Summit leads renewed focus on patient safety

Leading patient safety experts brainstormed on new patient safety programs and resources for ACOG in January. The ACOG Patient Safety Summit, led by renowned patient safety expert Lucian L. Leape, MD, is just one aspect of the College’s renewed emphasis on patient safety.

ACOG also recently established a Department of Patient Safety and Quality Improvement at its headquarters and hired its first director of that department. In addition, the College upgraded the position that manages the College’s Voluntary Review of Quality of Care program, which provides peer consultations to hospital ob-gyn departments, and the College is planning several patient safety sessions for the Annual Clinical Meeting, May 6–10, in Washington, DC.

“The Executive Board has directed the College to expand the size and scope of our patient safety efforts, recognizing the important role that ACOG can have in reducing bad outcomes and improving women’s health care,” said Stanley Zinberg, MD, MS, ACOG vice president of practice activities.

The summit participants are listed on the right. Also taking part were ACOG President Elect Douglas W. Laube, MD, MEd; Paul G. Stumpf, MD, chair of the ACOG Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement; James P. Bagian, MD, director of the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for Patient Safety; Timothy R.B. Johnson, MD, an ACOG Fellow and chair of the ob-gyn department at the University of Michigan; Shukri F. Khuri, MD, professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School; Bernard M. Rosof, MD, senior vice president for corporate relations and health affairs, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System, NY; and Amy O’Meara Stevens, MD, a Junior Fellow and assistant professor in the department of surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

Many women continue to not be screened for colorectal cancer despite the fact that it’s one of the most preventable cancers if caught early. Colorectal cancer is 90% preventable and, if detected early, 90% treatable, but it continues to be the second leading cause of cancer deaths among US women and men. Studies have shown that Americans are uncomfortable discussing the disease, underestimate their risk of getting colon cancer, and are unaware that they should be screened starting at age 50.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 148,000 US women and men will get colorectal cancer in 2006, and more than 55,000 will die. Early screening can uncover polyps, which can be removed before they turn into cancer, and if colorectal cancer is discovered at an early stage, more than 90% of patients will survive five years after diagnosis.

“The idea of having colon cancer screening can cause fear and embarrassment in many women,” said Fellow Chrysten E. Cunningham, DO, vice chair of California Section 8. “Patients
Congress neglects to fix formula for Medicare reimbursement

CONGRESS HAS AGAIN FAILED TO fix the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate formula that is used to determine payment for Medicare services. The 2006 budget bill—which wasn’t passed until February—freezes 2006 Medicare reimbursement rates at 2005 levels. Because the bill was not passed by the time Congress recessed in December, rates actually fell 4.4% as of January 1. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has indicated that it will reprocess claims for services in January to reimburse providers the difference between the 4.4% decreased rate and the rate now in place.

It is hard to understand how a system that is recognized as flawed by both Congress and CMS still remains unchanged. Congress seems reluctant to address the real issue because of the fiscal implications and, instead, just addresses it year to year.

One aspect to this dilemma that arose this year was the concept that any change must be accompanied by a commitment to better quality of care. This has evolved as “value-based purchasing” or “pay-for-performance” and appears to be inevitable if we are to ever change the payment system. Because the federal government now pays for 40% of the health care expenses in the US, it is able to greatly influence the system.

It is hard to understand how a system that is recognized as flawed by both Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services still remains unchanged.

ACOG recognizes that some method of review is now inevitable. ACOG President Michael T. Mennuti, MD, has appointed a working group to evaluate ACOG practice documents and develop appropriate performance measures, which will begin to be published and distributed to ACOG members in the near future.

As this is still an ongoing development, we will be posting periodic information and updates on the member side of the ACOG website, www.acog.org, to keep you informed. In addition, this year at the College Advisory Council meeting prior to the ACM, there will be a panel on pay-for-performance to help our section and district officers understand the issue.

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG
Executive Vice President
Douglas W. Laube, MD, MEd, of Madison, WI, will be sworn in as the College’s 57th president on May 10 in Washington, DC, where he will deliver his inaugural address. Dr. Laube is chair of the department of ob-gyn at the University of Wisconsin.

“Seeking alternatives to medical liability reform and continuing to advocate for federal MICRA-like reform will require a variety of legislative efforts and will continue to be a top priority for ACOG,” Dr. Laube said. “I will also work closely with the Executive Board toward enhancing the College’s position on pay-for-performance and initiatives related to patient safety education.

“To better prepare our future women’s health care physicians, I hope to be able to assist in strengthening specific areas of women’s health care education while helping to develop innovative educational strategies for our current practitioners.”

New osteoporosis research grant available

ACOG is pleased to announce the new ACOG/Eli Lilly and Company Research Award for the Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis. This $15,000 grant will provide seed grant funds for a junior investigator to advance the knowledge of ob-gyns in the area of osteoporosis. Applicants for the award must be a Junior Fellow or Fellow and in an approved ob-gyn residency program or within three years post-residency. The application must include:

- A research proposal written in eight pages or less that includes hypothesis, objective, specific aims, background and significance, experimental design, and references
- One-page budget
- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of support from program director, departmental chair, or laboratory director
- Six copies of all application components

May 31 deadline
Applications must be postmarked by May 31. The award will begin July 1, and conclude on June 30, 2007. A final written report is required, which must include a final account of financial expenditures.

