Ob-gyns are champions of women’s health care

AS HE WAS INAUGURATED AS THE 58TH PRESIDENT OF ACOG, Kenneth L. Noller, MD, applauded Fellows for being advocates for women, while outlining the challenges the specialty is facing.

Dr. Noller became the newest ACOG president on the final day of the Annual Clinical Meeting in May in San Diego. Dr. Noller is the Louis E. Phaneuf Professor and Chair in the department of ob-gyn and professor in the department of family and community medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and the gynecologist-in-chief at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston.

“What sets us apart from all the other [specialties] is that we are first and always the champions for women’s health care in the United States,” Dr. Noller said. “Unfortunately, as I stand here today, I’m very worried both about our specialty and all of American medicine. It’s becoming harder and harder to provide health care to women. We’re constantly frustrated by those who try to intervene between us and our patients.”

Overregulation wastes valuable time and money, and physicians can’t afford to waste either, Dr. Noller said.

“Health care in this country now accounts for over 16% of the [Gross National Product] and has grown every year for decades,” he said. “By the year 2015, 20 cents of every dollar spent in the United States will be spent on health care. These costs have ripple effects throughout our economy and society … We all know there’s no reason for health care to cost as much as it does. There’s tremendous waste at every level.”

Physicians face inflated rates from for-profit medical liability carriers, yet “whenever a physician is able to join a self-insured group, premiums drop by 20 to 50%,” Dr. Noller noted.

“Those extra billions of dollars should be spent on patient care, not to line the pockets of the company owners,” he said.

Dr. Noller is concerned that the current practice of medicine in the US will not survive unless there are dramatic changes in the system.

Achieving medical liability reform

With the US Congress opposed to any medical liability reform that includes caps on damages, the best hope for national reform lies with patients.

“It will only be when thousands of wom-
San Diego hosts superb ACM

ACOG HELD ITS ANNUAL CLINICAL Meeting in San Diego, May 5–9. The meeting was extremely well attended by our members, and there were outstanding presentations on a wide variety of topics. The Exhibit Hall was full of industry exhibits, and the posters were some of the best ever submitted.

A highlight of the meeting was San Diego itself. The city has a beautiful convention center, lots of activities for guests and children, and exceptional weather. The Tuesday night President’s Dinner Dance on the USS Midway was sold out, and the Welcome Reception outdoor block party in San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter was a fun and unique event.

We are now planning our next Annual Clinical Meeting, which will be held in New Orleans, May 3–7, 2008. The scientific program will be even better, and we are planning many outside activities.

I hope you will plan on attending and free your schedule now. New Orleans is an exciting city that has been rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The convention center, hotels, French Quarter, and Garden District are now back to pre-Katrina level. Other areas have not been so fortunate, and the tax money raised from meetings such as ours is a much-needed resource to help the rebuilding effort.

Let me expressly thank Dr. Hal Lawrence, scientific program chair for the San Diego ACM, and Dr. Joe Sanfilippo, general chair, for the outstanding San Diego meeting. Their vision and judgment was supremely rewarded with the program and subsequent attendance. Too often we forget those who are behind the scenes. The chairs and “green coats” deserve the credit. ACOG sincerely appreciates their work and dedication.

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG
Executive Vice President

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard S. Abrams, MD
Chagrin Falls, OH
Victor M. Bayouk, MD
Point Claire, QC ● 3/07
Maurice S. Berbary, MD
Dallas
Philip Briguglio, MD
McLean, VA ● 3/07
Jose M. Cava, MD
Palos Park, IL
Robert B. Connolly, MD
San Juan, PR
Orlando S. Cuevas, MD
St. James, Barbados
Miguel S. Dalmau, MD
Santutce, PR
Robert E. Dwyer, MD
Las Vegas, NV ● 1/07
William J. Estrada, MD
Houston ● 1/07
Henry J. Evenhouse, MD
Oak Lawn, IL
James Fox, MD
Longkey Key, FL
Albert Galante, MD
Chicago
Armando H. Gutierrez, MD
Maysagez, PR ● 1/07
Fred T. Holden, MD
Washington, DC ● 3/07
Robert H. Johnson, MD
Rochester, MI
James Robert Jones, MD
Naples, FL ● 2/07
Kenneth J. Kerwin, MD
Granham, NH ● 2/07
Humfredo Marcano, MD
Rogers, PR
Randolph McConnie, MD
Rogers, PR
Marshall A. Minner, MD
Rock Island, IL

Obstetrics & Gynecology HIGHLIGHTS

The June issue of the Green Journal includes the following ACOG documents:

- Management of Herpes in Pregnancy (Obstetrics Practice Bulletin #82, revised)
- Communication Strategies for Patient Handoffs (Patient Safety Committee Opinion #367, new)
- Adoption (Ethics Committee Opinion #308, revised)
- Multifetal Pregnancy Reduction (Ethics Committee Opinion #369, revised)

The July issue of the Green Journal includes the following ACOG documents:

- Management of Adnexal Masses (Gynecology Practice Bulletin #83, new)
- Institutional Responsibility to Provide Legal Representation (Ethics Committee Opinion #370, revised)
- Sterilization of Women, Including those with Mental Disabilities (Ethics Committee Opinion #371, revised)
- The Role of Cystourethroscopy in the Generalist Obstetrician–Gynecologist Practice (Gynecology Committee Opinion #372, new)
ACOG’s Office of Communications convened leading experts at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May for news briefings on key women’s health issues. Major news outlets and women’s magazines covered five press conferences, interviewed Fellows, and attended sessions and research presentations throughout the ACM.

