



Texas Two Step

Serving ACOG members in Texas

December 2010



Chair's report

Amy E. Young, MD

This is my first time addressing you in my new role as chair of District

XI. For those of you who don't know me, I have practiced general ob-gyn at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston my entire career. I was responsible for building the division of ob-gyn at the college and ran the residency program for a number of years. Through those roles, I am keenly aware of the difficulties surrounding reimbursement as well as the challenges to adequately fund academic education and training programs.

For the last two years, I have acted as service chief at the Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston, so I am also deeply embedded in the provision of care for indigent patients and understand the barriers to health care access for this population. Additionally, I am a wife and a mother of three, so I appreciate the balancing act that we perform between our professional and personal lives.

All of us are facing times of cost containment and calls to increase efficiencies, which often result in the need to streamline and reduce waste. I have just returned from a strategic planning session at the ACOG Executive Board Meeting where the 2012 budget was approved. Much of the strategic plan of The College and Congress is directed toward cost savings. However, services to members will not be minimized.

Future communications may look a little different though, in that more of our paper products will be replaced with electronic or downloadable resources.

At the district level, we have been getting organized and energized to address the advocacy and education needs of our state. We have established an office in Austin and are working hard with Jill M. Johnson, our new executive director, and Karen O'Briant, manager of our Annual District Meetings, section meetings, membership, and Junior Fellow activities, to make it functional as we enter our 82nd legislative session.

By the time you read this, we will have had our Legislative Committee meeting to set our agenda and plan of attack. High-priority items this session include the establishment of maternal mortality review and efforts to institute standardized birth statistic reporting. As the state works to manage its budget deficits, reimbursement issues, specifically cuts in Medicaid and Medicare (which directly influence patient access and quality of care), will once again be on the table.

At our 2011 Interim Advisory Council Meeting in February, we will host a strategic planning session. Lisa M. Hollier, MD, District XI vice chair, and I would like to develop a five-year strategy for the district, focusing on three major areas that parallel the ACOG agenda:

- ▶ **Education** of our membership
- ▶ **Practice** of ob-gyn in Texas

- ▶ **Advocacy** for both our patients and ourselves, so we can continue to provide the necessary care for the women of Texas

Part of this strategic plan will be to continue to develop the Women's Health Interdisciplinary Summit, which we hosted for the first time in October 2009. The summit brought stakeholders in women's health in Texas together to strategize for educational and legislative programs to improve women's health. We worked diligently throughout this past year on our collaborative agenda to address preterm birth and have supported the March of Dimes' initiative to reduce elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks of gestation.

The active and continued collaboration of these stakeholders to drive improvements in women's health is critical. Other priorities that we hope to work on this year include continuous health coverage for women of reproductive age and reduction of teenage pregnancy in Texas.

There are many opportunities to become involved in ACOG at the national, district, and section levels. If you would like to take a more active role in our organization, please feel free to contact me at ayoung@bcm.edu or our new executive director, Ms. Johnson, at info@tx.obgyn.org or 512-473-ACOG (2264). I look forward to serving as your district chair, and I hope to see you at our Annual District Meeting, planned for October 14–16, 2011, in Plano. ♦

Junior Fellow news

Luke A. Newton, MD, District XI Junior Fellow chair

The Texas Junior Fellows have now existed as part of District XI for three years. This has allowed many new leaders to emerge and develop and, like many three-year-olds, carve out distinct identities and personalities.

The identity of our Junior Fellows is best seen in the following three areas: service, student recruitment, and advocacy. For our first Texas-wide service project, we worked together to collect almost 10,000 diapers to donate to local women's shelters. The project helped define us as a group committed to serving women with the greatest needs.

Additionally, we have developed a student mentorship program called FROGs (Future Residents of Obstetrics and Gynecology) that we believe will help recruit the best students into ob-gyn and keep much of our home-grown talent in Texas.

Finally, what I consider to be a potentially defining project for District XI Junior Fellows is the Junior Fellow Advocacy

Day that we are currently planning for the spring of 2011. The time is right for this event. Junior Fellows, along with district Fellows, are becoming more aware of the role we need to play in developing policies that will affect our specialty and patients. We look forward to reporting back on our first advocacy day, which we hope can be improved and repeated annually.

