



University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

OB/GYN *Connection*

Monthly News for Faculty and Staff— January 2008

New Year's Message from the Chair

As we enter a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and hard work.

The Department has become a model for the school and the practice, as we have led the charge in numerous patient access and practice building venues. **The Department will be joining UMMG and the school in redefining the concept of patient centered care.** Central to the Dean's pronouncement of ensuring that patient values guide all clinical decisions, the Department will be joining UMMG in ensuring that patient centered care becomes a central goal for the coming year. In the past, the Department has taken pride in providing such an environment of clinical care. The future will require that as a Department **we measure critical factors to ensure a system which delivers patient access and**

care in the manner which we would expect for our own families.

To deliver patient centered care requires listening, acknowledging, and responding to patient concerns. In conducting work at the highest degree of integrity, we must continue to respect the privacy of our patients and provide clear instructions on treatment and operational procedures. This dedication results in a safe environment for patients, their families, and friends.

As our mission requires us to focus on education and research, these qualities are inherent in every interaction in a learning organization. Every patient encounter has at its core a research and educational mission. The school, the department, and I as an individual, thank you and your staff for understanding this core



value and delivering the type of care that makes us leaders.

I look forward to working with you in the New Year on programs which benefit our strategic partners, Jackson Memorial Hospital, the new University Hospital, and others. I also look forward to working with new physicians coming on board in 2008. Once again, thank you for all that you do. I wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Leo B. Twigg

MD, ACOG, ACS
Professor and Chair OB/GYN
Clinical Service Chief,
Jackson Memorial Hospital

Practice Development News

Connie Despres

The Department extends a warm welcome to Connie Despres who has joined OB/GYN as its first Practice Director.

Mrs. Despres has over 30 years of experience in health care management. Recently, she was management director at Baystate Health in Massachusetts, where she developed a network of multispecialty practices in several counties.

She has had experience with all phases of the business operations of physician practices. At this exciting time of change, Mrs. Despres has a lot to offer. She will begin by developing the Department's Boca Raton and Palm Beach practices and will also be working on establishing a cohesive vision and strategy for enhancing services at the Jackson South and at the Miller School of Medicine sites.



Connie Despres

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Events

► Month of January

January is National Cervical Cancer Screening Month. For more information, visit www.cervicalcancercampaign.org.

► Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008

DOCS is hosting a health fair in the Keys and is looking for volunteers. The fair takes place at various locations including Marathon, Big Pine Key, and Key West. Contact Dr. Chakhtoura for more details.

► February 21-23, 2008

The New Concepts in Obstetrics and Gynecology conference will take place at the Mayfair Hotel & Spa in Coconut Grove. The conference will also be broadcast internationally via the web. For more information, click [here](#).

► April 25-27, 2008

Save the date for the William A. Little Society's annual meeting (The Palms Hotel, South Beach).

Lina Topel

New developments at the Women's Health Access Center include the hiring of triage nurse Linda Topel, RN.

At the call center, Ms. Topel will answer patient questions about health concerns and will help direct patients to the appropriate staff. Her presence will enhance overall patient care.

Congratulations to Dr. Karmin

Dr. Ira Karmin will join Dr. Salih Yasin, Vice Chair and Director of Obstetrics and Patient Safety, as a member of the Department's senior leadership. Dr. Karmin's new title is Vice Chairman and Chief of Women's Services at the Regional FAU Campus. In this role he will function as clinical director of the Boca Raton and Deerfield practice sites, and define metrics for successful implementation of educational, research and patient care programs.

Service Chiefs at University Hospital

Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura has been appointed as Service Chief of Gynecology and Women's Services at the University of Miami Hospital (UMH) and **Dr. Joseph Lucci** has been appointed as Vice Chief. In this capacity, they will provide medical leadership for the new hospital and will sit on the Medical Executive Committee.

We are excited about the opportunity to expand services at UMH and Drs. Chakhtoura and Lucci will play key roles in representing our Department in this endeavor.

Dr. Anderson comes on board full-time

The Department welcomes Dr. Todra Anderson as a full-time faculty member in the generalist division. She will continue to focus on obstetrics and will be working on establishing a joint fellowship between Pediatrics and OB/GYN.