Topics highlighted included:
- ACOG’s screening guidelines on chromosomal abnormalities: what they mean to patients and physicians
- Maternal depression: underdiagnosed and undertreated
- Spotlight on chlamydia: annual screenings a must for young women
- Contraception—a basic health necessity: affordable access needed for all women
- Colon cancer: a new education campaign developed by ACOG and several partners about the importance of regular colorectal cancer screening (see ACOG Today, May/June 2007)

Rebekah E. Gee, MD, an ob-gyn at Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, calls for more insurance coverage of contraceptive services for US women.

Laura E. Riley, MD, assistant professor of ob-gyn and reproductive biology at Harvard University, stresses the importance of chlamydia screening.

Paul A. Gluck, MD, associate clinical professor of ob-gyn at the University of Miami, discusses maternal depression. Next to him is Stanley Zinberg, MD, MS, ACOG’s vice president of practice activities.

James D. Goldberg, MD, medical director at San Francisco Perinatal Associates and immediate past chair of ACOG’s Committee on Genetics, explains ACOG’s new Down syndrome screening guidelines.

Sharon T. Phelan, MD, ob-gyn professor at the University of New Mexico, lists the potential adverse effects of untreated depression during pregnancy.
Score two for the professors in annual match-up

‘SOS! I’m Short of Breath’
The first case—presented by Radha Uppalapati, MD, from Stroger Hospital of Cook County in Chicago—involves a 19-year-old primigravid black woman who presented with shortness of breath of three days’ duration. She had had pneumonia two years previously and a history of chlamydia and trichomoniasis. The professors were able to deduce the final diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. Dr. Uppalapati described the diagnosis as “cystic fibrosis with respiratory failure secondary to bilateral pneumonia.” Score one for the professors.

‘A Postoperative Complication Causing Physician Consternation’
The second case was presented by Leah S. Bernard, MD, from Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. It involved a 71-year-old G3P3 woman requesting a hysterectomy. She had a history of idiopathic thrombocytopenia, hypothyroidism, trigeminal neuralgia, and multiple severe allergies. The patient had various complications after surgery, including diffuse low back and abdominal pain and ileus of both the large and small bowel, Dr. Bernard said. The professors figured out the correct diagnosis: Guillain-Barre syndrome, which is associated with anesthesia and includes rapidly evolving demyelinating polyneuropathy. Score two for the professors.

‘College Blues and Hues’
Tasha R. Johnson, MD, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, challenged—and stumped—the professors with the case of a 21-year-old nulliparous white female college student who initially presented with itching in the genital area and minimal vaginal discharge. After successfully being treated for vulvovaginal candidiasis, the patient presented again several days later with coalescent black and necrotic genital ulcerations. She also complained of a fever and sore throat shortly before the development of the genital lesions and after they resolved. A Monospot test eventually returned positive and was followed up with serology for Epstein-Barr virus, which revealed a diagnosis of acute infectious mononucleosis, a very rare cause of genital ulcerations in females.

‘Looks Can Be Deceiving’
The final case to stump the professors was presented by Kellie S. Matthews, MD, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who described a 36-year-old white female who presented to the emergency department complaining of vaginal bleeding and pelvic pain. She had a history of menorrhagia and noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. Physicians discovered the patient had stage III ovarian cancer. After chemotherapy, followed by surgical staging, final pathology demonstrated gonadoblastoma of the dysgenetic gonad consistent with Swyer’s syndrome. Individuals with Swyer’s syndrome are genotypically male but phenotypically female.

The Junior Fellows revealed each patient’s presenting symptoms, lab results, pathology reports, workups, management strategies, and unexpected turns of events while the professors sifted through the clues. In the end, the Junior Fellows stumped the professors on two of the four cases.

The professors were:
- Christos Coutifaris, MD, professor of ob-gyn with the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia
- Vivian M. Dickerson, MD, clinical professor of ob-gyn at the Hoag Hospital, University of California-Irvine, Newport Beach
- Laurel W. Rice, MD, professor and vice chair of the department of ob-gyn, gynecology oncology, at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- Dwight J. Rouse, MD, MSPH, professor of ob-gyn in the division of maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine
District I chair becomes JFCAC vice chair

Dr. Gala assumes the chair of JFCAC

At the Annual Clinical Meeting in May, Junior Fellow College Advisory Council Chair Patrick S. Ramsey, MD, MSPH, passed the gavel to Vice Chair Rajiv B. Gala, MD, who has focused on issues that include recruitment, global expansion, education, and retention.

Dr. Gala pointed out that efforts of ob-gyns promoting the specialty by interacting with, mentoring, and recruiting medical students culminated this year in only four ob-gyn residency positions remaining unfilled in this year’s national residency match.

“Nevertheless, the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council refuses to rest on our laurels and is working hard to expand our recruitment efforts to attract the best and brightest medical students into the specialty,” Dr. Gala said.

