

New president to focus on patient safety

A VOLUNTARY, BLAMELESS MEDICAL ERROR REPORTING SYSTEM is in the works, thanks to national patient safety legislation. Regulations are now being created for the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. The challenge for ACOG will be building the right incentives to encourage disclosure of errors, according to ACOG's newest president.

In his inauguration speech at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May, ACOG's 59th president, Douglas H. Kirkpatrick, MD, of Denver, said he'll focus first and foremost on patient safety during his tenure.

"I ask that you take a fresh look at patient safety in your office. I believe that by adopting and fostering a variety of the best practices, including team training, we will improve patient safety."

—Douglas H. Kirkpatrick, MD, ACOG president

"A key goal of the legislation and an important reason for reporting errors is to learn from our mistakes. Identifying errors, reporting them, and learning from them are essential to closing the loop, so history need not be repeated," Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

A host of programs are improving patient safety in hospitals, but it's up to individuals to carry some of the load as well, he said.

"While an army of patient safety personnel is available in the hospital setting, in the office, one person must wear all of the patient safety hats—providing leadership, developing training opportunities, and staying in compliance with best practices."

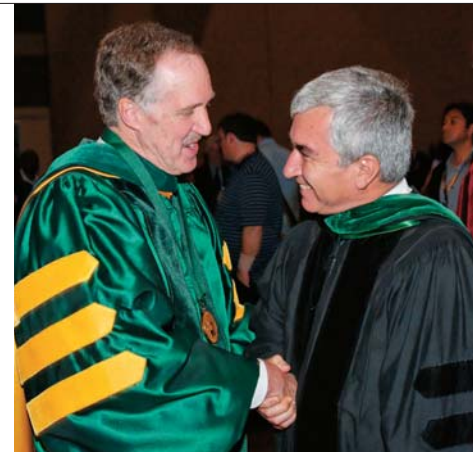
Dr. Kirkpatrick knows this all too well. He's been in solo private ob-gyn practice for

32 years. He is also a clinical assistant professor of ob-gyn at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Fellows have an opportunity to foster a culture of education in their individual offices, Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

"Having a well-educated office staff provides a critical foundation for patient safety. Physicians should have the supervisory role in this teaching obligation. In my own experience, I was able to diagnose an early ectopic pregnancy because my trained staff knew enough to bring a patient with abdominal pain and abnormal uterine bleeding into the office immediately."

As technology becomes increasingly pervasive, more and more electronic tools can be



Dr. Eugenio Suarez (on the right), president of the Chilean Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, congratulates Dr. Kirkpatrick after his inauguration speech.

used by practices to improve patient safety. These tools include electronic tracking, electronic medical records, and eprescribing.

Mentoring can also play an important role.

"Several Junior Fellows entering practice have discussed with me how difficult the transition from residency into practice is," Dr. Kirkpatrick said. "Unfortunately, they often do



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EXECUTIVE DESK

ACM scientific program receives rave reviews

IN MAY, ACOG COMPLETED ANOTHER successful Annual Clinical Meeting. The New Orleans Morial Convention Center was extremely busy as the attendees moved back and forth from one outstanding scientific session to another.

The opening session had a full house, and attendees were not disappointed as the two speakers addressed critical issues for our specialty and medicine at large. Gail Wilensky, PhD, a senior fellow at Project HOPE, reviewed many of the current approaches to solving health care problems and was interrupted repeatedly by audience responses such as “she hit the nail on the head.”

Bioethicist Mark Hughes, MD, PhD, who reported on current gene therapy and its potential, gave one of the best presentations that this physician has ever heard. A few years ago at the opening ceremonies, we heard the story of the human genome. Dr. Hughes’s presentation took the listeners to the practical applications that have evolved.

Dr. Mark D. Pearlman, chair of ACOG’s Committee on Scientific Program, and his “Green Coats”

should be proud of the science presented. The attendees at the ACM heard about the cutting edge of science for our specialty.

Next year, the Annual Clinical Meeting moves to Chicago and its convention center, the McCormick Place. The Committee on Scientific Program is already hard at work preparing an outstanding program with up-to-date science that is practical and usable. I hope each of you will reserve the dates of May 2–6, 2009, so that you can attend our ACM and take advantage of 16 or more hours of intense learning and multiple exposures to the latest science, while meeting old and new friends and benefiting from the best opportunity for continuing medical education our specialty has to offer. ♀

Ralph W. Hale MD

Ralph W. Hale, MD, FACOG
Executive Vice President

IN MEMORIAM

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- Virbala Yogendra Chokshi, MD**
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- Harold H. Gist, MD**
Hagerstown, MD
- Raphael S. Good, MD**
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- Rodney T. West, MD**
Honolulu • 2/08
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Cincinnati



**Obstetrics & Gynecology
HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Anemia in Pregnancy

(Obstetric Practice Bulletin #95, new)

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

Medical Management of Ectopic Pregnancy
(Gynecologic Practice Bulletin #94, revised)

Professional Liability and Gynecology-Only Practice

(Professional Liability Committee Opinion #408, revised)

Direct-to-Consumer Marketing of Genetic Testing
(Genetics and Ethics Committee Opinion #409, new)

Ethical Issues in Genetic Testing
(Genetics and Ethics Committee Opinion #410, new)

Each issue of the Green Journal will now list the latest ACOG documents (and their website address) that have been reaffirmed by their respective committees. Documents are reviewed by ACOG every couple of years and are either revised, withdrawn, or reaffirmed as is.

North Carolina's Dr. Cefalo dies

FELLOW ROBERT C. CEFALO, MD, PhD, recipient of the 2006 ACOG Distinguished Service Award, died on April 22 at the age of 74. Dr. Cefalo was a professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.



Dr. Cefalo was a member of the Armed Forces District since its inception and served on numerous committees. He chaired the committees on Course Coordination, Ethics, and Obstetrics: Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He was an ACOG liaison to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and served as a chair or member of numerous NIH committees and consensus conferences. He was co-director of the ACOG Women's Leadership Program in Women's Health Policy.

For the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Cefalo served as president and chair and as an examiner. He was president of the North Carolina Obstetrical and

Gynecological Society and was honored by the North Carolina Governor's Commission on Reduction of Infant Mortality.