Any paper developed as a result must first be submitted to Obstetrics & Gynecology for consideration.

Mail applications to:
ACOG/Eli Lilly and Company Research Award
Attn: Lee Cummings, director of corporate relations
ACOG, PO Box 96920, Washington, DC 20090-6920
Street Address:
409 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2188

Career Connection disaster website now permanent resource

In response to the devastation and displacement caused by Hurricane Katrina, HEALTHECAREERS Network created a web page dedicated to emergency relief efforts on the ACOG Career Connection website.

The site has now been made a permanent part of Career Connection and will continue to provide information to health care professionals during all future disasters. Reflecting this change, the site has been renamed, from “Hurricane Katrina Emergency Relief Site” to “Emergency Relief Site.”

The new site is designed to provide health care professionals with a resource to locate both temporary and permanent jobs if they’re displaced. Additionally, it allows members to search for opportunities to apply their medical expertise to different relief efforts throughout the country or the world. Employers and relief organizations can post volunteer and relief-related positions at any time through the emergency relief site.

During a three-month period after Hurricane Katrina, more than 15,000 user sessions were logged on the emergency relief site. The most visited page within the site was “I’ve been displaced,” with more than 4,000 visitors, followed by “I want to help” and “I have an opportunity,” both with between 3,400 and 3,600 user sessions.

Mail applications to:
ACOG/Eli Lilly and Company Research Award
Attn: Lee Cummings, director of corporate relations
ACOG, PO Box 96920, Washington, DC 20090-6920
Street Address:
409 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024-2188

On the ACOG website, www.acog.org, click on the ACOG Career Connection logo on the left
888-884-8242
SOGC establishes obstetrics patient safety program

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada has launched a patient safety program that aims to reduce adverse events in obstetrical care by promoting a culture of patient safety and teamwork.

MORE® (Managing Obstetrical Risk Efficiently) is predicated on the idea that improving patient safety is the fundamental principle in health care and that by replacing traditional hierarchy and facilitating an atmosphere of working and learning together, clinical errors can be reduced.

A pilot program was launched in Ontario in 2002, with the national launch of the program in Alberta in the fall of 2004. The program has since been implemented in 112 hospitals in Canada and made its US debut in Syracuse, NY, in November 2005.

“The MORE® program has improved communication by building trust and respect among health care providers,” said ACOG Fellow J.K. Milne, MD, SOGC associate executive vice president, patient safety division. “The data also support that we have had a positive impact on changing the culture of blame and focusing the model of practice on team function and the development of communities of practice that have a multidisciplinary approach to solving the identified gaps in patient safety. We look forward to working with health care professionals in birthing units throughout the United States in this exciting and challenging venture.”

The program includes four modules meant to be completed over a three-year period, beginning with an interactive web-based educational program, interactive and hands-on workshops, emergency and skill drills, and data collection. In the second and third years, teams focus on practice modification and reflective learning to build a culture of patient safety.

SOGC has evaluated data from 33 of the 33 pilot sites and observed that MOREOB has:

- Improved cross-professional knowledge
- Reduced the number of harm events
- Reduced reporting times for events
- Reduced the amount of hospital reserves needed for obstetric payouts

Learn about MORE® at the ACM

How to Reduce OBs’ Risks—The MORE® Program—A Canadian Experience

Brown Bag Seminar

Monday, May 8 • 12:30–1:45 pm

A ticket is required; sign up when you register for the ACM at www.acog.org/acm.

More patient safety news:

FDA changes format of drug labels

See page 14
June 1 deadline

Districts, sections seek nominations for officers

During March or April, all Fellows eligible to vote in a section or district holding elections for the 2007–10 rotation will receive notice to nominate officers. Nominations must include a letter stating the office or offices being sought, a complete curriculum vitae, and a one-page summary of the individual’s CV. Nominations are due by June 1.

During the summer, all voting Fellows will receive a list of the individuals who were nominated by the June 1 deadline, along with the roster of the nominating committee and the date when the committee will meet. ACOG encourages Fellows to contact members of the nominating committee to offer comments about the candidates.

Nominating committees determine slate of candidates

For section elections, the section nominating committee will meet before the Annual District Meeting and will name a slate of at least one, but no more than two, candidates for each office. The committee will not accept floor nominations but will choose candidates from the list mailed to all members during the summer.

For district elections, the same rules apply, but the committee meeting will occur either at the Annual District Meeting or within 30 days following it.

The slate adopted by the nominating committee will be sent to all Fellows for both district and section elections by the end of the year. The results will be announced to candidates and District Advisory Councils by Apr 1, 2007, and publicly at ACOG’s Annual Business Meeting in May 2007.

info

→ Megan Willis: 800-782-1828

→ On the ACOG website, www.acog.org, under “Membership,” click on “District and Section Activities”

Timeline for election of district and section officers

| March 1 | Nominating committees formed in sections and districts |
| March–April | Voting Fellows invited to submit nominations |
| June 1 | Nominations for section and district officers due |

April webcast: fetal heart rate interpretation

Webcasts offer continuing education directly to your office

ACOG’s monthly webcasts answer your most pressing questions about coding, professional liability, and clinical issues. The 2006 webcasts are offered on the second Tuesday of each month instead of the first Tuesday as in the past.

