



Texas Two Step

Serving ACOG members in Texas

August 2011

Register now for the 2011 ADM in Plano

Join us October 14–16 in Plano for the annual meeting of District XI and the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (TAOG). The program will feature topics of interest to physicians and spouses, expanded break-out and hands-on sessions, and more time for family activities in Plano and its surrounding cities (Dallas, Fort Worth, and Frisco).

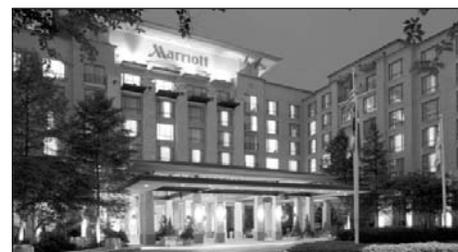
We've secured an excellent hotel room rate at the Marriott at Legacy Town Center, which sits in the middle of the Shops at Legacy, with the Shops at Willowbend and the Stonebriar Centre Mall close by. Our meeting will coincide with the State Fair of Texas in Dallas—so come, learn, and play!

One of the most memorable parts of our 2009 Annual District Meeting was the

Casino Night with a silent auction and raffle to raise monies for the Jennings Fund, which provides for endowed lectures and other educational activities. We will be hosting these activities again at the 2011 ADM, as well as a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. TAOG will hold its Annual Golf Tournament on Friday morning.

Registration: Visit the District XI website (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts) for registration, hotel, and program information. Online registration is available this year.

Call for abstracts: Submission requirements are on the District XI website. We encourage physicians, residents, fellows in training, medical students, and allied health personnel to submit their work.



Donations needed for silent auction and raffle: Hot items from our last event include a week-long African safari, week-long stays at ski and summer condos, historic art work, autographed baseballs, and hand-made wine racks. If you have something to donate, please email Jill M. Johnson, District XI executive director, at info@tx.acog.org. All donated items will be tax exempt as charity donations. Letters with the items' values will be provided for your records. ♦

Attention members: As part of our goal to be fiscally and environmentally prudent, District XI is moving to electronic newsletter communications. Please take the time to review your email inbox for important updates from District XI. You will always have the option of unsubscribing from these emails by contacting ACOG at unsubscribe@acog.org. Though this will be our last print newsletter, you will still occasionally receive announcements and district information by mail.

82nd Texas Legislative Session review

The 82nd Texas Legislative Session was a difficult one for everyone involved in health care. District XI is fortunate to work with Mignon McGarry, a lobbyist with more than 20 years of experience at the Texas Capitol, who worked tirelessly to present the views of ob-gyns to the Texas Legislature. We were successful in educating lawmakers about some of the hazards of the scope of practice issues in play and in preventing further cuts to provider reimbursement from Medicaid.

Our First Ob-Gyn Advocacy Day on April 5 was a success, with more than 25 physicians visiting legislative offices. The

event was held in conjunction with one of the Texas Medical Association's First Tuesdays, where physicians and alliance members from all over Texas come to the Capitol, filling its halls with white coats. Our First Annual Junior Fellow Legislative Advocacy Day also went very well. More than 20 Junior Fellows participated and reported that it was an exceptional educational experience.

Important losses this legislative session include the passage of a bill requiring physicians to perform an ultrasound on pregnant women at least 24 hours before performing an abortion in most cases. Legislation for a state maternal mortality

review board did not pass out of committee due to the fiscal note attached to the bill. Our district will continue to work on this important ACOG initiative to prepare for the 2013 session.

Significant bills signed into law that will affect ob-gyns include a bill relating to non-medically indicated Medicaid deliveries at less than 39 weeks' gestation (please see the back page of this newsletter for more information) and the creation of a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Commission. For a full recap of the 82nd Texas Legislative Session and additional details on these bills, visit the District XI website (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts). ♦



From the chair

Lisa M. Hollier, MD

As you may know, I recently took over the position of District XI chair when Amy E. Young, MD, moved out of state to accept new employment. I'm honored to be leading the Texas

district at a time when women's health care is facing extraordinary challenges and opportunities.

My vision for District XI is for it to be the premier organization for Texas ob-gyns, establishing and realizing the goal of our membership to provide the highest quality of patient care. In order to most effectively meet the diverse needs of our members, we will continue to build upon the foundation established by recent chairs John C. Jennings, MD, and Dr. Young.

We are finalizing a five-year strategic plan for the district, focusing on three major areas that parallel the national ACOG agenda: education, practice, and advocacy. We are working to provide our members with the best evidence-based knowledge in women's health care and will be using broad-based communication approaches and educational models to communicate in the manner that works best for them. We are also investigating new formats for our meetings so that we can continue to provide a product that is relevant to members across the generational spectrum.