Dr. Cefalo received his medical degree from Tufts University, completed his residency at the Naval Regional Medical Center, and did a fellowship in maternal-fetal physiology at Duke University and Georgetown University. He received his doctorate from Georgetown University. He served in the US Navy Medical Corps for 24 years and received the Navy Commendation and Meritorious Service awards.

He joined the UNC faculty in 1979, and over the years, he served as director of the medical residency and fellowship programs, assistant dean for graduate medical education, acting chair of the ob-gyn department, and director of the maternal-fetal medicine division, according to UNC.

Dr. Cefalo received several Residents' Best Teacher awards in the UNC department of obstetrics and gynecology, and in 1997 this award was named in his honor. Earlier this year, the University of North Carolina renamed its House Officer of the Year Awards after Dr. Cefalo. ♀

THANK YOU TO ACM SPONSORS

ACOG would like to thank the following organizations for their generous support at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May and outstanding commitment to women's health care:

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Fran Drescher: women's health advocate



ACTRESS/COMEDIAN AND uterine cancer survivor Fran Drescher is speaking out for women's health. Her new mission: to ensure that all women's cancers are diagnosed in stage 1, when they are most curable.

In the spring/summer issue of *pause*®, ACOG's consumer magazine for perimenopausal, menopausal, and postmenopausal women, which was shipped in June, Ms. Drescher opens up about her personal experience with cancer and what led her to create the non-profit advocacy organization Cancer Schmancer Movement, which is dedicated to raising awareness of women's cancers.

"Most importantly, women need to make their own health needs a priority instead of always putting themselves last," Ms. Drescher said.

Ms. Drescher's advocacy has brought the importance of early diagnosis of women's cancers before state and federal officials. Her organization's efforts helped pass Johanna's Law: The Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act.

Fellows who received the spring/summer issue will automatically receive the fall/winter 2008 issue. (The magazine is published twice a year and is available in bulk quantities.) ♀

info:

- *pause*® subscription forms are available on the ACOG website: Click on the "Free Consumer Magazines" box on the left side of the home page, www.acog.org
- ACOG Office of Communications: 800-673-8444, ext 2560; communications@acog.org
- www.cancerschmancer.org

Professors, residents tie it up

THE ALL-PRO FACULTY AT THIS year's Stump the Professors session at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May dominated the early action of both halves but couldn't close the door in the final minutes.

"Big 4" professors Arnold P. Advincula, MD; F. Gary Cunningham, MD; Rebecca G. Rogers, MD; and James R. Scott, MD, went two for four against upstart presenters F. Lee Dutton, MD, PhD; Lindsay Killingsworth, MD; Timothy Chad McCormick, DO, MS; and Valerie Shavell, MD.



Dr. Dutton

First quarter

Dr. Dutton, a Junior Fellow in practice from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, hit the professors with "Menometrorrhagia in Renal Dialysis Patient."

Dr. Dutton's patient presented with continuous vaginal bleeding and chronic pelvic pain. She had undergone two cesareans and was now dealing with multiple sclerosis, end-stage renal disease, and hypertension. She was using condoms for contraception.

An ultrasound exam and lab testing revealed that the patient had experienced a "missed spontaneous abortion" with retained products of conception. A separate mass was incidentally noted in the lower uterus. She underwent a D&C that successfully removed the retained products of conception, but she continued to complain of vaginal bleeding. A repeat ultrasound showed a partially calcified mass still present in the lower uterus.

In determining the final diagnosis, Dr. Scott prevailed, realizing that at some time the patient must have experienced a uterine scar pregnancy, which failed but remained in place to degenerate and calcify.

It was noted that dialysis patients can become pregnant but generally miscarry early. In such cases, the serum hCG levels may decline very slowly because this hormone does not pass through dialysis membranes, putting such patients at risk for a misdiagnosis of ec-

topic pregnancy. Dr. Dutton emphasized that methotrexate is absolutely contraindicated in renal failure.



Dr. Shavell

Second quarter

Dr. Shavell's patient in "What is the 'P' in PID?" was a 14-year-old girl with regular periods experiencing constant pain. Upon seeing the results of the ultrasound, the panel's collective confusion was expressed by

Dr. Cunningham: "Maybe she has a bladder infection?"

He went on, "She has a urinary tract infection, clearly. I'm thinking outside the box here, but of course I have to think outside the box or you wouldn't be standing up there, would you, trying to make us look like fools."

After a reaching diagnosis of PID and a suggestion from Dr. Cunningham that whatever it is should be "treated with herbs," Dr. Shavell, who hails from Birmingham, MI, unveiled the fact that it was an infected ureterocele, a rare condition. Session moderator Joseph S. Sanfilippo, MD, MBA, tried to get the panel a win through an audience show-of-hands, but the audience held up against the pressure and voted overwhelmingly in favor of Dr. Shavell.



Dr. McCormick

Third quarter

With the score tied at one win apiece, Dr. McCormick, of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Medical Center, presented "The Battle of the Bulge."

The patient was a 21-year-old at 24 weeks' gestation. While she had been diagnosed with chlamydia twice and bacterial vaginosis once, the baby was healthy, and everything else appeared stable. A sterile speculum examination revealed a large bulging bag of fluid protruding to the level of the introitus and filling the vaginal space in front of the fetus.

"I suggest standing her on her head and



Dr. James R. Scott (on the right), asks a question during Stump the Professors while Dr. F. Gary Cunningham looks contemplative.

filling her bladder up with a liter of fluid," Dr. Cunningham said. "She's not going to like you much, but I think we've got one shot to reduce the membranes, and we had better take it."

For all intents and purposes, Dr. McCormick and his team had done just that, placing the patient NPO and prescribing strict bed rest.

In the final diagnosis, the panel won by identifying "the bulge" as a giant Gartner's duct cyst.



Dr. Killingsworth

Fourth quarter

With the score at two-to-one, the panel appeared to be building enough steam to cruise to a victory, but it was not to be. Dr. Killingsworth, of the University of Alabama-Birmingham, befuddled the panel with "A Simple Case of Preeclampsia."

The 16-year-old pregnant patient was in her 24th week of gestation when she was transferred to the ER via ambulance. Everything looked good in the patient, though doctors noticed that she was slightly small for the gestational age. When the OB's report came back, the fetus was rated in the second percentile for growth.

"You've got a massively growth-restricted fetus here," Dr. Scott said. "But why?"