The webcasts allow physicians and their staff to stay updated on important issues without leaving the office.

Presentations are given in real time over the telephone with accompanying slide presentation on the Internet. All webcasts are held from 1 to 2:30 pm Eastern Time to accommodate time zones from Hawaii to Maine.

On April 11, the webcast will be “Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation,” with ACOG Fellow David A. Miller, MD, serving as faculty.

Pay-for-performance

The May and June webcasts will focus on coding, while the July 11 webcast will address pay-for-performance, examining the trend toward quality-driven programs as they relate to pay-for-performance.

Patient safety

ACOG’s first webcast from the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Department will be “Changing Physician Behavior: Issues and Approaches” on August 8. The webcast will be presented by John P. Keats, MD, faculty for the ACOG postgraduate course on quality improvement and management skills.

info

→ To register for a webcast: On the ACOG website, www.acog.org, under “Meetings,” click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops”
Exploring the historical treasures of Washington, DC, and its surrounding area is essential when you visit the nation’s capital. Fellows, spouses, and guests can explore the city on their own or choose one of the half-day, all-day, and evening tours that are a part of the ACOG Spouse/Guest program at the Annual Clinical Meeting.

**Children have a ball at ACM’s Camp ACOG**

WASHINGTON, DC, IS A GREAT city for kids, and Camp ACOG and the youth field trips promise to entertain and take care of your children while you’re attending Annual Clinical Meeting sessions.

Camp ACOG, which is run by ACCENT on Children’s Arrangements Inc, is available each day of the meeting from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm for children ages six months to 15 years. Youth field trips are available for kids ages 6–12.

Thanks to a grant from Berlex Laboratories—which is sponsoring the camp for the 12th year—parents need only pay a one-time registration fee of $20 per child for the camp and $5 per child for each field trip.

**YOUTH FIELD TRIPS**

- **Saturday, May 6**
  - Six Flags America Washington (Largo, MD)
  - 9 am–5 pm
- **Sunday, May 7**
  - Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum with IMAX
  - 9 am–5 pm
- **Monday, May 8**
  - Washington Monuments and International Spy Museum
  - 9 am–5 pm
- **Tuesday, May 9**
  - National Aquarium and Fort McHenry (Baltimore, MD)
  - 9 am–5 pm
- **Wednesday, May 10**
  - Colonial Days at Mount Vernon
  - 9 am–5 pm

**ACM Spouse/Guest Tours**

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**
- 9 am–12 pm
  - Whirl-Around Washington
- 9:45 am–12:45 pm
  - International Spy Museum
- 10 am–3 pm
  - Georgetown Lifestyles
- 12:45–4:45 pm
  - The Mansions of Dupont Circle
- 1–5 pm
  - America’s Military Heroes
- 6–10 pm
  - An Evening on the Potomac
- 7–9:30 pm
  - “Shenandoah” at Ford’s Theatre
- 7:05 pm
  - A Night at the Ballpark: Washington Nationals

**SUNDAY, MAY 7**
- 9 am–1:30 pm
  - Bike the Sites
- 9:30 am–3:30 pm
  - Colonial Virginia
- 8:45 am–12:45 pm
  - America’s Military Heroes
- 1:05 pm
  - At the Ballpark: Washington Nationals
- 1:15–4:15 pm
  - High Society Historic Homes
- 1:30–4:30 pm
  - Whirl-Around Washington
- 2–5 pm
  - Digital DC

**MONDAY, MAY 8**
- 6:15–10:15 pm
  - Mt. Vernon Candlelight Tour and Dinner
- 8–11 pm
  - Washington by Moonlight

**TUESDAY, MAY 9**
- 9 am–5 pm
  - Annapolis, MD
- 10:45 am–2:45 pm
  - Hillwood Gardens and Estate
- 10:30 am–2:30 pm
  - Bellissimo! Italian Cooking Lesson
- 11 am–4 pm
  - Old Town Alexandria, VA
- 1:15–5:15 pm
  - Artistic Treasures of Washington
- 1:30–4:30 pm
  - International Spy Museum

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10**
- 9:45 am–12:45 pm
  - High Society Historic Homes
- 10:45 am–2:45 pm
  - Hillwood Gardens and Estate

**info**
- Complete descriptions and the registration form are under “Events” at www.acog.org/acm
- Registration deadline: April 14
临床医生兴趣第一阶段风险评估

**周一，5月8日**

**11 am-12:15 pm**
- 人乳头瘤病毒：通往癌症之路（CMA01）
- 腹腔镜下子宫切除术（CMA02）
- 为您的患者选择尿道再植术——回顾证据（CMA03）
- 产科实践的改变：当前的争议和未来趋势（CMA04）
- 证人的告白（CMA05）
- 呕吐和恶心：怀孕期间（CMA06）
- 调整到新环境：重新定义年度访问（CMA07）
- 替代和替代医学（CAM）在Ob-Gyn：与慢性病的斗争（CMA08）
- “State-Of-The-Art”考试：成年性侵犯的受害者（CMA09）
- 医生的就诊：护理的挑战和成功（CMA10）
- 产科医生的医疗安全（CMA11）
- 选择和管理尿道再植术：管理宫内病变（CMA12）

