October 7, 2018

Young Physician Report, District VI

Fellow Young Physicians,

Now two years into my three year tenure as the District VI Young Physician, I feel as though we have accomplished much, but still have so much more to do. It has been one year since we approved our Young Physician District Advisory Council, and we have gotten off to a wonderful start. We have worked to place a stronger emphasis on Young Physician programming and activities at the 2018 Annual District Meeting, and six out of ten of our section Young Physicians were in attendance. We continue to build our bridges from Junior Fellow to Fellow status in many ways. Our social media efforts are evolving, reflecting the changing landscape of our National organization’s efforts. And we have adopted the dragonfly, a symbol of change and resilience, to identify our membership. I am pleased to present our important work, and a glimpse of the blueprint that we have created for the year ahead.

1) District VI Young Physician District Advisory Council

The Young Physician District Advisory Council continues to meet monthly by video teleconference with excellent attendance and interaction. Our 11 member Council has taken on some big projects, in addition to their section specific work in advocacy and Junior Fellow engagement.

In October, each section Young Physician will send a personalized letter to each of the new Junior Fellows in Practice in their section, welcoming them and making a connection. An accompanying piece of literature that outlines the benefits of maintaining a connection with ACOG will also be included. This letter, currently in draft mode, will be coauthored by Dr. Steve Remmenga, District VI Past Chair, emphasizing the depth of leadership within the District behind the effort to keep this population engaged with ACOG.

We are working with Junior Fellows on a national level to create transition packages for graduating residents. These packages are intended to remind residents about the importance of maintaining their relationship with ACOG by offering support and information, as well as a small, meaningful ACOG branded gift. We will trial these packages throughout District VI, with the exception of the large Illinois section, as well as a few select programs in District V. If successful, well received, and easy to
maintain, our hope is to spread the project nationally. This is a lovely complement to an effort that is brewing nationally, on a much higher level.

During our October meeting, we will continue to dig in and emphasize two of the other initiatives that we had identified during our first meeting together, just six short months ago. Advocacy continues to be a hot topic, especially with the midterms looming. Young Physicians are encouraged to partner with their Junior Fellow colleagues during Junior Fellow Advocacy Month. We have already started to address Connections, our desire to ensure that newly minted providers have the resources that they need to get off to a good start, however many other excellent ideas continue to arise as we continually take on this foundational topic.

In addition to the subjective information that I have already shared, I am also in the process of gathering objective data to measure our success. This is a somewhat challenging task, as the available data on the Young Physician category is somewhat elusive. Still, in February at our Interim District Meeting, I will do my best to provide the following numbers:

• overall District VI Young Physician membership
• Young Physician meeting attendance
  • section meetings
  • Annual District Meeting
  • Congressional Leadership Conference
  • Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting
• the number of PAC donations by District VI Young Physicians

We have also started thinking about the process of succession. At our next Young Physician District Advisory Council meeting in Washington DC this upcoming March, during the CLC, we will invite the incoming Young Physicians from Illinois, Iowa, Manitoba, Minnesota, and Nebraska. They will overlap with the outgoing Young Physicians until they take over at the 2019 ADM in Lake Geneva, WI. I have encouraged our current Young Physicians to invite their section leaders to start considering who their successor will be, or whether they will continue along in their role for another term.

In addition to all of the great work that we are seeing on the District level, our Young Physicians are making a difference within their individual sections as well. I would like to highlight a few section specific updates, penned by the YPs themselves:

Mia Layne, Illinois
“A LOT of great things are happening in the Illinois Section. Our Governor, Bruce Rauner, signed HB 2617: Fertility Preservation Bill into law on 8/27/18. This bill guarantees insurance coverage for fertility preservation prior to patients undergoing iatrogenic infertility causing treatment. This bill is our first proactive legislation, and started at the suggestion of Jesse Walter, a current Northwestern senior resident! Our
Elizabeth Slagle, Minnesota
“In the Minnesota section we had a great summer event at a beautiful golf course, with a guest speaker and discussion of ways to foster healthy intimate relationships. Many Junior Fellows and Young Physicians stayed late to connect on the patio, spontaneous mentorship! Our legislative committee was busy fighting for women’s health this year. One of our Junior Fellows in Practice, Erin Stevens MD, testified in front of the Minnesota House and Senate this legislative session to block a bill that would interfere in the patient-physician relationship by legislat ing language to offer viewing of ultrasound prior to pregnancy termination. This bill did pass both houses but ultimately was vetoed by the governor, who referenced ACOG as a leading voice in opposition. We are looking forward to our annual winter meeting and plan to foster further Junior Fellow and Young Physician involvement with mentorship activities.”

Mandy Buskevicius, Nebraska
“I am working on getting more young physicians involved in ACOG. I think our residency programs are good at getting junior fellows involved, but many young physicians are not. My other thought is that since Nebraska is small and only has a section chair and section vice chair, it is really nice to have a third person involved and to help out where needed. This year I was the only person that could make it to CLC and I am going to the legislative round table for our section.”