The ultrasound featured a placenta twice the size of the fetus.

"As a rule of thumb, that's bad," Dr. Cunningham said.

After several meandering attempts at a diagnosis and a suggestion from Dr. Cunningham that it was "obviously syphilis," Dr. Killingsworth revealed maternal floor infarction.

"That's not your mother's maternal floor infarction," Dr. Cunningham said. "Good case."

Final score: 2-2. ♀

Dr. Hodgson becomes JFCAC chair

AT THE ANNUAL CLINICAL Meeting in May, Eric J. Hodgson, MD, took the reins as the new chair of the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council. Dr. Hodgson is a maternal-fetal medicine fellow at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, CT.

Dr. Hodgson plans to focus on two of his biggest passions this year while leading the JFCAC: leadership development and legislative advocacy. The JFCAC will also continue many of its ongoing projects, which focus on issues such as international collaboration, patient safety, and improved communication among Junior Fellows in practice. In addition, a new medical student recruitment video is being created.

A few years ago, Dr. Hodgson attended ACOG's Leadership Institute, which introduced him to leaders in ACOG and the tre-

mendous resources available to members of the College. He wants to create a similar opportunity for the newest Junior Fellow leaders, who often first become involved in ACOG when they are elected as Junior Fellow section officers.

"There's no formalized leadership training for Junior Fellows when they become section officers," Dr. Hodgson said. "Section officers are usually resident physicians, and it's often difficult for them to get a sense of the big picture of what ACOG does."

The JFCAC is developing a centralized leadership training program that will likely occur at ACOG headquarters during the week-end of the Congressional Leadership Conference in February. In addition, the JFCAC recently completed a *Section Officer Leadership Guide*, which will be used during the training session and made available to all incom-



Rajiv B. Gala, MD, (on the right), immediate past chair of the JFCAC, passes the gavel to new chair Eric J. Hodgson, MD.

ing officers. The guide explains what ACOG can do for Junior Fellows, their new role as an officer, and how to get others involved in the College.

Dr. Hodgson also wants to expand on the legislative efforts of the JFCAC. He points out that having a strong legislative agenda can be attractive to Junior Fellows who haven't been very involved in ACOG previously. In fact, when Dr. Hodgson was a medical student, it was the legislative focus that drew him to get involved in the American Medical Student Association, of which he later became president. ♀

District II chair elected JFCAC vice chair at ACM



DISTRICT II JUNIOR FELLOW Chair Taraneh Shirazian, MD, was elected vice chair of the Junior Fellow College Advisory Council at the Annual Clinical Meeting in May. Dr. Shirazian is a clinical instructor at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

Dr. Shirazian plans to focus on increasing mentoring and leadership development of Junior Fellows and improving collaboration among Junior

Fellows and Fellows.

"I'm invested in the leadership and mentoring of Junior Fellows," Dr. Shirazian said. "I would like to partner Junior Fellows and Fellows at the district level so collectively we can launch public and international health projects and spearhead clinical research agendas. A lot of Junior Fellows have great public health and research ideas but not necessarily the support and funding available to accomplish their goals."

Dr. Shirazian had the opportunity to work with ACOG's Committee on Patient Safety and Quality Improvement as part of an initiative to educate residents and others about how to cope with the emotional impact of an adverse event. At Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. Shirazian helped create a public health lifestyle modification project that educates pregnant patients who are obese about healthy lifestyles.

"I love being a part of ACOG because we advocate for women and impact their daily health care," Dr. Shirazian said. "In no other forum can we collectively accomplish so much as a team, and I'm constantly humbled by how much encouragement and support we get as Junior Fellows to help shape the future of women's health in our field. It is completely within our grasp to improve the field of ob-gyn for patients and physicians alike." ♀

JUNIOR FELLOW ELECTIONS IN AUGUST

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 is 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



Friends gather at the ACM Welcome Reception.



An exhibitor highlights his company's technology in the ACM Exhibit Hall.

Medical students learn about residency options and ob-gyn career possibilities at the annual ACM medical student course.



An ACM attendee meets with the local wildlife.



A participant in a hands-on course learns new skills.



Mary Noller, wife of then-ACOG President Dr. Kenneth L. Noller, and other volunteers prepare to refurbish houses in New Orleans that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

During the President's Program, Mark Hughes, MD, PhD, takes the audience on a tour of the world of preimplantation genetic diagnosis and addresses the ethical questions the technology presents.



Distinguished Service Award

The ACOG Distinguished Service Award was created in 1968 and 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. Four individuals received this honor at the ACM in May.



A. Arnaldo Acosta, MD

Dr. Acosta is a professor of ob-gyn at the National University of Asunción, Paraguay, where he received his medical degree. Dr. Acosta completed his ob-gyn residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, followed by a fellowship in infertility and endocrinology in the same department, where he remained as a clinical associate professor of ob-gyn.

For ACOG, while he was training in the US, Dr. Acosta was elected Junior Fellow chair of District VII and published a prize-winning

paper in 1973 that introduced “Acosta’s classification of pelvic endometriosis.”

Dr. Acosta was elected professor and chair of the department of ob-gyn in Paraguay and director of the University Women’s Hospital. He has been president of the Latin American Federation of Fertility and Sterility, the Latin American Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Latin American Federation of Perinatal Medicine.

He was elected president of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), and during his tenure FIGO initiated a worldwide program to reduce maternal mortality in developing countries by concentrating on the treatment of postpartum hemorrhage.



M. Joycelyn Elders, MD, MS

A former US surgeon general, Dr. Elders is now professor emeritus of pediatric endocrinology at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science. Dr. Elders attended the University of Arkansas on the GI Bill and completed a pediatric residency and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock. She also holds a master of science degree in biochemistry.

Dr. Elders joined the faculty of UAMS as a professor of pediatrics and received board certification as a pediatric endocrinologist in 1978.

On the basis of her studies of growth in children and the treatment of hormone-related illnesses, she has written many research articles. Dr. Elders was appointed director of the Arkansas Department of Health, and while serving as director she was elected president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

As US surgeon general, she advocated universal health care and comprehensive health and sex education. She has been the recipient of numerous awards through the years, including the American Medical Association’s Dr. Nathan Davis Award, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women’s Candace Award for Health Sciences, and the DeLee Humanitarian Award.