**2:30-4 pm**
- 资产保护：治疗（CMP14）
- 应急避孕：保持秘密（CMP15）
- 如何发表：珍珠项链（CMP16）
- 住院和治疗：妊娠期（CMP17）
- 胎儿期和分娩期的医疗审查：如何与患者一起完成（CMP18）
- 女性性功能障碍：诊断和治疗（CMP19）
- 肥胖：对产科医生的重量问题（CMP20）
- 21世纪非侵入性治疗（CMP21）
- 子宫肌瘤的治疗：必须满足的治疗（CMP22）
- 糖尿病及其并发症的治疗方案和治疗（CMP23）
- 非侵入性治疗：21世纪的资产保护（CMP24）
- 卵巢诱导：一般护理（CMP25）
- 应急避孕：一个隐藏的珍珠（CMP26）
- 子宫内膜异位症和治疗：今天的异常宫颈检查（CMA13）

**周二，5月9日**

**2:30-4 pm**
- 卵泡刺激素：对一般护理的启发（CTP29）
- 发展文化竞争力：与西班牙裔患者的实践：实用指南（CTP30）
- 性传播疾病的筛查和治疗（CTP31）
- 今天的异常宫颈涂片和明天：基于病例的审查（CTP32）
- 子宫颈不充分和治疗：基于证据的审查（CTP33）
- 团队培训：在劳动和送货：改进患者安全的创新方法（CTP34）
- 真实和事实： Cesarean Delivery Technique（CTP35）
- 关键时刻：在产科和妇科的历史：《The Chamberlens’ Secret》（CTP36）
- 选择切口和伤口关闭技术（CTP37）
- 插入信息：如何识别和访问高质量临床信息的点点滴滴（CTP38）
- 避孕：青少年和年轻女性：满足其真实需求（CTP39）
- 道德挑战：在Ob-Gyn临床实践中的道德挑战（CTP40）
- 家庭暴力：有效识别和回应（CTP41）

**课程准备进行第一阶段的风险评估**

临床医生对提供第一阶段的风险评估感兴趣的可以开始准备成为在胎儿期进行这种评估的专家。课程将在5月9日（星期二）上午1-5:30提供。该课程将为参与者提供完成该过程的基础，包括在线考试和将图像提交到NTQR。在您注册后，请访问该网站。

该教育和监控项目旨在帮助医生们了解如何获取复制的NT测量值，并提供定期质量评估中个别医生的NT测量值。

在某些国家，产前-胎儿医学专家正在利用所有NT测量值，以确保对胎儿进行充分的评估。

Dr. Wagner指出，传感器和监督医生必须在NT过程中提供参与者，以完成证书。

“但最重要的是，医生们不能自己做这件事，”他说，并补充说，他们需要足够的产前-胎儿医学专家来满足需求。

“对临床医生来说，重要的是，是的，这是一个课程，但它也是一个过程，他们将被加入一个可复制的，高质量的NT测量程序。”Dr. Wagner说。“任何愿意提供最有效的唐氏综合征筛查的医生，将从这个课程中受益。"
Hands-on course to teach midurethral sling placement

A limited number of registrants at the Annual Clinical Meeting will receive practical training in cystoscopy and the placement of midurethral slings. The postgraduate course “Hands-On Midurethral Slings and Cystoscopy” will be offered on Saturday, May 6, from 8:15 am to 5 pm in a simulation lab at an offsite location.

“The ideal participant for this course is an experienced gynecologic surgeon who would like to add this procedure to the treatment options he or she can offer patients,” said course director Dee E. Fenner, MD, director of gynecology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Participants will have the opportunity to practice with several different types of midurethral slings.

“This procedure has the advantage of high efficacy and minimal side effects, and it appears to have good long-term results,” Dr. Fenner said.

She noted that midurethral sling placement is the most common procedure done today for treatment of stress incontinence.

“This is a good surgical option for patients in which fluid management, pelvic floor exercises, or other nonsurgical approaches have not been successful,” Dr. Fenner said.

In addition to presenting both lecture and hands-on training in cystoscopy and placement of transabdominal and transobturator tapes, Dr. Fenner and three other faculty members will cover anatomy and the indications and work-up of a patient for midurethral sling. Cadavers will be used as part of the anatomy review, and participants will use plastic models to learn and practice the procedures.

The course registration fee includes lunch and transportation to the offsite location. Register when you register for the ACM.
New ACM course just for medical students

To register for the medical student course, email your name to student@acog.org

MEDICAL STUDENTS considering a career in ob-gyn can gain valuable insight from ob-gyn leaders during the first-ever Annual Clinical Meeting medical student course: “Ob-Gyn as a Career: Residency Training and Dimensions of Practice.” The session will be held on Monday, May 8, beginning with lunch from 1 to 2 pm, followed by the course from 2 to 5 pm. Both the course and the overall ACM registration are free for medical students.

The course includes panel discussions on:
- Ob-Gyn as a Career
- What it Takes to Secure and Succeed in an Ob-Gyn Residency

The panels will include residents, subspecialty fellows, Junior Fellows in practice, practitioners, clerkship directors, and program directors. Following each panel discussion, medical students will have the opportunity to ask questions during an open forum.

