



OB/GYN *Connection*

Monthly News for Faculty and Staff— August 2007

RPICC is Recognized for Excellence and Expansion

The Department's Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center (RPICC) program was recently audited by the Florida Department of Health. The results? Auditors found the program has grown by almost 26% since last year. Additionally, auditors noted its continual commitment to providing high-quality comprehensive care for women with high-risk pregnancies.

"I am pleased to report that the RPICC program continues to provide comprehensive outpatient and inpatient care for high-risk pregnant women and sick or low birth weight neonates. The high level of care is a direct result of the dedication of all individuals associated with the RPICC program," said Phyllis Sloyer, Division Director for the Florida Department of Health.

Department Welcomes Dr. Estes

The Department extends a warm welcome to Dr. Christopher Estes, MD, MPH, who will be working with Reproductive Health Services to expand family planning services. Additionally, he will be working with the Research Division on projects involving collaboration between departments.

Dr. Estes recently completed a fellowship program in Family Planning at Columbia University. He specializes in contraception for medically complicated patients and the treatment of miscarriages, unintended pregnancies and general gynecologic problems. With his background in Epidemiology, he also has strong interests in reproductive health research.



Women's Scholars Program is a Success

For the six students who participated in the Women's Scholars Program, the Summer of 2007 was not just about fun in the sun. It was also a time to gain valuable experience in the Ob/Gyn field.

The students were paired with a faculty mentor and had the chance to observe them in the clinical setting and to assist them with research projects. For example, Katherine Hoops, who worked with Dr. Twiggs, conducted research for an article on the HPV vaccine and

the political and religious issues surrounding it. Andreina and Nabila Zambrano learned how to read charts and abstract information while working with Dr. Chakhtoura. They were also able to observe a few deliveries and a C-section. Other mentors for the program included Drs. Carlos Medina, George Attia and Victor Gonzalez-Quintero.

In addition to helping students gain experience, the program is also a way for the Department to build relationships with future doctors. Already some of the students participating in this year's program will return next year to continue research



From top left: Medical Students Jamee Paoloemilio, Leyani Cabezas, Katherine Hoops, and Dr. Twiggs. Pictured from bottom left: Nabila Zambrano, Dr. Chakhtoura, and Andreina Zambrano.

projects with their mentors.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. JoNell Potter at jpotter2@med.miami.edu or by phone at 305-243-2173.

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Events

► August 24-26

The FL Obstetric and Gynecologic Society's annual meeting will take place at the Naples Grande. For more information, click [here](#).

► Friday, Oct. 12

A Town Hall Meeting entitled "Breast and Ovarian Cancer: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment," will be held at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Diagnostic Treatment Center, room 259, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Contact Aida Pazos at apazos@um-jmh.org to reserve a spot.

Research

► [Cervical Dysplasia](#)

► [Heavy Bleeding](#)

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News

New Practice Site for Ultrasound Services

The Department will now be offering ultrasound services at Deering Medical Plaza/Jackson South. Services at this private practice will include gynecologic and obstetrical ultrasounds, Nuchal Translucency Scans, and Bio-physical profiles.

Jackson South is located at 9830 SW 152nd Street, Suite 290B. To make an appointment, call 305-270-3437 or 305-243-4365 and specify that you would like to schedule your appointment at the Jackson South site.

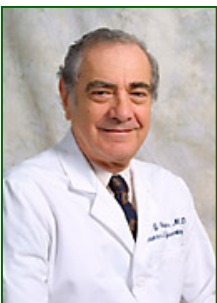
Save the Date for New Concepts

The Department's annual **New Concepts Conference** will be held Thursday-Saturday, February 21-23, 2008 at the Mayfair Hotel and Spa in Coconut Grove.

More information will be available on the Department's website in coming weeks.

Policies Available on Shared Drive

If you are looking for faculty or employee policies, they will now be saved in the Shared Drive. For now, you can find the [Faculty Leave Policy](#) here, and other files will be added shortly.



Congratulations to Dr. Shapiro

Dr. Arthur Shapiro was elected to the University of Miami's Faculty Senate for a term of three academic years beginning

with the 2007-2008 year.

The Faculty Senate participates in the planning and governance of the university. Through its committees and as a deliberative and legislative body, the Senate plays an important role in dealing with academic policies, new program and degree approvals, compensation and the annual budgets, reviews of chairs and deans, etc.