Kevin C. Kiley, MD

Dr. Kiley is chair of the department of ob-gyn at Albany Medical College. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He was an ob-gyn in the US Army for more than 30 years. His initial training was at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, TX, where he returned for two more tours, eventually serving as chair of the department of ob-gyn.

He was the deputy commander for clinical services at Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, NC, and later was assistant sur-

geon general and chief of the Medical Corps, commander of the US Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston, and commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Company. Dr. Kiley assumed the duties of 41st Army surgeon general and commander of the US Army Medical Command in 2004. He retired in 2008.

For ACOG, he was the Army Section chair and vice chair and the Armed Forces District chair. He chaired the ACOG Committee on Finance and the Compensation Committee and served on the committees on Course Coordination and Nominations. He received the ACOG Outstanding District Service Award.



Robert W. Schrier, MD

Dr. Schrier is professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where he was formerly the chair of the department of medicine for 26 years and head of the division of renal diseases and hypertension for 20 years. Dr. Schrier received his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University

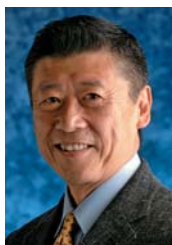
of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle.

He has been president of the Association of American Physicians,

the American Society of Nephrology, the National Kidney Foundation, and the International Society of Nephrology. He is a master of the American College of Physicians and an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Dr. Schrier was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Schrier has written more than 900 scientific papers and edited 50 books in renal medicine, geriatrics, drug usage, and kidney disease. His research contributions center on the pathogenesis of acute renal failure, genetic renal disorders, mechanisms of renal cell injury, diabetic nephropathy, and renal and hormonal control of body fluid volume in cirrhosis, cardiac failure, nephrotic syndrome, and pregnancy. ♀

Honorary Fellowships

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



Kazunori Ochiai, MD, PhD

Professor Ochiai is a professor of ob-gyn and vice chair of the department of ob-gyn at The Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo, Japan. He also is the director of The Jikei University and vice president of The Jikei University Hospital. Professor Ochiai is the vice president of the Japanese Gynecologic Oncology Group and the Asian Gynecologic Oncology Group. He is a board member of the Japan Society of Clinical Oncology, the Japan Society of Gynecologic Oncology, the Japan Society of Clinical Cytology, and the Japan Menopause Society.

Professor Ochiai has been a secretary general and executive board member of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology for many years. He organized and established the recent structure of the Japan Society and promoted the international sessions at the annual meeting of the society. He also started the exchange program for the officers of the Japan Society and ACOG, which has expanded to include an exchange of young ob-gyns between the two countries. He has clinical and research interests in gynecologic oncology, especially ovarian cancer. He served as editor or co-editor of various publications and on many editorial boards. Professor Ochiai has published more than 450 scientific papers, book chapters, and books in the field of gynecologic oncology.



Shahida Zaidi, MBBS, FCPS

Dr. Shahida Zaidi is the director of the Institute of Ultrasonography and Ultrasound Clinic in Karachi, Pakistan, which she established in 1979. She is also an honorary professor at the Ziauddin Medical University and a consultant at the Aga Khan University Hospital, both in Karachi. Dr. Zaidi studied at the Dow Medical College in Karachi, trained in ob-gyn at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center in Karachi, and earned a fellowship from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan.

Dr. Zaidi is the vice president of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), a past president of the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the patron of the Ultrasound Society of Pakistan. She is an honorary member of the National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health in Pakistan. Dr. Zaidi was the secretary general of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and was elected three times to its executive board. She has contributed academically as well as administratively to the CPSP, the institution for postgraduate medical training in Pakistan. She was elected to its council twice, was founding editor of the CPSP journal, and was a member of the department of medical education. Dr. Zaidi's area of expertise is diagnostic ultrasound; she has authored books on ob-gyn ultrasound and abdominal ultrasound. ♀

Outstanding District Service Award

Five 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

C.P. Noel McCarthy, MD, MPH



Dr. McCarthy studied medicine at the National University of Ireland in Cork and then went to New Haven, CT, for an ob-gyn residency at the Hospital of St. Raphael, followed by a fellowship in infertility and gynecologic endocrinology at Yale-New Haven Medical Center. He later obtained a master of public health degree at Yale University, where he was appointed an associate clinical professor of ob-gyn.

Dr. McCarthy has played leadership roles on the Connecticut State Medical Society's Committee on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality, its Medical Claims Review Panel, and its Continuing

Medical Education Committee. He was a special consultant gynecologist for the state of Connecticut for many years. He has amassed an impressive record of providing state-of-the-art educational programs for District I members. For more than 30 years, he has been the driving force behind the success of the New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and has organized more than 60 educational programs. In Ireland, he was recognized in 1994 when he was named associate master at the National Maternity Hospital in Dublin, and again in 1998, when he was made an honorary fellow of the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

DISTRICT II**Richard H. Aubry, MD, MPH**

Dr. Aubry is the director of academic and community obstetrics at the State University of New York-Upstate Medical University. He received his medical degree from the New York Medical College, completing his ob-gyn residency at Albany Medical Center. He received his master of public health degree from Harvard University. He went to Upstate Medical University to do his chief residency, followed by a full fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism in the department of medicine. While rising to the ranks of full professor, he spearheaded the local and national recognition of high-risk obstetrics as a concept and discipline. In 1974, Dr. Aubry became one of the first 17 physicians to be certified in the then-new subspecialty of maternal-fetal medicine. He created and continues to co-direct one of the first eight regional perinatal centers/programs in the US. He initiated and directed the Upstate Medical University's department of ob-gyn's division of maternal-fetal medicine.

In the mid-1980s, he recognized that further improvements in pregnancy outcomes would require optimizing the state of public health in general and maternal health specifically. Dr. Aubry won a series of grants to develop a regional perinatal data system, which eventually was applied throughout New York as the state perinatal data system. He created and still serves as the medical director for the Center for Maternal and Child Health of Upstate Medical University.

DISTRICT VI**James D. Miller, MD**

Dr. Miller works in Danville, IL, in both clinical and administrative roles. He received his medical degree and completed his ob-gyn residency at Northwestern University in Chicago. While he was a director of Abbott Labs' endocrine-related pharmaceutical research and development, the GnRH agonist Lupron was developed.