ACOG leadership understands the incredible stresses on physician practices in this difficult economy and environment of

sweeping and complex legislative change. We are committed to a proactive approach in addressing these issues so you can provide high-quality, safe, and efficient care for women in Texas. We are better defining our role in the Texas legislative arena and working with the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to be the leading advocates for women's health care, speaking out on behalf of our patients and our membership.

These concrete steps will allow District XI to advance the health care of women through education and practice and to lead advocacy efforts for women's health care issues locally and nationally. Our colleagues in practice, our students and residents in training, and the women we serve deserve no less than our best. Our new executive director, Jill M. Johnson, will be instrumental in the successful implementation of our plans.

One of the most important advantages we gained in establishing our own district is the increased number of opportunities for involvement for Texas ob-gyns in ACOG. Now is a great time to get more involved as a leader and to make your voice heard. Opportunities exist at the national, district, and section levels. If you would like to play a more active role in our organization, please contact me at lisa.m.hollier@uth.tmc.edu or Ms. Johnson at info@tx.acog.org or 512-473-2264.

I look forward to serving as your district chair, and I hope to see you at our Annual District Meeting, October 14–16, in Plano. ♦

Patient safety and quality improvement update

Michael L. Nix, MD, District XI Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent District XI Patient Safety Survey. Information from this survey will be used to provide tools and resources for our members. The 225 respondents represented a broad range of Fellows and Junior Fellows in various practices, with the majority in private practice and in communities with populations greater than 50,000

people. A full summary of the survey results can be found on the District XI website (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts).

While significant strides in patient safety and quality improvement are being made, notable barriers remain including:

- ▶ Insufficient methods of measuring and monitoring outcomes
- ▶ Expense of technology and/or systems
- ▶ Lack of knowledge of methods that institute system-level change
- ▶ Lack of knowledge of patient safety principles

Some of these barriers are being addressed by ACOG with its postgraduate program, "Quality and Safety for Leaders in Women's Health Care." The course is provided by The College's Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement and is offered twice a year. I recently attended the program and highly recommend it. The next course is scheduled for November 10–12 in New Orleans, LA.

Additionally, the ACOG Voluntary Review of Quality of Care Program provides peer review consultation to departments of ob-gyn, assesses the quality of care provided, and suggests possible alternative actions for improvement. Information on both of these programs can be found on the ACOG website (acog.org).

Finally, we are in the process of gathering a list of safety experts in Texas—if you are interested, please send your contact information to info@tx.acog.org. ♦



Texas Two Step

R. Moss Hampton, MD, District XI vice chair and editor
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Send suggested content to info@tx.acog.org

Section 1 (West Texas) report

Section 1 recently reshuffled officers when R. Moss Hampton, MD, our active and very successful section chair for the last three years, left office early to assume the position of District XI vice chair. Christopher J. Powers, MD, of El Paso, is now section chair and Michiel R. Noe, MD, of El Paso, has moved from section secretary-treasurer to section vice chair. Randy C. Daniell, MD, of Abilene, will take on the role of section secretary-treasurer after the 2011

Annual District Meeting in October.

We are also pleased to report that Dr. Noe was recently elected to the city council of El Paso, our nation's 19th largest city. This is great news for West Texas and ACOG as we now have one of our own in a place of elected leadership!

For those of you who like to network online, Section 1 is the first section in District XI to have a Facebook page. In the months to come, we hope that it, as well as email, will become a major vehicle for

intra-section communication of ideas and events. If you're not a member of Facebook, it is easy to become one. And despite what you may have heard, you can micro-manage just how much information you share with the outside world. To access our Facebook page, go to facebook.com, log on, and search for "ACOG District XI Section 1."

Contact: Christopher J. Powers, MD, section chair; cpowers@chrispowersmd.com ♦

Section 3 (Central and East Texas) report

Because of our proximity to the Texas Capitol, the bulk of Section 3's recent activity has been focused on supporting the district's legislative initiatives. During this past legislative session, we helped identify local doctors who offered public and written testimony. Our district lobbyist, Mignon McGarry, noted that our doctors' calls and emails to legislators made a difference (of special note is the tenacity of Arnold D. Wharton, MD, of Tyler).

District members who gave public testimony include: Charles E.L. Brown, MD, Section 3 chair, Eugene C. Toy, MD, District XI secretary and Section 4 chair, and Ralph J. Anderson, MD, Section 2 chair. District members who provided written testimony include: Lisa M. Hollier, MD, District XI chair, Amy E. Young, MD, former District XI chair, and J. Celeste Sheppard, MD.

Section 3 officers will be making an effort in the coming months to reach out to our East Texas physicians to gather their input and increase their involvement in section activities.

Contact: Charles E.L. Brown, MD, section chair; cbrown@seton.org ♦

Apply to serve on College and Congress Committees

The application form for service on College and Congress Committees is now available on the ACOG website (acog.org). The form can be completed online, but you must print your application and mail it into The College. The deadline for receipt of applications is September 9.

