.

Individual stories from each of the screening participants tell even a more

providing health care to women of our community. We will be repeating Rochester Women's Health Week each year and am pleased that it was so successful in this, our first attempt.

WELCOME SAJEENA THOMAS!



We are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Sajeena Thomas to the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. Dr. Thomas, an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia, received her medical degree from Johns Hopkins. She completed her residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Washington University, and her fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Minnesota. She is the recipient of a Berlex Junior Faculty Foundation Award, among other honors.

Please join us in welcoming Sajeena to our faculty.

WELCOME RACHEL WICKS!

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the Department of Ob/Gyn now has a dedicated major gift officer from the Department of Advancement. Rachel Wicks, our new Director of Advancement comes to the University of Rochester Medical Center with more than 25 years of successful Development experience in the greater Rochester community. Rachel's previous Development experience includes the Jewish Home Foundation, Planned Parenthood and the United Way. She holds a Master of Public Administration and has earned her Certified Fundraising Executive credential (CFRE).



Rachel's primary role is to partner with the Department of Ob/Gyn to raise private philanthropic dollars to advance our mission of quality clinical care, research and education. Her work will include:

- ◆ Working closely with faculty to help identify and refer grateful patients with the capacity and interest to support special projects or unrestricted needs.
- ◆ Reaching out to alumni locally and nationally to match their philanthropic interest and desires with needs of the department.
- ◆ Following up with current donors to let them know how much their gift is appreciated and how it is being used to benefit women's health.
- ◆ Seeking out prospective donors, community-wide and nationally, who may have an interest and ability to support major department initiatives.

We are fortunate to have a professional with Rachel's experience and knowledge. She will be an asset in raising funds needed to better serve our patients, educate residents and providers, and engage in ground breaking research.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Friday, October 16th Strong Fertility Center is hosting a fundraising benefit for CARE (childbearing after recovery) after cancer to benefit cancer survivors. This will be a wine tasting and silent auction. Tickets are \$35. For information call 487-3375 or see our flyer: <http://urmc.rochester.edu/fertility-center/documents/InvitationFinal.pdf>



COMMUNITY

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Colby Previte was promoted to Assistant Professor effective 8/1/09.

Marit Sheffield was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor effective 7/1/09.

As of October 1st Dr. Vivian Lewis will take on the additional roles of Acting Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity; Acting Deputy to the President

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Marcy Mulconry joined Genesee Valley OB/GYN effective 8/1/09.

Sraddha Prativadi joined Finger Lakes Women's Health effective 7/11/09.

Richard Stahlhut has been appointed Research Assistant Professor as of October 1.

BIRTHS

Danielle Durie and her husband, Craig, welcomed Michaela Aubrey born on June 6, 2009.

Amy Benjamin-Pratt and her husband, Andrew, welcomed Eleanor Kathryn born on May 3, 2009.

Michele and Curtis Burtner welcomed their son, Rowan Nelson, on 8/6/09.

CONGRATULATIONS!

PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Miranda Harris-Glocker, Lynda Kochman, David Guzick, and Kathy Hoeger's article entitled "Improvement in Quality of Life Questionnaire Measures (PCOSQ) in Obese Adolescent Females with PCOS treated with Lifestyle Changes and Oral contraceptives, with or without Metformin" will be published in Fertility and Sterility.
- ◆ Anna McNanley and Gunhilde Buchsbaum published an article in Journal of Pelvic Medicine and Surgery entitled, "Diagnostic Evaluation for Fecal Incontinence."
- ◆ Anna McNanley and Gunhilde Buchsbaum's article "TVT or TOT? When to avoid retropublic trocar passage" was accepted for publication in International Urogynecology Journal.
- ◆ Shawn Murphy is an author on a paper entitled "Decreased MHC class II expression in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma does not correlate with CpG methylation of CIITA promoters III and IV" that was accepted in Leukemia and Lymphoma.
- ◆ Shanna Swan published three papers in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences's special edition on plastics. The first is entitled "Phthalates and other additives in plastics: human exposure and associated health outcomes" The second is "Plastics, the environment and human health: current consensus and future trends." The third is entitled, "Our plastic age."
- ◆ Shawn Murphy published an article in Immunology entitled, "The immunogenicity of L1210 lymphoma

clones correlates with their ability to function as antigen-presenting cells."

- ◆ Shanna Swan published "Residential Exposure to Traffic and Spontaneous Abortion" in Environmental Health Perspectives.

PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ Dr. Kathy Hoeger has been invited to speak at the Peacock Forum in Istanbul on "Risk Prevention verses reality in PCOS".
- ◆ Shawn Murphy taught in the 2009 Human Placenta Biology workshop at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario this summer.