While at Abbott, he was on the faculty of the Chicago Medical School in the ob-gyn department and the molecular biology department. After Abbott Labs, he was chair of the department of obstetrics at the University of Illinois, Rockford.

In District VI, Dr. Miller was chair and vice chair of the Illinois Section and chair and vice chair of the district. While district chair, he served on the Executive Board and was chair of the Council of District Chairs. He served on numerous committees, including the committees on Finance, Credentials, and Nominations. Dr. Miller also served on several Executive Board task forces. His special interest is in rural women's health care policy, and he is frequently consulted by legislators on health care policy. Dr. Miller's latest project is a book on health policy.

DISTRICT VII**Gerald F. Joseph Jr, MD**

Dr. Joseph is a senior consultant for the Ochsner Clinic Foundation in the ob-gyn department at the Ochsner Clinic, North Shore affiliate in New Orleans and a clinical assistant professor at Louisiana State University and Tulane University. Previously, he served for six years as director of women's services at Saint John's Regional Health Center in Springfield, MO. Dr. Joseph received his medical degree from Tulane University and completed his ob-gyn residency at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. After residency, Dr. Joseph joined the Ochsner Clinic, where he practiced for the next 26 years.

Dr. Joseph is ACOG's president elect. For District VII, Dr. Joseph has served as the Louisiana Section chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer, followed by service as district program chair, secretary-treasurer, vice chair, and chair. While district chair, he served on the Executive Board, the Council of District Chairs, and the Committee on Credentials. He also was a member of several task forces; he chaired the Committee on Scientific Program and the task forces on Enhancing Practice Satisfaction and on District and Section Contributions. He served on the Committee on Nominations three times and recently completed a two-year term as the Executive Board liaison to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's board. He is on the editorial advisory board for *Managing Menopause/pause*.

DISTRICT IX**William K. Khieu, MD, MBA**

Dr. Khieu is the president of Ob-Gyn Associates of the Central Coast. He received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed his residency in ob-gyn at the University of California, San Francisco-Fresno.

Dr. Khieu's clinical interests range from high-risk obstetrics and advanced laparoscopic surgery to pelvic floor reconstruction and urogynecology. While serving as the director of the women's health services and interim administrator of the surgical services of the local hospital, he obtained a master of business administration degree while also preparing for his oral boards.

For ACOG, Dr. Khieu held several Junior Fellow offices in District IX. He has served as the webmaster and newsletter co-editor for District IX for a number of years. He served as chair of the Committee on Practice Management and has educated numerous Fellows and their office managers on practice management issues. Dr. Khieu was honored by the local residency program as Outstanding Teacher of the Year and has served on the finance committee of the Physician Reimbursement Funds, Risk Retention Group. Dr. Khieu has a strong interest in the business of medicine and has become an advocate for physicians and proper physician reimbursement. ♀

Candidates for national office

Candidate quotes are in response to "How can ob-gyns improve physician-patient communication?"

President Elect



Veena B. Desai, MD

West Springfield, MA

"Listen to the patient. Encourage two-way dialogue with caring eye-to-eye contact. Use language that patient understands. Let the patient feel you respect her values, and the communication will be improved!"

Professional Position

Attending ob-gyn, Baystate Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center

Education

- **MD:** Seth G.S. Medical College, Bombay, India
- **RESIDENCY:** teaching hospitals of Bombay; hospitals of National Health Service of United Kingdom; and Dalhousie University, Canada

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** chair, numerous Annual Clinical Meeting scientific sessions; ACOG key contact



Peter A. Schwartz, MD

Reading, PA

"Seek first to understand; then to be understood" (Stephen R. Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People). Communication is both diagnostic and therapeutic and should reflect the generational style of the patient. Practice eye-level, compassionate, active listening, and consider email, videopod, and other electronic communication and education."

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; chair, vice chair, Grievance Committee; chair, Committee on Credentials; member, committees on Government Relations and Outreach, Continuing Medical Education; member, task forces on Residency Issues, Primary Care, and Procedural Credentialing; ACOG delegate to AMA; ACOG liaison to Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics; member, Residency Review Committee; CREOG Region II program director representative
- **DISTRICT III:** member, Advisory Council; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; Pennsylvania Section chair, vice chair



Richard N. Waldman, MD

Syracuse, NY

"Eye-to-eye contact; time for fully dressed communication; physician sitting, not hovering above. Listen carefully and ask pertinent questions. Do not fear feeling your patient's pain or crying with her. Value communication as you value your scalpel."

Professional Position

Chair of ob-gyn and medical director of performance improvement, St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center; president, Associates for Women's Medicine; clinical associate professor of ob-gyn, Upstate Medical Center, the State University of New York

Education

- **MD:** New Jersey College of Medicine & Dentistry
- **RESIDENCY:** Upstate Medical Center, the State University of New York

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** member, Executive Board; chair, Council of District Chairs; Junior Fellow College Advisory Council advisor; team leader, Voluntary Review of Quality Care program; member, committees on Finance, Nominations, Patient Safety and Quality Improvement; member, task forces on Safety in Residency Training, District and Section Donation Policy; member, Collaborative Practice Advisory Group and ACOG-ACNM Liaison Group; ACOG representative to Practicing Physicians Advisory Council National Committee for Quality Assurance
- **DISTRICT II:** chair; vice chair; treasurer; chair, scientific program; chair, Nominating Committee; cochair, Quality Assurance Committee; member, Primary Care Committee, Practice Management Committee; Junior Fellow advisor; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award, Outstanding Section Service Award; Section 5 chair, vice chair

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 4, 2009, in Chicago. The elected officers will begin their terms on May 6, 2009, after the Annual Clinical Meeting.

Vice President

Veena B. Desai, MD

SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 10.



Benjamin E. Greer, MD

Seattle

“Physician-patient communication can be improved and optimized by a health care team approach, consisting of active listening with thoughtful, accurate, and empathetic responses.”

Professional Position

Professor in the division of gynecologic oncology, University of Washington, and an affiliate investigator at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Education

- **MD:** University of Pennsylvania
- **RESIDENCY:** University of Colorado Medical Center

ACOG Activities

■ **NATIONAL:** chair, Committee on Gynecologic Practice; member, Committee on Practice Bulletins-Gynecology; reviewer, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*



J. Craig Strafford, MD, MPH

Gallipolis, OH

“Ask open-ended questions. Listen to your patients. Answer questions while you are providing other aspects of care. Use support staff to repeat common instructions. Printed materials reinforce your message. On the phone, letting the patient hang up first shows you are listening.”