The JFCAC hosted a medical student course at the ACM for the second year in a row. The course evaluations will allow the JFCAC to continue tailoring the format to the needs of the students, Dr. Gala said. The ACM included the first Ob-Gyn Residency Fair, with 30 programs, representing a diversity of training options. The JFCAC is also updating its ob-gyn recruitment video.

Dr. Gala wants to continue to expand the JFCAC’s relationships: “Email and the Internet have helped remove many of the boundaries within the global community of women’s health care providers. The opportunity is prime to expand the collaborative relationships we have with the Society of Obstericians and Gynaecologists of Canada and the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology on topics of universal importance, such as medical student recruitment, patient safety, and ensuring surgical competence.”

The JFCAC has also been working on developing a legislative primer that will serve as a user-friendly introduction to the legislative aspects of practicing medicine. In addition, the Council helped review a medical student ob-gyn textbook recently and will help review future editions. The book is authored by six College Fellows, including Immediate Past President Douglas W. Laube, MD, MEd.

“As the JFCAC looks toward expanding opportunities for members to get actively involved with ACOG, we also appreciate the importance of retaining those that already have been involved,” Dr. Gala said. “The Junior Fellows in practice are a vital contingency of our membership that we are striving to recapture. Our upcoming Junior Fellow needs assessment survey will help flesh out new services that ACOG can provide to aid them.

“It really is an honor to be one of your national officers, and I’m looking forward to a productive year.”

Essays, elections in August

The theme for this year’s Junior Fellow essay contest is “Ob-Gyn Special Delivery.” Essays are due by August 31.

Submissions should provide reflection on your most memorable ob-gyn experience related to the delivery of women’s health care and how the experience affected your outlook on medicine and ob-gyn as a career. Essay participants must be Junior Fellows. Essays should be between 500 and 750 words.

For information on Junior Fellow elections, please see page 13.

On the ACOG website, www.acog.org, click on “Junior Fellows” in the Quick Links box on the left side of the page.

NEW JFCAC Chair Rajiv B. Gala, MD, addresses the Council at the ACM. Next to him is Immediate Past Chair Patrick S. Ramsey, MD, MSPH.
“I thought the President’s Program was really inspiring. It emphasized the importance of women’s health care and the role that obstetricians and gynecologists have as providers in making a difference for people. I was inspired to put more energy into my work.”

Becky Epstein, MD, Indianapolis

Participants listen during a clinical seminar on fetal heart rate monitoring.

An EMR vendor explains her software at the ACM’s first Electronic Medical Records Challenge.

An exhibitor shows an obstetrics model to an attendee in the ACM Exhibit Hall.

During the President’s Program, Cosgrove lecturer David P. Barash, PhD, discusses women’s biological enigmas.

Medical students listen to a residency program representative at the ACM’s first Ob-Gyn Residency Fair.

An attendee registers for the meeting at the ACM registration desk.
Distinguished Service Award

The ACOG Distinguished Service Award is presented to outstanding individuals in obstetrics and gynecology who have made significant contributions to ACOG and/or the discipline of obstetrics and gynecology in government, research, teaching, or direct patient care. Three individuals received this honor at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May.

Mitchell J. Besser, MD
Dr. Besser is a senior lecturer in the department of ob-gyn, Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town, South Africa. He is also founder and medical director of Mothers2Mothers. Dr. Besser received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his ob-gyn residency at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Besser relocated to Cape Town in January 2000 and joined the University of Cape Town’s department of ob-gyn, assisting with the development of initiatives to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and provide care to HIV-infected women. Based on his work with HIV-positive pregnant patients, Dr. Besser created Mothers2Mothers, a program in which HIV-infected mothers who have recently given birth provide mentorship, education, and counseling to HIV-infected pregnant women.

Honorary Fellowship Award

Honorary Fellowships are awarded to those individuals of outstanding achievement in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, or an allied discipline, from any country. The individual has attained national and international recognition and has a relationship with activities in the US involving women’s health care. Two received this honor at the ACM.

George K. Creatsas, MD, PhD
Professor Creatsas is a professor of ob-gyn and chair of the second department of ob-gyn at the University of Athens in Greece. He is also dean of the University of Athens Medical School and vice rector of the university. Professor Creatsas has been president of the International Federation of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, the Hellenic Society in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Hellenic Society in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, and the European Society of Contraception. He is vice president of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a member of the Board of the European Menopause and Andropause Society, and a member of the Executive Board of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Philip N. Eskew Jr, MD
Dr. Eskew is the director of physician and patient relations and a clinical professor in Indiana University’s department of ob-gyn. He received his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Vincent Hospital.

Dr. Eskew was the Indiana Section Junior Fellow chair and chair of the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council. As a Fellow, he was Indiana Section chair and on the Executive Board as District V chair and national vice president. He spurred ACOG to include Junior Fellow members on College committees.

Dr. Eskew’s most striking achievement was his forethought in recognizing the role that CPT and ICD-9 coding would play in the lives of Fellows. He persevered in bringing forth these issues and refining ACOG positions by chairing what is now called the Committee on Coding and Nomenclature.