The course was developed by the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council.

“This unique course furthers ACOG’s efforts to enhance recruitment to our specialty and will provide an opportunity to directly engage students in the ACM,” said Patrick S. Ramsey, MD, MSPH, course director and vice chair of the JFCAC.

Medical student booth and lounge

ACOG will once again provide a medical student lounge and booth at the ACM. The booth will be near the ACOG booth in the exhibit hall. The lounge, which will be in the convention center, will allow medical students to relax, mingle with other med students, and meet ACOG Junior Fellow leaders. Complimentary continental breakfast and boxed lunches will also be available for medical students.

During the clinical seminar, Dr. Queenan will discuss childbirth conditions occurring in 1600s London and the effect the Chamberlens had in improving the safety of childbirth, through their invention of the forceps and advocacy of training for midwives and greater involvement in childbirth by male “barber-surgeons,” who were better trained than midwives and were licensed and monitored by the Royal College of Physicians.

Tickets are required. Register for the seminar when you register for the ACM.

“Using the ACOG History Library” Luncheon Conference

Wednesday, May 10, 12:30–1:45 pm

New this year, the History Library is sponsoring a luncheon conference on the resources and services available in the History Library. Former ACOG Executive Director Warren H. Pearse, MD, will moderate the discussion with assistance from Debra Scarborough, MLS, AHIP, history librarian/archivist. Register for the luncheon when you register for the ACM.

info

⇒ history@acog.org
### Nominees for 2006–07 ACOOG officers

The following slate will be voted on at the 2006 Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC, on May 8. Fellows and Senior Fellows who cannot attend should vote by proxy, using the card sent in a separate mailing in March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President Elect Nominee</th>
<th>Treasurer Nominee</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kenneth L. Noller, MD</strong></td>
<td><strong>James T. Breeden, MD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Boston</strong></td>
<td><strong>Carson City, NV</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Professional Position</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Louis E. Phaneuf Professor and Chair, Department of Ob-Gyn, and professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Tufts University Medical School, Boston; chair, Ob-Gyn Department, Tufts-New England Medical Center</td>
<td>Private group practice; president, Carson Medical Group</td>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MD:</strong> Creighton University, Omaha, NE</td>
<td><strong>MD:</strong> Marquette University, Milwaukee</td>
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<td><strong>RESIDENCY:</strong> Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN</td>
<td><strong>RESIDENCY:</strong> Mercy Hospital, San Diego</td>
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<td><strong>ACOG Activities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>NATIONAL:</strong> chair, Precis Advisory Committee, committees on Gynecologic Practice, Scientific Program, Clinical Document Review Panel-Gynecology, member, committees on Nominations, Professional Standards, Industrial Exhibits, Coding and Nomenclature, liaison to AAFP, member, Education Commission; member, Residency Review Committee; consultant editor and editorial board member, <em>Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</em>; editor, <em>Precis: Gynecology</em></td>
<td><strong>NATIONAL:</strong> chair, Council of District Chairs; member, committees on Nominations, Coding and Nomenclature, Finance, member, Task Force on Strategic Planning</td>
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<td><strong>DISTRICT VI:</strong> chair, Program Committee; member, Membership Committee</td>
<td><strong>DISTRICT VIII:</strong> chair, vice chair, treasurer, newsletter editor, chair, vice chair, Nevada Section</td>
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<td><strong>DISTRICT I:</strong> member, Advisory Council; chair, Program Committee; co-chair, Practice/Quality Improvement Committee</td>
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<tr>
<th>Vice President Nominee</th>
<th>Assistant Secretary Nominee</th>
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<td><strong>Sandra A. Carson, MD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Peter A. Schwartz, MD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Houston</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading, PA</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Professional Position</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor of ob-gyn, Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>Director, Department of Ob-Gyn, and director of residency in ob-gyn, Reading Hospital and Medical Center; clinical professor of ob-gyn, Drexel University School of Medicine</td>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MD:</strong> Northwestern University, Chicago</td>
<td><strong>MD:</strong> Boston University</td>
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<td><strong>RESIDENCY:</strong> Prentice Women’s Hospital, Northwestern University</td>
<td><strong>RESIDENCY:</strong> Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT</td>
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<td><strong>ACOG Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>ACOG Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL:</strong> ex officio representative on Executive Board for American Society for Reproductive Medicine; chair, LCOG Task Force on Student Recruitment; chair, committees on Patient Education, Scientific Program; member, Task Force on Strategic Planning and Task Force on Student Recruitment; member, Liaison Committee for Ob-Gyn; associate editor, <em>ACOG Current Journal Review</em></td>
<td><strong>NATIONAL:</strong> chair and vice chair, Committee on Ethics; member, Committee on Government Relations; member, Task Force on Residency Issues; ACOG delegate to AMA; member, Residency Review Committee; CREOG Region II program director representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT III:</strong> member, Advisory Council; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; chair, vice chair, Pennsylvania Section</td>
<td><strong>DISTRICT VIII:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**President Elect Nominee**

**Kenneth L. Noller, MD**  
**Boston**

**Professional Position**

Louis E. Phaneuf Professor and Chair, Department of Ob-Gyn, and professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Tufts University Medical School, Boston; chair, Ob-Gyn Department, Tufts-New England Medical Center