The senate also handles faculty grievances regarding rank, salary and conditions of employment, as well as appeals on tenure decisions.

It's a Girl for Dr. Lambrou



Dr. Nicholas Lambrou and his wife are the proud parents of a baby girl, Angelina, born on Friday, July 27. She weighed 6 pounds and 11 ounces.



Dr. Strassberg is Certified by NAMS

Dr. Richard Strassberg was certified by the North American Menopause Society in Menopausal Medicine.

High Scoring Resident

Congratulations to **Dr. Lina Maria Echavarria** for having the highest score on the ALSO Course test administered to new interns and residents in the Department of Ob/Gyn.

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Community

► **Dr. Todra Anderson** and **Jackson Health System staff** will participate in a health fair on **August 4, 2007** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will take place at the Soul Saving Station Church (NW 31 Ave. and 95th St.) in **West Little River**. The church is located near the Juanita Mann Health Clinic.

Quoted

► **Dr. Gene Burkett** was quoted by **Fox News** on July 17, 2007, on a story about the use of sonography in obstetrics. He was also quoted **CBS 4** on July 27, 2007, regarding a study in the *British Medical Journal* which states that mothers who gain or lose too much weight between pregnancies could be at risk of diabetes, miscarriages, and other complications. He was also interviewed by **Pregnancy** magazine on July 30, 2007 about the reasons why some women lose weight during pregnancy.

► **Dr. George Attia** was quoted by **WebMD** on July 26, 2007, on a story about how IVF risks are mostly due to multiple births, and how single embryo transfers may cut the risk of in vitro fertilization. If you want to read the full story, click [here](#).

Published

► **Dr. Peter Takacs** had his paper, "Therapeutic options for treating abnormal uterine bleeding," published online by **Audio-Digest Obstetrics and Gynecology** (Volume 54, Issue 12) on June 21, 2007.

► **Dr. Peter Takacs**, along with Drs. Carlos Medina and Kenneth Candiotti, had their paper, "The effect of suture types on postoperative urinary retention following Burch colposuspension," accepted for publication in the **International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics**.

► **Drs. Tamberly and Steve McCarus** (UM alumni) had their opinion paper, "[Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: Learn it—or get left behind.](#)" published in **OBG Management**'s June issue.

Presentations

► **Drs. Jerry Gilles and Mary Jo O'Sullivan** presented lectures at the **Children of Chernobyl Relief Defense Fund's** annual meeting, held in the Ukraine in June 2007, to an audience of local doctors and nurses. The organization's purpose is to address the consequences of The Chernobyl disaster, caused by the explosion of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine. This event caused radioactive contamination of the surrounding area, increasing incidents of cancer and birth defects.

► **Drs. Peter Takacs and Carlos Medina**, presented their paper, "Impact of the genital hiatus on recurrence of anterior vaginal wall prolapse," at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the International Urogynecological Association (June 12-16, 2007), in Cancun, Mexico.

HR Corner

Welcome to the first edition of the Human Resources Corner. Here you will find news regarding new employees, promotions and recognition and the Employee Spotlight .

The Employee Spotlight will feature one Department employee each month, giving you a chance to get to know your colleagues on a more personal level. Suggestions for who should be featured and for interesting questions are welcome. Send your ideas to Jackie Taylor at jtaylor2@med.miami.edu. Or call 305-585-5131.

Promotions

Rana Robinson, division manager for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI), was promoted to the position of Manager III and will be overseeing business affairs for REI and for the Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery. Rana has over ten years of experience in the healthcare industry, with emphasis on managerial and administrative capabilities. She also has experience in finance and holds two master's degrees, one in public administration and the other in epidemiology and public health from the University of Miami; her bachelor's degree is in biochemistry.



Niurka Vazquez, administrative manager for the Division of Research, was promoted to the position of Manager III and will be replacing Gerri Rowe as the Generalist GYN Division manager. Niurka holds a master's degree in business administration (with a specialization in marketing and computer information systems) and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Miami. She has over ten years of experience in the health care field and has worked for the University of Miami in various capabilities such as research associate, research support staff, and data manager.