Stanley A. Gall, MD
Dr. Gall is a professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and women’s health and professor of public health and information sciences at the University of Louisville. He received his medical degree and completed his ob-gyn residency at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Gall has served as vice chair and chair of District V and, as district chair, on the Executive Board. He has chaired several committees related to the Annual Clinical Meeting, including the Committee on Scientific Program, for which he was the general scientific chair for the 1991 ACM. Dr. Gall has served on the committees on Nominations and Development and chairs an ACOG task force on adolescent, adult, and maternal immunization.

Dr. Gall is an ACOG representative to the working group that developed the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ recommendations for the HPV vaccine.

Allan Templeton, MBChB, MD (HONS)
Professor Templeton is the regius professor of ob-gyn at the University of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was elected president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 2004.

He has chaired the Royal College’s committees on Scientific Advisory, Subspecialty Training, and Guidelines and Audit, as well as the Services and Standards boards. He has been associated with the Royal College’s work on clinical standards for many years and now chairs the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Steering Group on Revalidation. He was a member of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, chaired the National Chlamydia Steering Group, and advised the Department of Health on matters related to infertility.
Outstanding District Service Award

Eight Outstanding District Service Awards were presented at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May to those individuals who have made notable contributions to their districts.

**DISTRICT I**

**Kathleen Fitzgerald, MD**

Dr. Fitzgerald is in solo private gynecology practice in Providence, RI.

She has served as Rhode Island Section vice chair and chair, District I vice chair and chair, and on the Executive Board. She was a member of the committees on Credentials, Genetics, and Gynecologic Practice. She was a 2003 McCain Fellow and represents the Rhode Island Section in the local legislative arena, which led to her extensive association with the Rhode Island Medical Society. She chaired the society’s Public Laws Committee for an unprecedented nine years, culminating in her service as society president.

Dr. Fitzgerald chairs the ACOG delegation to the American Medical Association and also represents ACOG’s interests to the RMS. She was the first female president of the Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island Medical Staff Association.

Dr. Fitzgerald received her medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School and completed her residency at the then-Providence Lying-In Hospital in Providence (now Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island).

**DISTRICT II**

**Maureen A. Killackey, MD**

Dr. Killackey is the deputy physician-in-chief and medical director of the Regional Care Network for Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Dr. Killackey has served as District II Section 9 secretary and chair and was scientific program co-chair for the 2006 Annual District Meeting. She was honored as “Teacher of the Year” by Columbia University medical students and as “Surgical Teacher of the Year” by the St. Luke’s Roosevelt Residency Program. She received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Dr. Killackey is a grant reviewer for the National Cancer Institute and a board member of the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society and represents the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists on the ACS Commission on Cancer. She has been appointed by the governor to the New York State Ovarian Cancer Advisory Panel and New York Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Prevention Program.

Dr. Killackey received her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College and completed her residency at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

**DISTRICT III**

**Lamar E.V. Ekbladh, MD**

Dr. Ekbladh recently retired from the Christiana Care Health System in Newark, DE, where he was chair of the department of ob-gyn for more than 12 years. He continues to serve as clinical professor of ob-gyn at the Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

Dr. Ekbladh has served on ACOG’s Education Commission, the PROLOG Task Force for Gynecology, the Committee on Gynecologic Practice, and the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology Examination Committee-Generalist Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He has been District IV Junior Fellow chair, Fellow advisor to the District IV Junior Fellows, and a McCain Fellow. He also served as an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology oral board examination and was president of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia. Dr. Ekbladh received his medical degree from Yale University and completed his residency in ob-gyn at the University of North Carolina.

**DISTRICT IV**

**Richard P. Green, MD**

Dr. Green is in solo private practice and is a senior attending physician at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. He is an assistant clinical professor in the department of ob-gyn at Howard University College of Medicine and director of medical education in the department of ob-gyn at Prince George’s Hospital Center in Cheverly, MD.

Dr. Green has served as vice chair and chair of the District of Columbia Section and as District IV chair, vice chair, and secretary. He has served on the Executive Board as district chair, assistant secretary, and vice president. While on the board, he was elected chair of the Council of District Chairs.

Dr. Green has been chair of the Committee on Credentials and the Grievance Committee. He was a member of the Committee on Professional Liability, the Committee on Nominations, and the Task Force on Neonatal Encephalopathy and Cerebral Palsy. He serves as a reviewer in the Voluntary Review of Quality of Care program.

Dr. Green is on the board of trustees of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia and has chaired the society’s Maternal Health Committee.

Dr. Green received his medical degree and completed his ob-gyn residency at Howard University in Washington, DC.

AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
DISTRICT VII

James E. (Jed) Delmore, MD

Dr. Delmore is the director of gynecologic oncology and professor of ob-gyn at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita.

Dr. Delmore has served as Kansas Section Junior Fellow vice chair and chair. As a Fellow, he served as Kansas Section secretary-treasurer, vice chair, and chair. He has been the chair or member of the Committee on Continuing Medical Education, formerly the Committee on Course Coordination, for more than 12 years. He also has served as an alternate on the Committee on Nominations and is a member of the District VII Reference Committee.