**Education**

**MD:** Creighton University, Omaha, NE  
**RESIDENCY:** Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** chair, Precis Advisory Committee, committees on Gynecologic Practice, Scientific Program, Clinical Document Review Panel-Gynecology, member, committees on Nominations, Professional Standards, Industrial Exhibits, Coding and Nomenclature, liaison to AAFP, member, Education Commission; member, Residency Review Committee; consultant editor and editorial board member, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*; editor, *Precis: Gynecology*

**DISTRICT VI:** chair, Program Committee; member, Membership Committee

**DISTRICT I:** member, Advisory Council; chair, Program Committee; co-chair, Practice/Quality Improvement Committee

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**Treasurer Nominee**

**James T. Breeden, MD**  
**Carson City, NV**

**Professional Position**

Private group practice; president, Carson Medical Group

**Education**

**MD:** Marquette University, Milwaukee  
**RESIDENCY:** Mercy Hospital, San Diego

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** chair, Council of District Chairs; member, committees on Nominations, Coding and Nomenclature, Finance, member, Task Force on Strategic Planning

**DISTRICT VIII:** chair, vice chair, treasurer, newsletter editor, chair, vice chair, Nevada Section

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**Vice President Nominee**

**Sandra A. Carson, MD**  
**Houston**

**Professional Position**

Professor of ob-gyn, Baylor College of Medicine

**Education**

**MD:** Northwestern University, Chicago  
**RESIDENCY:** Prentice Women’s Hospital, Northwestern University

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** ex officio representative on Executive Board for American Society for Reproductive Medicine; chair, LCOG Task Force on Student Recruitment; chair, committees on Patient Education, Scientific Program; member, Task Force on Strategic Planning and Task Force on Student Recruitment; member, Liaison Committee for Ob-Gyn; associate editor, *ACOG Current Journal Review*

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**Assistant Secretary Nominee**

**Peter A. Schwartz, MD**  
**Reading, PA**

**Professional Position**

Director, Department of Ob-Gyn, and director of residency in ob-gyn, Reading Hospital and Medical Center; clinical professor of ob-gyn, Drexel University School of Medicine

**Education**

**MD:** Boston University  
**RESIDENCY:** Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** chair and vice chair, Committee on Ethics; member, Committee on Government Relations; member, Task Force on Residency Issues; ACOG delegate to AMA; member, Residency Review Committee; CREOG Region II program director representative

**DISTRICT III:** member, Advisory Council; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; chair, vice chair, Pennsylvania Section
ACOG MEMBERS IN ALL CATEGORIES OF membership should check their mailbox for the March ACOG Resource Packet, which will include the minutes of the 2005 Annual Business Meeting. In addition, Fellows will receive a special mailing in March that includes proposed bylaw amendments and a proxy card to vote for the 2006–07 national officers, the fellow-at-large, the public member, and the proposed amendments.

If you do not plan to attend the Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC, on May 8, please mail your proxy as soon as you receive it.

**Notice of annual meeting**

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Bylaws of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the provisions of the General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of the Fellows of said College will convene at 11 am, Monday, May 8, 2006, in the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, for the purpose of electing officers of the College and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

James N. Martin Jr, MD
Secretary
Dated: March 13, 2006

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**Fellow-At-Large Nominee**

**Steven J. Fleischman, MD**
New Haven, CT

**Professional Position**
Private group practice

**Education**

**MD:** Albany Medical College, NY

**RESIDENCY:** Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** chair, vice chair, Junior Fellow College Advisory Council; member, committees on Grievance, Electronic Medical Records; member, Donald F. Richardson Memorial Prize Paper Committee; member, Task Force on Expert Witnesses

**DISTRICT I:** Junior Fellow chair, vice chair, Junior Fellow chair, Connecticut Section

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**Public Member Nominee**

**Jane L. Peterson, PhD**
Oakton, VA

**Professional position**
Associate director, Division of Extramural Research; program director, Comparative Genomics Program, National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH.

**Note:** Dr. Peterson will serve as ACOG’s Public Member as a private citizen, not as a representative of NIH

**Education**

**BA:** Western College, Oxford, OH

**PHD:** University of Colorado, Cellular and Developmental Biology

**POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING:** Yale University

**Women’s Health Activities**

co-chair, Trans-NIH Genomics Resources Working Group; organizer and promoter of numerous scientific and educational activities, including the Cancer Genome Atlas, Genome Resource and Sequencing Priority Panel, International Strategy Meetings for Human Genome Sequencing, and symposium series, “Insights from the DNA Sequence of the Human Genome;” member, NIH Committee on Women’s Health; member, NIH Roadmap Group on Public-Private Partnerships; chair, Women in Cell Biology, American Society for Cell Biology

**ACOG Activities**

**NATIONAL:** public member, Executive Board (2004–06); member, Task Force on Genetic Screening

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**Annual Business Meeting May 8**

Dr. Hale invites questions to be answered at the Annual Business Meeting

At the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, May 8, in Washington, DC, ACOG Executive Vice President Ralph W. Hale, MD, will answer questions submitted by Fellows about ACOG or ob-gyn issues.