We are very thankful for District XI's support of our activities as we create our identity as future leaders of our state, specialty, and ACOG.

In closing, I'd like to recognize R. Moss Hampton, MD, Section 1 chair and regional chair of ob-gyn at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at the Permian Basin, Odessa, TX, who was awarded the District XI Educator of the Year Award by the Junior Fellows for 2010. ♦

Ask ABOG: Dr. Kenneth L. Noller answers your questions

Do you have questions about the maintenance of certification (MOC) process? The District XI *Texas Two Step* is here to help. Kenneth L. Noller, MD, MS, former ACOG president and current director of evaluation for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG), has agreed to respond to your questions about the MOC process through our newsletter. If there are any questions you'd like answered, please direct them to distxi@hotmail.com. We may feature them in upcoming issues.

Question: From what material will the questions on the written MOC test be taken? Do you recommend any particular study guide for help in preparing for the test?

Dr. Noller: In the next issue of the "MOC Bulletin," published each year on the ABOG website, we will address your question so that all Fellows will have an idea of what to study. We suggest that the *ACOG Compendium* is the best study guide. While not all questions will be from that material (though we have not yet written the test), many will be. The questions will be about problems commonly seen by a practicing ob-gyn. We are also planning to publish a practice test on our website in 2012.

Question: I am a reproductive endocrinologist. I haven't practiced obstetrics or gynecology for more than 20 years and have no plans to in the future. Why can't I just take the reproductive endocrinologist written test instead of having to take the ob-gyn written test as well?

Dr. Noller: In order to maintain your subspecialty certification, it is necessary for you to maintain your basic certification. ABOG does understand that many of our Fellows practice in only a small portion of the ob-gyn field, whether in subspecialties, just obstetrics, or just gynecology. Therefore, we have crafted the MOC Part III Written Examination to address this issue.

The test consists of 100 questions, 50 in each of two parts. You must choose one set of questions from each part. For subspecialists, the choices are as follows:

- ▶ Part A: gynecologic oncology; maternal-fetal medicine; or reproductive endocrinology and infertility
- ▶ Part B: gynecology, obstetrics, and office practice; gynecology; obstetrics; or office practice

By passing this test, you will have maintained both your subspecialty and specialty certification. ♦



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Lisa M. Hollier, MD, District XI vice chair and editor
Jill Hindenach, editorial manager

The District XI newsletter is produced and distributed by the ACOG Office of Communications.

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Send letters to Lisa M. Hollier, MD, at lisa.m.hollier@uth.tmc.edu

New district executive director and office in Austin

We are very excited about some new additions to District XI. As we expand and strengthen our efforts to improve the health care of women in Texas, we have opened an office in Austin near the Capitol. We are happy to announce that Jill M. Johnson has accepted the position of executive director for District XI.

Among many other talents, Ms. Johnson has experience in public relations, public policy, and advocacy management. She will be at the forefront of establishing our presence in Austin. She began work in our new office on November 8, and her email address is info@tx.obgyn.org.

Karen O'Briant, former District XI executive director, is assuming the position of manager of our Annual District Meetings, section meetings, membership, and Junior Fellow activities. Members can still reach her at distxi@hotmail.com or taog@hotmail.com, 325-235-1959 (phone), or 325-253-4687 (fax). She will continue to serve as executive director for the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.



The new District XI Austin office

District XI Austin office contact information

1001 Congress Ave, Suite 340, Austin, TX 78701
512-473-ACOG (2264) (phone)
512-473-2267 (fax) ♦

Section 1 report

R. Moss Hampton, MD, section chair

Section 1 held another well-attended meeting (with 47 attendees) on September 23 at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in Lubbock. Faculty for the meeting included: David L. Olive, MD, Wisconsin Fertility Institute, Middleton, WI; Tristi W. Muir, MD, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX; Mark C. Maberry, MD, Hendrick Health System, Abilene, TX; and Leslie E. Chupp, MD, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at the Permian Basin, Odessa, TX.