Erica Hofland, North Dakota
“In North Dakota we just finished up our section / ND Society of Ob/Gyn meeting on August 17th. Now we’re just getting ready for the ND Lobby Days in January and waiting to see the results of the ND mid-term elections. Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D) was one of the initial sponsors of the Maternal Health Accountability Act and is a supporter of the ACA and is vying to keep her spot against Kevin Cramer (R).”

Tin-Wing Yen, Saskatchewan
Dr. Yen will be sharing her talents later in our ADM program as a Film Festival judge. The general Provincial OB/Gyn meeting took place on September 22. Our OBGYN department is currently organizing to participate in the Government of Saskatchewan’s LINK (Leveraging Immediate Non-urgent Knowledge) Program, which is a telephone consultation service that connects primary care providers and specialists.

Amanda Kappenman, South Dakota
“In May, we hosted a reception to honor Dr. Gellhaus. It was a great time to get OB Gyns together from all across the state. SD is still in the process of working on a maternal mortality committee. Dr. Schipper, our vice chair, has met with the Department of Health and SD state medical associate representatives along with support across all major health systems in our state to try and advance this. Unfortunately, it may have to be tabled until after November elections as our legislator
next meets in January. And don’t forget to check out our state ACOG webpage for our bi-annual newsletter!”

Sarah Goetz, Wisconsin
“I’m excited for the upcoming Wisconsin Section Annual Conference, October 12-13 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. We will be having our advisory council meeting prior and would love to see other District VI members there!”

2) Social Media

Facebook
As of September 21, 2018, our District VI Facebook page had 718 page likes, up from 639 one year ago. This is a 12% increase within the past year, reflecting a persistent and positive trend. Of note, seventy seven percent of our “fans” are women, and most hail from Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, although Iowa and Peru have respectable representation as well.

I continue to post content with the goal of highlighting the happenings of District VI including news, member biographies, and events. Members are encouraged to share their good news by sending links, pictures, and stories to ACOGDVI@gmail.com, so I can spread the good word along to the rest of our membership around the world.

ACOG Website
As the ACOG National website is in the midst of a facelift, so goes District VI. Last year we had made significant improvements including much easier access to our Policies and Procedures. This year, look for more consistent content groupings for our District and Section web pages:

- What’s New
- Programs and Resources
- Events
- Advocacy
- Awards and Scholarships
- Governance
- Contact

We anticipate that the new National ACOG website will transition mid-summer next year. In the mean time, our section Young Physicians have been hard at work, updating (or creating) their section websites as well.

Twitter
Twitter has been an evolving social media platform within District VI. Last year, Young Physicians were encouraged to create and maintain Twitter accounts on behalf of their sections. Guidance from our National social medial experts recommended that we
deemphasize “ACOG” accounts and focus on personal Twitter accounts instead. This has been a confusing process for our Young Physicians as we continue to tackle the fine line between our personal and professional personas as represented on social media. In the meantime, we will continue to use our District hashtag, #ACOGD6, as well as the following section hashtags:

- #WIACOG
- #MNACOG
- #NDACOG
- #ACOGSD
- #ACOGSask
- #ACOGPeru
- #ILACOG
- #NEACOG

3) Annual District Meeting Planning

Our most recent Annual District Meeting was like no other, thanks to the generosity of our planning committee and increasing participation of our Young Physicians.

- Our traditional Mentorship Mingle was one of the best yet with over 160 registrants.
- The new Young Physician Happy Hour, a multipurpose event that bridged the time between the Mentorship Mingle and the PAC party, gave members an informal place to continue the conversations that they started at the Mentorship Mingle. Young Physicians in particular were well represented.
- “Draw Your Future - YOUR 5 Year Plan” was a great new program sprung from the brilliant mind of our Junior Fellow Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Brincat. Junior Fellows (and some of our All Stars!) drew their own 5 year plan, and then discussed and refined it with the assistance of a handful of our esteemed ACOG leaders. This program was facilitated by Young Physicians.
- Morning yoga has been done before, but not like this! District IV’s own Dr. Mireille Truong, Young Physician, MIS expert and yogi, kindly donated her time to help us get warmed up and ready for an amazing day. Both Friday and Saturday mornings, over 20 members attended the excellent and well-received 6am class.
- In addition, we had excellent engagement from our section Young Physicians who, incidentally, were not funded to attend the meeting. They participated in these events as well as the Junior Fellow District Advisory Council meeting, supporting the Junior Fellows and creating enduring relationships.

We are also looking ahead to the 2019 ADM, our joint meeting with the Wisconsin Section. Planning officially begins in October. I have a personal goal to achieve more Young Physician and Junior Fellow involvement than ever before.

Your Young Physicians are making an impact, and we are just getting started. The year ahead will be busy as we continue to strengthen our Young Physician presence and
build a sustaining and dynamic connection between Junior Fellows and Fellows. I am grateful to you, our National Young Physician leaders, for your continued guidance and support in my role as District VI Young Physician.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Lyerly, MD, MPH, FACOG
District VI Young Physician