Dr. Delmore represents the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists on the American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for Gynecology and Obstetrics. He received the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics Excellence in Teaching Award in 1993 and the National Faculty Award from ACOG and the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2004. Dr. Delmore is a board member of the Kansas Chapter of the American Cancer Society and a board member and past president of the Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation and is on the medical advisory board for Planned Parenthood of Kansas.

Dr. Delmore received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

DISTRICT VIII

James R. Scott, MD

Dr. Scott is editor-in-chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology and is a faculty member at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Scott has chaired the ACOG Committee on Practice Patterns and served as a member of the Committee on Honors and Recognitions. He was a course coordinator for the ACOG/Ortho Academic Training Fellowship. He has served on the District VIII Advisory Council and was scientific program chair for the 2004 combined Annual District Meeting for Districts VI, VIII, and IX.

Dr. Scott was president of the Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American Society of Reproductive Immunology, and the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society. He received the Distinguished Scientist Award from the Society for Gynecologic Investigation in 2000.

Dr. Scott received his medical degree from the University of Iowa. Following two years at a US Public Health Service Indian Hospital in Arizona and four years in general practice in rural Iowa, he returned to the University of Iowa for his ob-gyn residency. He completed a fellowship in reproductive immunology at the University of Texas at Dallas.

DISTRICT IX

Gail J. Newel, MD, MPH

Dr. Newel is in private practice in Fresno, CA, and a clinical faculty member at UCSF-San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Newel has spent 17 years on the District IX Advisory Council, including serving as vice chair and chair of Section 3, participating on the District IX Legislative Committee, serving as a key contact, and serving on the Medical Liability Task Force. She currently serves on the ACOG editorial committee for Guidelines for Women’s Health Care and has served on the ACOG Committee on Nominations. She has served as the District IX representative to the State of California Department of Health and Human Services, on the Office of Women’s Health Advisory Committee, and on the Breastfeeding Task Force Advisory Committee. She has participated in the ACOG Leadership Institute and the Congressional Leadership Conference.

Dr. Newel received her medical degree from the University of California, Irvine, and completed her residency at the University of California, San Francisco-affiliated program in Fresno. She later received a master’s degree in public health, with an emphasis in maternal-child health, from the University of California, Berkeley.

ARMED FORCES DISTRICT

Paul R. Ziaya, MD

Dr. Ziaya is chief of staff of the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Biloxi, MS.

Dr. Ziaya completed a 22-year career in the US Air Force, serving at multiple levels, including department chair, residency program director, chief of hospital services, hospital chief executive, and Department of Defense regional medical director. Following military service, he designed public health structures in Idaho under Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grants.

Dr. Ziaya has served as vice chair and chair of the Air Force Section and secretary-treasurer and chair of the Armed Forces District. While district chair, he served on the Executive Board and on the committees on Credentials and Finance. He wrote the district’s policies and procedures and has chaired the district’s nominating committee. Dr. Ziaya chaired ACOG’s Task Force on Electronic Medical Records and the Committee on Electronic Medical Records. He currently serves on committees for Compensation, Nominations, and Ambulatory Practice Operations. He was the first ACOG representative to the multi-specialty Physicians Electronic Health Record Coalition. He is an advisor to the Armed Forces District Advisory Council in his district chair emeritus role.

Dr. Ziaya received his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and completed his residency at the Wilford Hall United States Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio.
### Candidates for national office

Candidate quotes are in response to: Why did you choose ob-gyn as a specialty, and would you do it again?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President Elect</th>
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| **Veena B. Desai, MD**  
West Springfield, MA  
“I picked obstetrics and gynecology as a specialty to serve womankind. For my inner satisfaction, I would certainly do it again. However, I submit, to salvage entirety of specialty, the professional liability issue has to be resolved by any means.”  
**Professional Position**  
Attending ob-gyn, Baystate Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center  
**Education**  
■ **MD**: Seth G.S. Medical College, Bombay, India  
■ **RESIDENCY**: teaching hospitals in Bombay recognized by the Hospitals of National Health Service in UK, and Dalhousie University, Canada  
**ACOG Activities**  
■ **NATIONAL**: chair, numerous Annual Clinical Meeting scientific sessions; ACOG key contact  |

| **Richard P. Green, MD**  
Washington, DC  
“My first delivery was mesmerizing! The couple had an 11-year-old daughter, and they were desperately hoping for a son. When Mrs. H. delivered a boy, the delivery suite erupted with shouts of joy and happiness. Would I do it again? Absolutely!”  
**Professional Position**  
Private solo practice and senior attending physician at the Washington Hospital Center  
**Education**  
■ **MD**: Howard University, Washington, DC  
■ **RESIDENCY**: Howard University, Washington, DC  
**ACOG Activities**  
■ **NATIONAL**: vice president; assistant secretary; member, Executive Board, chair, Council of District Chairs; chair, Committee on Credentials; chair, Grievance Committee; member, committees on Professional Liability, Nominations, member, the Task Force on Neonatal Encephalopathy and Cerebral Palsy, reviewer, Voluntary Review of Quality of Care program; member, Finance Subcommittee on Development, chair, National College Advisory Council Meeting; ACOG representative before US Congress numerous times  
■ **DISTRICT IV**: chair; vice chair; secretary; member, Advisory Council, newsletter editor; chair, Committee on Site Selection; chair, Committee on Perinatal Mortality; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; District of Columbia Section vice chair and chair |