Professional Position

Medical director, Planned Parenthood of Southeast Ohio; staff physician, Holzer Medical Center

Education

- **MD:** The Ohio State University
- **RESIDENCY:** Indiana University Medical Center

ACOG Activities

■ **NATIONAL:** member, Executive Board; member, Council of District Chairs; chair, vice chair, Committee on Practice Management; member, committees on Coding and Nomenclature, Gynecologic Practice, Government Relations and Outreach, Electronic Medical Record; alternate delegate to AMA; McCain fellow

■ **DISTRICT V:** chair; vice chair; treasurer; member, Advisory Council; general arrangements chair, Annual District Meeting; Ohio Section chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer, key contact



Ramon A. Suarez, MD

Atlanta

“Effective communication is achieved when the physician makes it a top priority. From the very first exposure to the office and doctor, the patient needs to feel comfortable and welcomed. Take time to listen to your patients. They are the best teachers.”

Professional Position

Private practice; medical director of ob-gyn graduate education at Piedmont Hospital; clinical professor of ob-gyn at Emory University

Education

- **MD:** Emory University, Atlanta
- **RESIDENCY:** Emory University, Atlanta

ACOG Activities

■ **NATIONAL:** member, Executive Board; chair, Council of District Chairs; member, committees on Government Relations and Outreach, Nominations; member, Subcommittee for Development; reviewer, Voluntary Review of Quality of Care program

■ **DISTRICT IV:** chair; vice chair; secretary; Georgia Section chair, vice chair; Georgia Section Junior Fellow chair, vice chair, program chair, local arrangements chair



Patrick J. Sweeney, MD, PhD

Providence, RI

“All physicians could improve patient-physician communication by becoming better listeners and observers. Listening requires patience (which is free) and time (which is costly). Observation requires the ability to recognize nonverbal clues and to pursue them with sensitivity.”

Professional Position

Professor and associate chair of ob-gyn and associate dean at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University; director of ambulatory care at Women & Infants Hospital

Education

- **MD:** St. Louis University
- **RESIDENCY:** Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia

ACOG Activities

■ **NATIONAL:** vice chair, Committee on Finance; member, committees on Practice Bulletins-Gynecology, Financial Services Center Oversight, Continuing Medical Education; McCain fellow

■ **DISTRICT I:** treasurer; chair, general program, scientific program; member, Gynecologic Practice Committee

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Treasurer



G. William Bates, MD

Brentwood, TN

“The answer lies in the question—communication! Hurried physicians make patients feel unimportant and ignored. We should use modern communication tools such as email, on-line scheduling, online history gathering, and online consultation for patient access and more inclusive two-way communication.”

Professional Position

President and chief executive officer, digiChart Inc; clinical professor of ob-gyn, Vanderbilt University

Education

- **MD:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **RESIDENCY:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** chair, Committee on Finance; member, Committee on Long-Range Planning; member, Health Care Commission
- **DISTRICT VII:** recipient, District VII Professor of the Year Award



James T. Breeden, MD

Carson City, NV

“I believe that listening and asking open-ended questions are most important in improving physician-patient communication. I find that by asking what their expectations are and by explaining treatment options we become partners in a successful treatment plan.”

Professional Position

President, Carson Medical Group

Education

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

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** treasurer; member, Executive Board; chair, Council of District Chairs; member, task forces on Establishing a 501(c)(6) Organization, Strategic Planning; member, committees on Finance, Coding and Nomenclature, Nominations, Compensation; member, Audit Committee; member, Subcommittee on Insurance
- **DISTRICT VIII:** chair; vice chair; treasurer; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; recipient, Top Junior Fellow Award; district newsletter editor; Nevada Section chair, vice chair



Kevin C. Kiley, MD

Albany, NY

“To reaffirm the critical importance of patient communications, we need to employ new strategies. We should stop, reassess our skills, ensure we are aware of our patients’ fears, hopes, and desires and that we are actively and routinely seeking their feedback on our success in communicating with them.”

Professional Position

Chair and associate professor of ob-gyn, Albany Medical College

Education

- **MD:** Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- **RESIDENCY:** William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, TX

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** chair, committees on Finance, Compensation; member, committees on Nominations, Course Coordination; member, Appeals Panel Committee; member, Task Force on Strategic Planning
- **ARMED FORCES DISTRICT:** chair; vice chair; secretary-treasurer; recipient, Outstanding District Service Award; recipient, Zimmerman Award; recipient, Chairman’s Award Presentation; Army Section chair, vice chair

Committee on Nominations

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Chair: | Michael T. Mennuti, MD |
| District I: | Ronald T. Burkman, MD |
| District II: | Vicki L. Seltzer, MD |
| District III: | Anna Marie B. D’Amico, MD |
| District IV: | Lydia M. Jeffries, MD |
| District V: | David W. Doty, DO |
| District VI: | James D. Miller, MD |
| District VII: | Ted L. Anderson, MD, PhD |
| District VIII: | Susan M. Lemagie, MD |
| District IX: | Malcolm L. Margolin, MD |
| Armed Forces District: | Carla G. Hawley-Bowland, MG, MC USA |
| District XI: | Charles E. Lee Brown, MD |
| Fellows-at-Large: | Steven A. Fleischman, MD
Leah A. Kaufman, MD |
| Past Presidents: | Vivian M. Dickerson, MD
Douglas W. Laube, MD, MEd |

Assistant Secretary

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



James A. Macer, MD

Pasadena, CA

“Slow down, sit down, and establish a connection with your patient. Listen, hear what they are saying. Acknowledge that you understand their concerns, and speak in a language they can understand. Write down your recommendations and instructions for them to take home.”

Professional Position

Private practice; clinical professor, Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center-Women’s Hospital

Education

- **MD:** University of Southern California
- **RESIDENCY:** Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** member, Executive Board; member, Council of District Chairs; member, Appeals Panel Committee; member, committees on Government Relations and Outreach, Nominations, Course Coordination; member, task forces on Cosmetic and Alternative Procedures, Expert Witnesses; participant, ACOG Leadership Institute
- **DISTRICT IX:** chair; vice chair; member, committees on State Legislation, Business of Medicine; Section 5 chair, vice chair

J. Craig Strafford, MD, MPH

SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 11.