Committee member appointments will be made by ACOG President Elect James T. Breeden, MD, in November. Appointed Committee members' terms will begin at the completion of the 2012 Annual Clinical Meeting in May.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the application, please contact Jill M. Johnson, District XI executive director, at info@tx.acog.org or 512-473-2264. ♦

Section 4 (Houston, Galveston, and Bay Area) report

Section 4 is in the beginning stages of creating a video for the district on breastfeeding. Pamela D. Berens, MD, professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences at the University of Texas Medical School-Houston, has graciously agreed to provide her expertise on lactation issues.

Women today are savvy enough to ask about hospital policies regarding lactation, formula use, pacifiers, and separation of mother and baby at birth. The goal of the video is to better inform obstetricians, family practitioners, certified midwives, pediatricians, and nurses on the latest information so we can work together to increase the number of educated, successful, and satisfied breastfeeders.

Contact: Laurie S. Swaim, MD, section chair; lswaim@hwca.net ♦

EHR contracting information developed by TMA

With electronic health record (EHR) incentive money being offered, a record number of physicians in Texas are purchasing EHR systems. EHR contracts are typically written in a manner favorable to the vendor. A solid contract is critical to a successful long-term relationship and helps to ensure your EHR system lives up to its advertised potential.

To help physicians navigate EHR contracts, the Texas Medical Association (TMA) has developed eight key considerations in its white paper "EHR Buyer Beware: Issues to Consider When Contracting with EHR Vendors." The paper is on the District XI website (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts). To have it emailed to you, contact Jill M. Johnson, District XI executive director, at info@tx.acog.org or 512-473-2264.

Though the TMA document is helpful, it is not an exhaustive list of considerations. So, it is advised that you have your Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center or an attorney carefully review your final contract prior to signing. ♦

Important information regarding less than 39 weeks legislation

On September 1, House Bill 1983 goes into effect, which directs the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to implement cost-cutting measures to reduce the number of elective deliveries (induced or cesarean) for Medicaid patients at less than 39 weeks' gestation and orders hospitals and doctors to work together to develop quality initiatives to reduce these non-medically indicated deliveries. Several recent studies have highlighted an increased risk of neonatal intensive care unit admission for infants delivered at less than 39 weeks.

As part of the cost-cutting aspect of the bill, Texas Medicaid will likely require providers and hospitals to use a modifier for billing deliveries at less than 39 weeks and deliveries at less than 39 weeks that occur without a valid medical indication (a final response on this issue is pending). The program will monitor these occurrences and can perform retrospective reviews and ask for reimbursement for deliveries at less than 39 weeks without a valid medical indication. There is no time limit stated for these reviews.

The ramifications for all obstetric providers and hospitals are vast. In order to prepare for these changes and avoid problems with reimbursement, every hospital that does not already have guidelines in place should develop a list of valid medical reasons for deliveries at less than 39 weeks, as well as scheduling protocol and documentation standards for those deliveries.

To assist with this tight timeline, District XI and the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (TAOG) are working together with HHSC to provide templates for hospital guidelines, quality measures, monitoring, scheduling forms, and documentation. Please take the time to visit the District XI website (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts) to read the full explanation of this bill and how it will affect providers and hospitals.

March of Dimes grant

As a way to further reduce elective induced or cesarean deliveries for all patients, District XI and TAOG will utilize a March of Dimes grant to train physicians on the importance of waiting until a woman is at 39 weeks before scheduling a non-medically indicated delivery. Representatives from each district section attended a training session in July. Those representatives will conduct training in their regions to reach more physicians and hospitals. We thank the March of Dimes for its support. ♦

Junior Fellow update

There will be many educational and networking opportunities for Junior Fellows at the 2011 Annual District Meeting, October 14–16, in Plano! Residents receive discounted registration fees and are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for the 19th Annual Resident Research Day.

In addition to awards from our district and the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (TAOG), Junior Fellows are eligible to win a Donald F. Richardson Memorial Prize Paper Award. Each ACOG district will choose a top paper presented by a Junior Fellow to forward to ACOG national, where a committee will name two winners who will present their papers at the 2012 Annual Clinical Meeting. Visit the District XI website for guideline information (click on "District XI" at acog.org/acog_districts).

TAOG will sponsor expenses for two residents to attend the ADM, so let your program director know if you are interested in attending or have a paper you would like to present. Junior Fellows will also have an exhibit booth at the ADM to train Fellows on emerging technological tools. If you would like to help Fellows better understand how these tools can make their work life easier, please contact Meadow M. Good, DO, District XI Junior Fellow vice chair, at meadow.good@phhs.org.

A Medical Student Symposium and Residency Fair will be held on Saturday afternoon, giving you a chance to highlight your residency program. A separate course on operative obstetrics will be conducted by Alfredo F. Gei, MD, on the mornings of Saturday and Sunday. This eight-hour course is limited to 40 residents. More information will be sent to program directors soon. ♦

Contact us

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