| **Gerald F. Joseph Jr, MD**  
Ponchatoula, LA  
“My father was a solo practitioner in EENT, a ‘sensible’ direction for me. However, for a lifetime, I had to do what I really loved—a field with surgery, medicine, and a doctor-patient relationship like no other. Undoubtedly, I would do the same thing today.”  
**Professional Position**  
Recent past medical director for women’s services, St. John’s Regional Health Center, Springfield, MO  
**Education**  
■ **MD**: Tulane University, New Orleans  
■ **RESIDENCY**: Louisiana State University  
**ACOG Activities**  
■ **NATIONAL**: member, Council of District Chairs; member, Executive Board, chair, Committee on Scientific Program; member, committees on Gynecologic Practice, Nominations, Long-Range Planning, Credentials, Continuing Medical Education; chair, task forces on Enhancing Practice Satisfaction, District and Section Contributions, member, task forces on Abortion, Nominations Process (2), Scope of Practice, Medical Student Recruitment, Committees; member, Grievance Committee’s Appeals Panel Committee, Executive Board liaison to Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine board, member, medical advisory board for Managing Menopause/pause® magazine  
■ **DISTRICT VII**: chair; vice chair; secretary-treasurer; scientific program chair; Louisiana Section chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer; member, Missouri Section Advisory Council  |

| **Peter A. Schwartz, MD**  
Reading, PA  
“The joy of childbirth, the marriage of disciplines (surgery, medicine, psychiatry), and the lifelong relationships created by continuity of care were irresistible determinants. My career has encompassed private practice, teaching, and administration. I have loved every day—well, almost!”  
**Professional Position**  
Clinical professor of ob-gyn, Drexel University  
**Education**  
■ **MD**: Boston University  
■ **RESIDENCY**: Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT  
**ACOG Activities**  
■ **NATIONAL**: vice president, assistant secretary, member, Executive Board, chair, vice chair, Committee on Ethics; mem-

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Candidates for national office: Why did you choose ob-gyn as a specialty, and would you do it again?
**Take part in the election process**

Fellows are encouraged to take part in the national officer election process by discussing candidates with Committee on Nominations members. Candidates’ qualifications will also be discussed at fall district meetings. The Committee on Nominations will meet in November to select the slate of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting on May 5, 2008, in New Orleans. The elected officers will begin their terms on May 8, 2008, after the Annual Clinical Meeting.
**OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

**Vice President**

Sharon T. Phelan, MD  
Albuquerque, NM  
“Personal fulfillment and challenges. Where else can one have continuity, motivated patients, diversity of practice settings, interventions from counseling through surgery, and major impact on quality of life of women and their families? It is the perfect career for me.”

**Professional Position**

Medical director, Maternity and Infant Care Project; professor of ob-gyn and director for career advisement, University of New Mexico

**Education**
- **MD:** University of New Mexico  
- **RESIDENCY:** University of New Mexico

**ACOG Activities**
- **NATIONAL:** assistant secretary; member, Executive Board; vice chair, Committee on Obstetric Practice; member, Grievance Committee; member, Committee on Practice Bulletins-Obstetrics; member, ABOG/ACOG Road to Maintaining Excellence Task Force; member, Task Force on Women and Younger Fellows in ACOG Leadership; member, Family Violence Work Group; representative to Council of Academic Societies; member, editorial task force, Precis: Primary and Preventive Care, third edition; reviewer and member, editorial board, Obstetrics & Gynecology; helped develop smoking cessation material for membership
- **DISTRICT VII:** chair, Alabama Section’s State Maternal Mortality Review Committee

**Michael R. Tesoro, MD**

Sharon, CT  
“My mentor, Dr. Martin Stone, and his team set an example of excellence, empathy, and compassion in providing care to ob-gyn patients. Their enthusiasm was contagious. I was convinced ob-gyn was for me. Yes, I would do it again. Ob-gyn—there is no substitute.”

**Professional Position**

Associate attending, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford, CT; assistant clinical professor of ob-gyn, University of Connecticut

**Education**
- **MD:** New York Medical College  
- **RESIDENCY:** St. Clare’s Hospital & Medical Center, New York City

**ACOG Activities**
- **NATIONAL:** member, Executive Board; member, Council of District Chairs; chair, Committee on Quality Assessment; member, committees on Credentials, Course Coordination; member, Finance Subcommittee on Development; director and reviewer, Voluntary Review of Quality of Care program; program chair, postgraduate courses; ACOG key contact
- **DISTRICT I:** chair; vice chair; member, Advisory Council; chair, committees on Meetings, Quality Assessment, general program chair for Annual District Meeting; member, committees on Quality Assessment and Practice and on Legislative; recipient, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Section Award; key legislative contact; Connecticut Section chair, vice chair

**Barry D. Smith, MD**

Lebanon, NH  
“My career choice was the direct result of a wonderful third-year clerkship working with an enthusiastic group of faculty and residents. Yes, I would definitely do it again since no field of medicine has enjoyed more dramatic advances.”