Ramon A. Suarez, MD

SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 11.

Patrick J. Sweeney, MD, PhD

SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 11.

Fellow-at-Large



May Hsieh Blanchard, MD

Baltimore

“Take-home materials (diagrams, written descriptions) can reinforce education and instructions. Accompanying family member or friend may assist in better understanding of complicated information. Ask the patient to speak back to verify comprehension. Approved websites and secure email are useful adjuncts.”

Professional Position

General ob-gyn division chief, residency program director, and assistant professor of ob-gyn, University of Maryland School of Medicine; medical director, Penn Street Women’s Health Clinic, University of Maryland Medical Center

Education

- **MD:** Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland
- **RESIDENCY:** CWRU-MetroHealth/Cleveland Clinic

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** chair, Junior Fellow College Advisory Council; member, Task Force on Medical Student Recruitment; member, committees on Government Relations and Outreach, Nominations; member, Grievance Committee, ABOG/ACOG Liaison Committee; participant, Future Leaders in Ob-Gyn Conference; participant, ACOG Leadership Institute
- **DISTRICT V:** Fellow-at-large; Junior Fellow chair, vice chair, secretary; general arrangements chair, Junior Fellow Annual District Meeting



Stella M. Dantas, MD

Portland, OR

“Obstetricians and gynecologists should approach every patient encounter from her perspective. If we remembered that each visit, we would provide information in an understandable manner; anticipate our patient’s questions, establish steps for care, and treat the patient with compassion.”

Professional Position

Generalist ob-gyn and assistant residency site program director, Northwest Permanente; adjunct clinical assistant professor of ob-gyn, Oregon Health & Science University

Education

- **MD:** Oregon Health & Science University
- **RESIDENCY:** University of Hawaii

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** member, committees on Professional Liability, Nominations; participant, Future Leaders in Ob-Gyn Conference
- **DISTRICT VIII:** recipient, Top Fellow Award; member, Medical Student Recruitment Committee; member, Task Force on Education; Oregon Section chair, vice chair, program and scientific chair; member, Oregon Section Planning Committee; Junior Fellow chair, vice chair; Hawaii Section Junior Fellow chair, vice chair

MORE FELLOW-AT-LARGE CANDIDATES ON PAGE 14

Fellow-at-Large *continued*



Eduardo Lara-Torre, MD

Roanoke, VA

“By providing cultural- and language-sensitive resources for patients. By establishing a true long-term relationship between provider and patient, utilizing an open dialog format, with an emphasis on improved physician listening skills.”

Professional Position

Director of ambulatory gynecology and associate residency program director, Carilion Memorial Medical Center, Roanoke

Education

- **MD:** Institute of Technology and Advanced Studies of Monterrey, Mexico
- **RESIDENCY:** University Hospitals of Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University

ACOG Activities

- **NATIONAL:** member, Committee on Adolescent Health Care
- **DISTRICT III:** young Fellow representative; vice chair, liaison committee to the Dominican Republic Section; Delaware Section member-at-large; Pennsylvania Section young Fellow representative
- **DISTRICT V:** Junior Fellow chair, vice chair, secretary-treasurer; Ohio Section Junior Fellow chair, vice chair



Sarah W. Prager, MD

Seattle

“Physician-patient communication can be improved by following three steps: Know your facts—necessary for conveying information; know your patients—cultural literacy is important; be accessible—patients need your full attention. This isn’t easy, but it is important for true understanding.”

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, Future Leaders in Ob-Gyn Conference
- **DISTRICT I:** Junior Fellow chair, vice chair; Vermont Section Junior Fellow chair, vice chair

New president to focus on patient safety

► PAGE 1

not have someone with whom to discuss complex clinical problems, and, in addition, may be disinclined—or even afraid—to call senior physicians after hours. Being a mentor to a young physician is a low-tech, low-cost way to contribute to patient safety and gain great personal satisfaction.”

Dr. Kirkpatrick said putting energy into patient safety allows ob-gyns to regain control of the profession, rather than being controlled by economics and professional liability.

Dr. Kirkpatrick’s second initiative will explore alternatives to the current tort system.

“Right now, our tort system is adversarial; it shatters the patient-physician relationship, while still compensating the patient poorly—approximately 60% of jury awards never reach the patient.”

One such alternative is the Colorado Physician Insurance Company’s 3Rs program, which makes early compensation offers before

attorneys become involved, allows the patient to continue to be cared for by her physician, and enhances communication because Colorado law states that any information provided to a patient is inadmissible in court.

“I would very much like to see this innovative program move beyond Colorado to benefit physicians across the country,” Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

“I ask that you take a fresh look at patient safety in your office. I believe that by adopting and fostering a variety of the best practices, including team training, we will improve patient safety. I ask that you also consider adopting and expanding a proven alternative like the 3Rs program. By implementing [my new] initiatives, as ob-gyns we can regain control. . . . Let’s renew our commitment to improving the health care of all women in this country and throughout the Americas. Let’s renew our commitment to improving the knowledge and



Some of ACOG’s newest Fellows at the ACM Presidential Inauguration and Convocation

expertise of all ob-gyns in this country and throughout the Americas. And let’s renew our commitment to making ACOG the premier organization of obstetricians and gynecologists for all the Americas.” ♀

2008 CALENDAR

PLEASE CONTACT THE INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

JULY

8

ACOG WEBCAST:
Ovarian Cancer:
Information for the
Generalist Ob-Gyn
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

18-20

Gynecologic Oncology
Group Semi-Annual
Meeting
Chicago
www.gog.org
215-854-0770

AUGUST

8-9

ACOG Future Leaders in
Ob-Gyn Conference
Washington, DC
202-863-2515

12

ACOG WEBCAST:
Interrupted Pregnancy
Coding
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

14-16

Infectious Diseases
Society for Obstetrics
and Gynecology 35th
Annual Scientific
Meeting
Seattle
www.idsog.org/AnnMtg.cfm
202-863-2570

15-16

36th Annual Seminar
for Physicians on
Breastfeeding
Providence, RI
www.lllii.org/ed/PhysSem.html