Our section Fellow officer candidates for 2011–14 have been determined. Please take the time to vote. Voting will begin in January. ♦

Recap: 2010 Annual District Meeting in Maui

The 2010 Annual District Meeting was a joint meeting with our friends from Districts VII, VIII, and IX. Tod C. Aeby, MD, program chair, put together a stimulating curriculum with something for everyone.



John C. Jennings, MD, immediate past District XI chair, passes the gavel to Amy E. Young, MD, current District XI chair

Clinical

lectures on topics such as patient safety, robotic surgery, cesarean deliveries on demand, and testosterone replacement provided attendees with concrete suggestions for improving patient care. Special sessions about the challenges of professional marriages, burnout, and finances kept spouses and friends included in the experience.

Making its debut at a District XI meeting was the “Stump the Professors” session. It was hosted by District XI Junior Fellow Chair Luke A. Newton, MD, and featured four fabulous professors, including our own District XI Chair Amy E. Young, MD. The professors did a great job of entertaining the audience while trying to solve the complex cases presented by the Junior Fellows.

One of the most exciting events was the “PAC Wars.” Districts VII, VIII, IX, and XI competed to have the most donors to ACOG’s federal political action committee, Ob-GynPAC. District XI led from the beginning with a very strong showing. In a last minute push, just minutes from the close of donations, District IX nearly pulled ahead. But the diehard Fellows and Junior Fellows from our district stepped in, and District XI emerged victorious. ♦

Section 5 report

Robert E. Schorlemer, MD, section chair

Section 5 held its first meeting on September 18 in Rockport at The Lighthouse Inn at Aransas Bay. Faculty for the meeting included: John C. Jennings, MD, immediate past District XI chair; and Luke A. Newton, MD, District XI Junior Fellow chair; Kristen A. Plastino, MD; and Erin L. Nelson, MD, from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The meeting was attended by 30 physicians, residents, and allied health personnel. ♦

Mark your calendars for the 2011 Annual District Meeting

The District XI Program Committee, led by Eugene C. Toy, MD, District XI secretary and Section 4 chair, has selected an outstanding location for our Annual District Meeting on October 14–16, 2011. The Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center will host our first fall meeting held jointly with the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The luxurious hotel is located 30 miles from the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and 20 miles from the Dallas Love Field Airport. It is surrounded by beautiful views of Bishop Park and Lake. Within walking distance, you'll find upscale dining, retail shops, and the Angelika Film Center and Café, a superb specialty cinema.

The scientific program is in the planning stages, but the meeting promises to provide high-quality speakers on important topics. Please plan to attend. ♦

Contact us

Contact information for all district and section officers and Junior Fellows can be found on the District XI websites:

- ▶ Current news and information on women's health care in Texas can be found on the District XI website at acog.org/acog_districts. Click on "District XI"
- ▶ Junior Fellow website: acog.org/acog_districts. Click on "District XI Junior Fellows"
- ▶ Further news and information can also be found on the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists website at txobgyn.org

Please remember to use electronic correspondence to help your district save on postage costs. Email us at info@tx.obgyn.org or taog@hotmail.com. ♦

Calendar of events

2011

January–February

Section 1 and Section 4 Fellow section officer elections.
Watch the ACOG website for more information.

April

30–May 4 59th Annual Clinical Meeting
Washington, DC

May

13–14 TexMed 2011
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, TX

October

14–16 Annual District Meeting/82nd Annual Texas
Association of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists Meeting and 19th Annual
Resident Research Symposium
Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center

Watch for the District XI Patient Safety Survey in your email inbox soon!

National Association for Continence needs you

The National Association for Continence (NAFC) is seeking ACOG members with Spanish-speaking proficiency to join a free, online database of continence care experts to assist Latinas in search of an expert for treating their bladder or bowel control problems. To register your practice, go to nafc.org/welcome-health-professionals or call 1-800-BLADDER (1-800-252-3337). NAFC has free, color pamphlets in Spanish available for your patients. Questions may be emailed to memberservices@nafc.org. ♦