GRANTS

- ◆ Shawn Murphy's grant entitled "Immune gene regulation in trophoblast cells" was funded by NICHD.
- ◆ Shanna Swan was awarded a grant by NICHD to study, "Prenatal Bisphenol A and Sexually Dimorphic Neurodevelopment"

STUDENTS AND STAFF

- ◆ REI has new staff member Kristy Low who replaces Lynne Sturnick
- ◆ Shawn Murphy has a new PhD student, Meghan Bushway, who joined his laboratory this spring, and will be pursuing her PhD degree there.
- ◆ Shanna Swan has a new PhD student, Lauren Parlett who joined the group in July and will be doing her dissertation on Shanna's research.

ORA FLASH

On September 16th, in conjunction with the Center for Community Health, the OB/GYN department hosted the first annual **Researching Women's Environmental Health (RWEH)** workshop. The workshop drew over 90 researchers, clinicians, and community leaders from across Rochester and beyond with a common interest in better understanding how environmental chemicals may affect our health. It featured a full day of activities highlighted by presentations from leading researchers in the field and targeted discussion groups on how to best translate environmental health research into messages for broader audiences. The proceedings opened with a keynote address by Dr. Tracey Woodruff, Director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Woodruff gave an overview of the many ways in which chemicals in our environment may have profound effects on our fertility as well as simple things we can all do to reduce our exposures. URM's own Drs. Jim Campbell (Pediatrics), Bernard Weiss (Environmental Medicine), and Paige Lawrence (Environmental Medicine) followed with engaging presentations on their own active research on major topics in women's environmental health.

The RWEH workshop introduced a new element to the traditional scientific conference by incorporating an evaluation of how successful the speakers' efforts to translate their research were. Conference organizers Drs. Shanna Swan, Emily Barrett, Nancy Chin, and Shaw-Ree Chen are now working with survey data collected to understand how the audience responded to the presentations and whether audience members plan to act on information shared during the talks. They plan to follow-up with workshop participants in 6-8 weeks to see whether any of the presentations had long-lasting impacts on their beliefs and behaviors regarding women's environmental health. These findings will also help to shape next year's RWEH, planned for the week of September 11, 2010.



Miranda contributes [most] to the humanistic development of medical students...

EDUCATION CORNER

Third year resident, Miranda Harris-Glocker, MD, was selected, by a vote of the 4th year medical school class, as a resident who most "contributes to the humanistic development of medical students". Dr. Harris-Glocker was recognized at the Opening Convocation of the School of Medicine and Dentistry on September 15, 2009. She was one of six recipients. This was the second time Dr. Harris-Glocker has received this award.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, sponsor of these awards, advocates the sustaining of human values in the education and practice of physicians. Reasoning that examples set by residents are the principal determinants of whether these human values are continued or not through the clinical years, the Gold Foundation has established a program to honor residents whose humanistic examples have inspired students.



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.



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OBITUARY

DR. PAUL R. KUCERA

It is with great sadness that we share the death of Paul Kucera. Paul was in our residency program from 1979-1983. His obituary is listed below:

Paul R. Kucera, M.D., 55 years young, of Portland and Salem, died April 14, 2009, at the Providence Portland Cancer Center in Portland, with his wife and children by his side, after a personal battle with cancer. Paul was born Oct. 28, 1953, to Bonnie Biedron and Albert Kucera in Chicago. He grew up in Niles, Ill., and graduated from Maine East High School with honors in 1971. He attended the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and biology. He then attended the University of Illinois, Chicago Medical School and was in the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and also the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He received his M.D. from there in 1979. He began his internship and residency at the University of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital, in Rochester, N.Y., in obstetrics and gynecology. He finished his residency in 1983 and went on to do a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Irvine in Irvine, Calif. While in Rochester, Paul met Deborah Shafer and they were married Aug. 29, 1981. Once he completed his fellowship in 1986, Paul moved his young family to Portland, where he took a position at Oregon Health & Science University. He worked at OHSU from July 1986 until June 2001 and then went into private practice in Salem from July 2001 until October 2006. In November 2006, Paul took a position at Providence Portland Medical Center as their gynecologic oncologist until his death. Paul was a very dedicated physician and surgeon, and loved his work and caring for his patients. He will be missed greatly by everyone whose life he touched. Paul believed in hard work and loved learning new things all of the time. He loved photography and documented as much as he could on film. A camera could always be found on him no matter where he was. Paul also loved woodworking and loved to accumulate as many tools as he could. He believed there was nothing like having the right tools for the job at hand. Paul is survived by his wife, Deborah; son, Michael Kucera; and daughter, Laura Kucera, all of Salem; mother, Bonnie Kucera of Portland; and many extended family and friends. He was deeply loved and will be missed greatly by all. Paul was preceded in death by his father, Albert Kucera in 1990; and his brother, Robert A. Kucera in 2000. Memorial contributions can be made to the Paul R. Kucera M.D. Memorial Fund, c/o Providence Portland Medical Foundation, 4805 N.E. Glisan St., Portland, OR 97213. Contributions can also be made with a credit card by calling 503-215-6186. You must specify "Paul R. Kucera M.D. Memorial Fund" on your check or when calling.



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: _____