21-23

ACOG District III, VI, and
IX Annual Meeting
Banff, AB
202-863-2530

24-28

18th World Congress on
Ultrasound in Obstetrics
and Gynecology
Chicago
www.isuog2008.com
info@isuog.org
+44(0) 20-7471-9955

SEPTEMBER

4-6

American
Urogynecologic Society
29th Annual Scientific
Meeting
Chicago
www.augs.org
202-367-1167

5-7

ACOG District I Annual
Meeting
Brewster, MA
202-863-2531

5-7

ACOG District IV Annual
Meeting
Orlando, FL
202-863-2441

9

ACOG WEBCAST:
E/M Coding and Medical
Necessity
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

11-13

American Gynecological
and Obstetrical Society
Carlsbad, CA
www.agosonline.org
202-863-2648

17-20

Royal College of
Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists 7th
International Scientific
Meeting
In conjunction with ACOG and
the Society of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists of
Canada
Montreal, QC
www.rcog2008.com

17-20

Association of
Reproductive Health
Professionals Annual
Meeting
Washington, DC
www.arhp.org
202-466-3825

17-20

Society of
Laparoendoscopic
Surgeons 17th Annual
Meeting & Endo Expo
Chicago
www.laparoscopy.org
305-665-9959

17-21

American Academy
of Family Physicians
Scientific Assembly
San Diego
www.aafp.org
800-274-8043

21-25

Annual World Congress
for the International
Society for the Study
of Hypertension in
Pregnancy
Washington, DC
www.isshp2008-
washington.org
202-877-8141

24-27

North American
Menopause Society 19th
Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL
www.menopause.org
440-442-7657

25-28

ACOG District VII, VIII,
and XI Annual Meeting
Los Cabos, Mexico
202-863-2542

OCTOBER

11-14

American Academy
of Pediatrics National
Conference & Exhibition
Boston
www.aap.org
847-434-4000

12-15

ACOG Armed Forces
District Annual Meeting
Norfolk, VA
202-863-2571

12-16

American College of
Surgeons 94th Annual
Clinical Congress
San Francisco
www.facs.org/clincon2008
312-202-5000

14

ACOG WEBCAST:
Physician Employment
Contracts
1-2:30 pm ET
800-673-8444, ext 2498

15-19

Pacific Coast Obstetrical
and Gynecological
Society
Victoria, BC
www.pcogs.org
650-723-8156

17-19

ACOG District V Annual
Meeting
Cincinnati
202-863-2574

22-25

Central Association
of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
New Orleans
www.caog.org
701-838-8323

24-26

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

ACOG COURSES

- 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"
- 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.

JULY

11-13

ICD-9-CM and CPT
Coding Workshop
Memphis, TN

17-19

Concepts and
Controversies in
the Treatment of
Perimenopausal and
Postmenopausal
Women
Vancouver, BC

AUGUST

15-17

ICD-9-CM and CPT
Coding Workshop
Richmond, VA

21-23

Practical Obstetrics
and Gynecology (in
conjunction with the
ACOG District III, VI,
and IX Annual Meeting)
Banff, AB

SEPTEMBER

12-14

ICD-9-CM and CPT
Coding Workshop
Chicago

18-20

Update on Cervical
Diseases
Charleston, SC

26-28

ICD-9-CM and CPT
Coding Workshop
Dallas

NOVEMBER

6-8

Practical Obstetric
and Gynecologic
Ultrasonography:
Spotlight on Chronic
Pelvic Pain
Naples, FL

14-16

ICD-9-CM and CPT
Coding Workshop
Atlanta

20-22

New Surgical
Approaches to
Incontinence and
Prolapse
Chicago

DECEMBER

4-6

The Art of Clinical
Obstetrics
New York City

Free patient resource available

BECAUSE CANCER IS ONE OF WOMEN'S GREATEST HEALTH FEARS, IT probably ranks high on your patients' list of concerns. Not surprisingly, women have a lot of questions about cancer—they can find answers to these questions and more in ACOG's new resource, *Protect & Detect: What Women Should Know About Cancer*. This on-line guide helps deliver the facts about cancer and promotes cancer prevention and early detection.



This on-line guide helps deliver the facts about cancer and promotes cancer prevention and early detection.

Get free bookmarks to give to your patients that promote the *Protect & Detect* guide. Contact ACOG's Office of Communications: 800-673-8444, ext 2560; communications@acog.org. Access the full guide at www.acog.org/from_home/misc/protectanddetect.pdf. ♀

Merck launches dose replacement program for HPV vaccine



MERCK & COMPANY INC HAS ANNOUNCED a program to help address physician reimbursement concerns when immunizing patients against HPV using the Gardasil vaccine. The vaccine is indicated in girls and women ages 9 to 26 for the prevention of cervical cancer, precancerous or dysplastic lesions, and genital warts caused by HPV Types 6, 11, 16, and 18.

Physicians who enroll in Merck's Dose Replacement Program can receive a limited number of free replacement doses when they administer the vaccine to privately insured women ages 19 to 26 and later learn the women's insurance plans provide no HPV vaccine coverage. Participants in the program are eligible to receive one replacement dose for every 10 doses purchased during the quarter. ♀

info
 → For complete details about the program and how to enroll, visit www.drpf4gardasil.com



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 PO Box 96920
 Washington, DC 20090-6920

Nonprofit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Merrifield, VA
 Permit No. 6418

ACOG PATIENT EDUCATION

Information you and your patients can trust



Save 20% for a limited time. Take advantage of this special offer on ACOG's revised pamphlets.

Barrier Methods of Contraception (AP022)

- ▶ The types of barrier methods
- ▶ How they work
- ▶ How well they prevent pregnancy



How to Prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases (AP009)

- ▶ Types and symptoms of STDs
- ▶ Risks of getting an STD
- ▶ How to prevent STDs



Now Available in Spanish

Staying Healthy at All Ages (SB006)

- ▶ Immunizations for women and adolescents
- ▶ Routine screening tests for women by age and risk factors
- ▶ Health tips, including breast self-examination
- ▶ Helpful checklists

info
 → To preview these pamphlets: www.acog.org/goto/patients
 → To order pamphlets: <http://sales.acog.org>; 800-762-2264 (use source code DM68 1006)
 → To request a free sample: resources@acog.org