**Professional Position**

Chair and professor of ob-gyn, emeritus, and director of Obstetrics Safety and Quality Improvement Project, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

**Education**
- **MD:** Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
- **RESIDENCY:** New York Hospital/Cornell Medical Center

**ACOG Activities**
- **NATIONAL:** member, ABOG/ACOG Road to Maintaining Excellence Task Force
- **DISTRICT I:** secretary; member, Advisory Council; chair, Annual District Meeting; cochair, Practice/Quality Improvement Committee; member, committees on Pay-for-Performance Oversight, Quality Assurance, Practice, Cancer; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; New Hampshire Section chair, vice chair, secretary

**Assistant Secretary**

Paul A. Gluck, MD SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 11.

Benjamin E. Greer, MD SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 11.

Barry D. Smith, MD SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 12.

Michael R. Tesoro, MD SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 12.
Sarah W. Prager, MD
Seattle
“Obstetrics and gynecology is the only specialty where I can be a full-service provider, helping women through their pregnancies and their Pap smears, and performing their surgery, should that become necessary. I wouldn’t hesitate to choose the same specialty again.”

Professional Position
Assistant professor, University of Washington

Education
- **MD:** University of Texas, Southwestern
- **RESIDENCY:** University of Vermont

ACOG Activities
- **NATIONAL:** member, Committee on Gynecologic Practice; member, CREOG Education Committee; participant, ACOG Future Leaders in Ob-Gyn Conference
- **DISTRICT I:** Junior Fellow chair, vice chair; Vermont Section

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- **DISTRICT I:** Junior Fellow chair, vice chair; Vermont Section

Dane M. Shipp, MD
Encinitas, CA
“Ob-gyn provides the unequalled opportunity to make a difference not only at a single visit, but throughout all the stages of a woman’s life. This is a lifelong opportunity for the patient and the doctor. I would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Professional Position
Private group practice

Education
- **MD:** University of Alabama at Birmingham
- **RESIDENCY:** University of California San Francisco-Fresno

ACOG Activities
- **NATIONAL:** member, Committee on Legislation; ACOG-American College of Surgeons Junior Fellow liaison; ACM Resident Reporter; participant, ACOG Future Leaders in Ob-Gyn Conference
- **DISTRICT IX:** young Fellow representative; member, committees on Business of Medicine, Nominations, State Legislation; newsletter editor; district Junior Fellow chair, vice chair; Section 3 Junior Fellow chair, vice chair

Committee on Nominations
Fellows are encouraged to discuss candidates with Committee on Nominations members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair:</th>
<th>Vivian M. Dickerson, MD</th>
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<tr>
<td>District I:</td>
<td>John B. Makin Jr, MD</td>
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<td>District II:</td>
<td>Scott D. Hayworth, MD</td>
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<td>District III:</td>
<td>Vincent A. Pellegrini, MD</td>
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<td>District IV:</td>
<td>Ramon A. Suarez, MD</td>
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<td>District V:</td>
<td>Donald K. Bryan, MD</td>
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<td>District VI:</td>
<td>Robert J. Jaeger, MD</td>
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<td>District VII:</td>
<td>Ted L. Anderson, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>District VIII:</td>
<td>Susan M. Lemagie, MD</td>
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<td>District IX:</td>
<td>James A. Macer, MD</td>
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<td>Armed Forces District:</td>
<td>Paul R. Ziaya, MD</td>
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<td>Fellows-at-Large:</td>
<td>Laura A. Dean, MD</td>
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<td>Past Presidents:</td>
<td>Michael T. Mennuti, MD</td>
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<td>Thomas F. Purdon, MD</td>
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Junior Fellow elections

In other election news, junior fellow district elections are coming up in August, so it’s not too early to review candidates’ names as you prepare to cast your vote. Junior Fellow elections will be held online August 1–31.

A list of candidates are on the Junior Fellow section of the ACOG website.

- **info**
  - On the ACOG website, www.acog.org, click on “Junior Fellows” in the Quick Links box on the left side of the page
  - Questions: Christine Himes, 800-673-8444, ext 2561; chimes@acog.org

Cole D. Greves, MD, then-District IV Junior Fellow vice chair, and Kathleen E. Cook, MD, District IV Junior Fellow chair, work on Junior Fellow projects at the 2007 Annual Clinical Meeting.
Ob-gyns are champions of women’s health care

“We need to reevaluate how we practice our specialty. We need to develop new models of practice. We need to learn how to practice smarter, not harder.”

Dr. Kenneth L. Noller

KENNETH L. NOLLER, MD

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; chair, 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; cochair, Practice/Quality Improvement Committee
■ PREVIOUS LEADERSHIP: president, American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology; president, Boston Ob-Gyn Society
**2007 CALENDAR**

**JULY**

10
ACOG WEBCAST: Management of Adnexal Masses
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

18–20
35th Annual Seminar for Physicians on Breastfeeding
Chicago
www.iill.org
847-592-7561

20–23
Gynecologic Oncology Group Semi-Annual Meeting
Philadelphia
www.gog.org
215-854-0770