**Please mail or fax your questions by April 3 to:**

Ralph W. Hale, MD
Executive Vice President
ACOG, PO Box 96920
Washington, DC 20090-6920
Fax: 202-863-1643
Members in fellowship training programs make key contributions

Fellows in subspecialty training programs are in an excellent position to become actively involved in Junior Fellow activities, whether it’s mentoring medical students or representing young ob-gyns on the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council.

“Fellows in training have a lot more time than the average resident to become mentors for medical students,” said Cynthia Gyamfi, MD, District II Junior Fellow chair. “I think it’s beneficial for ACOG to use fellows in training to help recruit and teach medical students.”

Dr. Gyamfi finished a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine last year at Mt. Sinai in New York City and is now an assistant clinical professor at Columbia University Medical Center. During her MFM fellowship, Dr. Gyamfi served as an advisor to the Mt. Sinai Ob-Gyn Student Interest Group and now serves as a preceptor to students at Columbia’s pregnancy diabetes clinic.

District IX Junior Fellow Chair Rene B. Allen, MD, said fellows in training can offer medical students important perspectives about the specialty.

“Most medical students are focusing just on the big picture—‘do I like ob-gyn?’” he said. “They don’t necessarily look beyond that to subspecialty opportunities. We can give students more information about the avenues available in the specialty.”

Dr. Allen, who is a first-year reproductive endocrinology and infertility fellow at the University of Southern California, attended two medical student mixers at different medical school campuses in February.

Subspeciality fellows’ involvement important to ACOG

“Fellows in training may encounter issues specific to their training that ACOG can help with, such as encouraging ABOG to make more slots available for fellows to accelerate their oral boards,” said Beth W Rackow, MD, District I Junior Fellow chair and a second-year REI fellow at Yale University School of Medicine. “It’s important for those starting subspecialty training to feel supported by ACOG—this early relationship will hopefully contribute to lifelong involvement with the College.”

Dr. Allen also sees value in ACOG maintaining close ties to fellows in training.

“It seems that once you enter a fellowship, you work more with your subspecialty organization than with ACOG,” he said. “We want to let fellows in training know that they have representation within ACOG and that ACOG is trying to address their issues. I want to be an advocate for fellows in training as well as for residents and Junior Fellows who are practicing.”

District III Junior Fellow Chair Armando E. Hernandez-Rey, MD, thinks fellows in training who are officers can help facilitate that process.

“The new ‘in training’ category better encompasses Junior Fellows in subspecialty fellowships who have finished their residency but are not yet in practice.”

In the past, some Annual District Meetings and ACOG courses charged more for Junior Fellows in practice than for those in residency, but it was unclear which category subspecialty fellows fit into and which rates they should pay.

Junior Fellows in subspecialty fellowships pay reduced fees

Junior Fellows in subspecialty fellowships can attend ACOG meetings and courses for the same reduced fees as Junior Fellows in residency.

Last year, ACOG changed the Junior Fellow membership categories from “Junior Fellow in residency” and “Junior Fellow in practice” to:

- Junior Fellow in training
- Junior Fellow in practice

The new “in training” category better encompasses Junior Fellows in subspecialty fellowships who have finished their residency but are not yet in practice.

In the past, some Annual District Meetings and ACOG courses charged more for Junior Fellows in practice than for those in residency, but it was unclear which category subspecialty fellows fit into and which rates they should pay.
Fellows can play key role in colorectal cancer screening

Dr. Cunningham is representing District IX on the planning committee for the California Dialogue for Action in Colorectal Cancer Screening conference, which will be held June 1–2 in San Diego. The focus of the conference is increasing awareness of screening among health care professionals and spotlighting the racial and ethnic disparities in screening, according to Dr. Cunningham. A national Dialogue for Action conference will be held March 16–17 in Baltimore. An ACOG representative is on the planning committee for the national conference, which is sponsored by the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation.

Screening for women 50 and older

As outlined in the College’s Committee Opinion #292, Primary and Preventive Care: Periodic Assessments, ACOG recommends that women age 50 and older be screened by one of the following:

- Fecal occult blood testing every year or
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years or
- FOBT every year plus a flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years or
- Double-contrast barium enema every five years or
- Colonoscopy every 10 years

Some women in high-risk groups should be screened before age 50 (see Committee Opinion #292 for more information).

In-office digital rectal exams not recommended

Screening recommendations are confusing to both physicians and patients. The American Cancer Society recommends that FOBT be conducted with a home-testing kit that instructs patients to collect stool samples for laboratory testing. However, studies have shown that some ob-gyns are performing digital rectal exams in the office.

“A recent large clinical trial demonstrated that FOBT performed at the time of DRE missed 95% of polyps and cancers that were found at subsequent colonoscopy,” said Durado Brooks, MD, MPH, the American Cancer Society’s director of prostate and colorectal cancer. “In the same individuals, FOBT with home-testing kits led to a five-fold improvement in detecting these abnormalities. These results make it clear that in-office FOBT is essentially worthless as a screening test for colorectal cancer and should no longer be used for this purpose.”

FDA changes format of drug labels

The Food and Drug Administration is implementing a new rule that changes the look of prescription drug information sheets to make them clearer. Wading through the current drug sheet, commonly called the “package insert,” can be difficult because of its length and tiny type.