Mayra Cespedes-Peralta, patient clinical associate, was promoted to Practice Site Leader for the Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reproductive Endocrinology. Mayra has seven years of experience in the clinical setting and is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree at the University of Miami. As Practice Site Leader she will be responsible for overseeing and directing all clinical activities and enforcing departmental policies in order to ensure a high level of quality service.



Regina Daley, patient clinical associate, was promoted to Practice Site Leader at the Department's Jackson South site. In this capacity, she will oversee clinical operations and will assist Division Management in the training of new and existing employees. She will also be responsible for conflict resolution, and employee scheduling.

Welcome

The Department would like to welcome the latest additions to the Ob/Gyn family:

Ruth Enriquez, patient clinical associate, Generalist Division. Ms. Enriquez has nine years of experience in medical billing and was recently working in the Department of Neurological Surgery.

Martha Pereira, ARNP, nurse practitioner, Gynecologic Oncology Division. Ms. Pereira has a master's degree in nursing from Columbia University. Recently, she was working at New York Presbyterian Hospital—Weill Cornell Medical Center as a registered nurse in the labor and delivery department.

Myra Williams-Wright, senior patient clinical assistant, Generalist Division. Ms. Williams-Wright has 11 years of experience in the health care field. She was recently working at Pelaez and Apollon Medical Center as a medical assistant.

Yesenia Vazquez, RDMS, senior ultrasound technician, Diagnostic Ultrasound Division at the Professional Arts Center. Her last job was with South Florida Perinatal Medicine.

Employee Spotlight

Name: <u>Nancy Rivero</u>	<u>and most importantly its his-</u>	My friends would describe
Job Title: <u>Administrative</u>	<u>tory.</u>	me as <u>extroverted, compas-</u>
<u>Assistant to Dr. Leo Twiggs</u>	Most people don't know	<u>sionate, and witty.</u>
If I could travel to any	that that <u>I was a runner up</u>	What I like most about my
place in the world, I would	<u>in both the Miss Calle Ocho</u>	job is <u>the people that I work</u>
<u>go to Italy because I am de-</u>	<u>and Miss Hialeah Beauty</u>	<u>with.</u>
<u>lighted by its people, food,</u>	<u>Pageants in the late 1980s.</u>	



Nancy Rivero

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Research

The following clinical trials are seeking patients:

► Cervical Dysplasia Study

The Department of ObGyn is testing experimental medications and therapies for the treatment of cervical dysplasia, a pre-cancerous condition that can lead to cancer if left untreated. Current treatments are surgical or invasive. This study is testing an investigational gene therapy to see if it safely and effectively treats HPV mediated cervical lesions as a result of dysplasia.

If you or someone you know is between 18 and 25 and has had an abnormal PAP test, you may be able to take part in this research study. Qualified participants will receive all study-related care and study therapy. **To find out more, call Liliana Rivas at 305-243-5832 or e-mail l.rivas@miami.edu.**

► Heavy Menstrual Bleeding

Do you experience heavy menstrual bleeding on three to five days of your regular menstrual period? Does heavy menstrual bleeding keep you from your normal social and work activities? If you answered yes to these questions, you may qualify for a research study of an investigational drug for heavy menstrual bleeding. This investigational drug is not a hormone. You must be a generally healthy woman between ages 18 and 49, have regular menstrual cycles with heavy bleeding, and not have any other bleeding disorder.

Qualified participants will receive the study drug and study-related procedures at no cost. They will also receive compensation for time and travel. If you are a doctor who wants to refer patients, or if you are interested in participating in the study, contact **Jackie Rendon in the OB/GYN Division of Research at 786-367-7460 (cell), 305-272-0316 (pager).**

► SpectRX— Cervical Cancer Test

A new non-invasive test for cervical cancer is undergoing clinical trial testing at the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, under the direction of Dr. Leo Twiggs. The test could potentially eliminate more than three million unnecessary follow up exams to Pap tests annually. The new technology uses light to scan the cervix for disease. Unlike Pap and HPV tests, the device does not require a painful tissue sample and results are known immediately. If you or someone you know would like to be considered as a candidate for this clinical trial, please contact **Liliana Rivas at 305-243-5774 or irivas@med.miami.edu.**

To include your good news in upcoming newsletters, or for questions or comments,

Contact Jackie Taylor at jtaylor2@med.miami.edu or by phone at 305-585-5131.

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