**AUGUST**

9–12
ACOG District VI Fellows Annual Meeting
Victoria, BC
800-673-8444, ext 2530

9–12
ACOG District VIII Annual Meeting
Victoria, BC
800-673-8444, ext 2530

9–12
ACOG District IX Annual Meeting
Victoria, BC
800-673-8444, ext 2530

9–11
Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology 34th Annual Scientific Meeting
Boston
www.idsog.org
800-673-8444, ext 2570

14
ACOG WEBCAST: Coding for Medicare Preventive Care Visit
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

**SEPTEMBER**

5–8
Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons 16th Annual Meeting and Endo Expo
San Francisco
www.sls.org
305-665-9959

10
ACOG WEBCAST: Coding for the Non-Medicare Preventive Care Visit
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

11–12
ACOG District V Junior Fellows Annual Meeting
Indianapolis
800-673-8444, ext 2532

14–16
ACOG District IV Annual Meeting
Chicago
800-673-8444, ext 2488

15–19
American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society Annual Meeting
Napa, CA
800-673-8444, ext 2574

24–26
American Urogynecological Society 28th Annual Scientific Meeting
Hollywood, FL
www.augs.org
202-367-1167

28–30
ACOG District I Annual Meeting
Newport, RI
800-673-8444, ext 2531

**OCTOBER**

3–5
American Academy of Family Physicians Scientific Assembly
Chicago
www.aafp.org
800-926-6890

3–5
North American Menopause Society 18th Annual Meeting
Dallas
www.nam论证.org
440-442-7657

5–7
ACOG District VI Junior Fellows Annual Meeting
Lake Geneva, WI
800-673-8444, ext 2588

6–7
Sixth New York University School of Medicine Reproductive Psychiatry Conference
New York City
212-263-5295

7–11
American College of Surgeons 93rd Annual Clinical Congress
New Orleans
www.facs.org
312-202-5240

9
ACOG WEBCAST: Negotiations with Payors
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

10–14
Pacific Coast Obstetrical and Gynecological Society Las Vegas Meeting
Henderson, NV
www.pcsog.org

13–17
American Society for Reproductive Medicine 63rd Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
www.asrm.org
205-978-5000

17–20
Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 74th Annual Meeting
Chicago
www.caog.org
701-838-8523

23–28
ACOG District VII Annual Meeting
Las Vegas
800-673-8444, ext 2542

26–28
ACOG District II Annual Meeting
New York City
518-436-3461

**NOVEMBER**

5–11
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Seattle

10–12
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Atlantic City, NJ

16–18
The Art of Clinical Obstetrics
San Antonio

24–26
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Charlotte, NC

**DECEMBER**

6–8
The Mature Woman: From Perimenopause to the Elderly Years
Chicago

**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.

2. For Coding Workshops, visit www.acog.org and click on “Postgraduate Courses and CPT Coding Workshops” under “Meetings.” Telephone registration must be received one week before the course. On-site registration subject to availability.

**JULY**

13–15
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Seattle

**AUGUST**

10–12
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Atlantic City, NJ

16–18
The Art of Clinical Obstetrics
San Antonio

24–26
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Charlotte, NC

**SEPTEMBER**

7–9
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Houston

8–9
“No Frills” New Surgical Approaches to Incontinence and Prolapse
Atlanta

**OCTOBER**

17–20
Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 74th Annual Meeting
Chicago
www.caog.org
701-838-8523

23–28
ACOG District VII Annual Meeting
Las Vegas
800-673-8444, ext 2542

26–28
ACOG District II Annual Meeting
New York City
518-436-3461

28–31
ACOG Armed Forces District Annual Meeting
Louisville, KY
800-673-8444, ext 2571

**November**

5–11
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Seattle

10–12
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Atlantic City, NJ

16–18
The Art of Clinical Obstetrics
San Antonio

24–26
ICD-9-CM and CPT Coding Workshop
Charlotte, NC

**December**

6–8
The Mature Woman: From Perimenopause to the Elderly Years
Chicago

Please contact the individual organizations for additional information.
Food safety materials free from FDA

THE US FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION HAS SEVERAL FREE resources for patients and physicians about food safety issues. The FDA’s mercury in fish and shellfish education campaign provides brochures to physicians in packets of 25 that contain advice about mercury in fish for pregnant women, nursing mothers, children, and women who may become pregnant.

Another FDA campaign, “Food Safety for Moms-to-Be,” educates expectant mothers about many aspects of food safety. The campaign offers a free downloadable kit online that includes patient education fact sheets, a waiting room poster, a resource guide, and a video. Hard-copy kits can be ordered by phone at no charge.

INFO

- “Mercury in fish” brochures: View brochure: www.cfsan.fda.gov/~acrobat/admehg3b.pdf; order brochure: 800-490-9198
- “Food Safety for Moms-to-Be” online kits: www.cfsan.fda.gov/~pregnant/tools.html
- “Food Safety for Moms-to-Be” hard-copy kits: 888-Safe-Food

35th annual seminar on breastfeeding

CELEBRATING ITS 50TH anniversary this year, La Leche League International will hold its 35th Annual Seminar for Physicians on Breastfeeding July 18–20 in Chicago. Physician specialists will present new research regarding both the science and delivery of care, as well as tips on how to integrate breastfeeding support into your practice and get paid for it.

ACOG congratulates La Leche League for its 50 years of helping women take care of themselves and their babies.

INFO

www.llli.org