The new format is expected to make it easier for physicians to find information and to understand it, with the intent of reducing medical errors. One of the most significant changes will be a new section called “Highlights” that will provide immediate access to the most important information about benefits and risks. The new format also includes a table of contents; the date of initial product approval, making it easier to determine how long a product has been on the market; and a patient counseling section to help physicians advise their patients about the uses and limitations of the drug.

The rule takes effect June 30 for all new drugs and will be phased in for drugs approved within the last five years. Drugs older than five years are exempt from the changes, but manufacturers will be encouraged to voluntarily switch to the new format.

Colorectal Cancer Resources

- www.preventcancer.org/colorectal; 877-35-COLON
- www.cancer.org
- National conference: www.preventcancer.org/programs/dialogue_national.cfm
- California conference: www.thecdoc.com/dfa; 916-449-5540

ACOG Resources

- ACOG Committee Opinion Primary and Preventive Care: Periodic Assessments (#292, November 2003)
- New Clinical Updates: Lower Gastrointestinal Tract Disorders; see page 16

Led by the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month educates Americans about the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of colorectal cancer. The campaign has revamped its website and created a new toolkit for this year’s event. Visit www.preventcancer.org/colorectal.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>CREOG and APGO Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>CREOG: 800-673-8444, ext 2558&lt;br&gt;APGO: 410-451-9560</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACOG Congressional Leadership Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>12-14</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-673-8444, ext 2566</td>
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<td></td>
<td>American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology Biennial Meeting</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>13-17</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ascp.org/biennial.shtml">www.ascp.org/biennial.shtml</a> &lt;br&gt;800-787-7227</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Society of Gynecologic Surgeons 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sgsionline.org">www.sgsionline.org</a> &lt;br&gt;901-682-2079</td>
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<td>19th European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</td>
<td>Torino, Italy</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<td>800-673-8444, ext 1648</td>
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<td>ACOG WEBCAST: Global Obstetrical Package</td>
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<td>1-2:30 pm ET</td>
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<td>800-673-8444, ext 1644</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACOG WEBCAST: Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-2:30 pm ET</td>
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<td>800-673-8444, ext 2498</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pacific Coast Reproductive Society Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Indian Wells, CA</td>
<td>26-30</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcrsonline.org">www.pcrsonline.org</a> &lt;br&gt;562-947-7068</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>ACOG WEBCAST: CPT Surgical Modifiers and Multiple Procedures (Modifiers -S1 and -S9)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2-4</td>
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<td>800-673-8444, ext 2498</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACOG WEBCAST: Pay-for-Performance</td>
<td></td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-673-8444, ext 2498</td>
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<td>JUNE</td>
<td>The Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>30-June 3</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.wagono.org">www.wagono.org</a> &lt;br&gt;866-935-1959</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
<td>ACOG WEBCAST: Coding for Female Reproductive Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-673-8444, ext 1648</td>
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<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>ACOG WEBCAST: Second Annual Summer Institute in Maternal-Fetal Pharmacology</td>
<td></td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-673-8444, ext 2442 &lt;br&gt;www.acog.org/acm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACOG S54th Annual Clinical Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>6-10</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-673-8444, ext 2442 &lt;br&gt;www.acog.org/acm</td>
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**ACOG Courses**

1. For Postgraduate Courses, call 800-673-8444, ext 2540/2541, weekdays 9 am-4:45 pm ET or visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration is not accepted for Coding Workshops. Registration must be received one week before the course. On-site registration subject to availability.

2. For Coding Workshops, visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration is not accepted for Coding Workshops. For Coding Workshops, visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration is not accepted for Coding Workshops. Registration must be received one week before the course. On-site registration subject to availability.

**Specialty Societies Council of Medical Specialty Societies Spring Meeting**

**Palm Springs, CA**

**ACOG WEBCAST: Global Obstetrical Package**

**ACOG WEBCAST: Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation**

**ACOG WEBCAST: Pay-for-Performance**

**ACOG WEBCAST: Second Annual Summer Institute in Maternal-Fetal Pharmacology**

**ACOG 54th Annual Clinical Meeting**

**ACOG Courses**

1. For Postgraduate Courses, call 800-673-8444, ext 2540/2541, weekdays 9 am-4:45 pm ET or visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration is not accepted for Coding Workshops. Registration must be received one week before the course. On-site registration subject to availability.

2. For Coding Workshops, visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration is not accepted for Coding Workshops. Registration must be received one week before the course. On-site registration subject to availability.
Clinical Updates addresses lower gastrointestinal tract disorders

Lower gastrointestinal tract disorders is the first monograph in 2006 in the Clinical Updates in Women’s Health Care series.

Lower gastrointestinal tract disorders range from occasional diarrhea, constipation, and irritable bowel syndrome to more severe conditions such as Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Such disorders are common in women, who often report these conditions to their ob-gyn.

The monograph is written by two ob-gyns who have an interest in gastrointestinal tract disorders. The authors address how these disorders affect women and present diagnostic and management approaches. The publication also includes a section on screening for colorectal cancer.

To access, on the ACOG website, www.acog.org, under “Information,” click on “Search Ovid”

www.clinicalupdates.org; 800-762-2264, ext 192