Dr. Dauphin-McKenzie to join Generalists

Dr. Nathalie Dauphin-McKenzie, who recently completed OBGYN residency in our Department, will be joining the GYN Generalist division this month. Her primary focus will be obstetrics. Later this year she will begin a Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship with the Department.

Florida Healthy Start honors UM/Jackson

The Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) was recognized at the annual luncheon and award ceremony held by the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade in December.

The Department's MFM office along with Jackson's ACC West were chosen to receive an award for excellent screening rate, on behalf of the Florida Healthy Start Program.

The ceremony was held in December at Parrot Jungle and the award was accepted by Kim Pacheco, MFM Division Manager.



2007 OB/GYN Holiday Party

The OB/GYN Holiday Party took place on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming.

If you missed the event, here are a few highlights:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/obgyn/sets/72157603486061321>



Dean is guest speaker at Miami OB/GYN Society

Miller School of Medicine Dean Pascal Goldschmidt, MD, was the guest speaker at the December 12 meeting of the Miami OB/GYN Society. Dr. Leo Twiggs, OB/GYN Chair, had the honor of introducing him.

Just Married



Congratulations to Indira Bolaño, clinical research specialist, who married Tom Horst, MD (former UM OB/GYN resident) on December 8, 2007.

Lounging Around



Pictured above from left are OB/GYN Residents Amy Flick, Lesley De la Torre, Enrique Vazquez-Vera, and Clara Croce.

OB/GYN Residents had something to celebrate this month when the lounge on the fourth floor was completed.

The lounge, equipped with a plasma TV, couches and a work area, is also shared with Anesthesiology Residents.

Courtesy of Jackson Health System, the area was renovated to give Residents not only a place to hang out, but also to work and study.



For Faculty, Nurses, Residents and Medical Students:

The Department will be hosting its annual Resident Research Day, which showcases the research projects of graduating residents. We ask you to make every effort possible to attend this important day for our Chief Residents.

Thursday, May 29, 2008

7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education Auditorium
(first floor of the Clinical Research Building)

Virgin and UM team up for HealthMiles

If you are looking for a way to shed the holiday pounds, HealthMiles may be the thing for you.

This new program, sponsored by Virgin (Virgin Mobile, Megastore and Atlantic), works with a pedometer that tracks your activity and is then plugged in directly to your computer. The device will download your statistics (steps taken, calories burned, etc.) and help you keep track of your weight loss goals. Those who reach their goals will be eligible to receive up to \$250 in rewards per year that can be used at a variety of retailers.

All the components of the program have not been finalized yet for the medical campus, but will be available in the coming months.

You can find out more about the program by logging on to myUM. Click the "Life at UM" tab, and then on Virgin HealthMiles Program link (under other functions).

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Presentations

- ▶ Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero will be presenting, “Gestational Diabetes in Track D—the Lifecycle Track,” at the American Diabetes Association on March 14, 2008, Miami, FL.
- ▶ Dr. Elvire Jacques gave a lecture, “Uterine fibroids, sex, drugs, and growing old: Treatment of sexual dysfunction in the mature female,” at the Women’s Hospital Center Educational Program, and hosted by the held in December. The program focused on raising awareness on women’s health issues.
- ▶ Dr. Joseph Lucci and Genetic Counselor Talia Donnenberg presented a poster, “Identification of recurrent BRCA1 mutations in Bahamian women with breast cancer,” at the 2007 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium held December 13-16, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas.
- ▶ Dr. Paul Norris had his abstract, “Antiviral activity of over-the-counter vaginal lubricant in HIV positive women,” accepted for presentation at the 2008 Microbicides Conference, February 24-27, Hotel Ashok, New Delhi, India.
- ▶ Dr. Arthur Shapiro spoke at the University of Miami Oncology Conference on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 on the topic, “Fertility and Cancer.”
- ▶ Dr. Leo Twigg will deliver the 15th Annual Val Davajan Memorial Lecture, titled “Revisiting the Genital Neoplasia Papilloma Syndrome,” on Friday, January 11, 2008 at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Quoted

- ▶ Dr. Gene Burkett was profiled in the December issue of HSROenews (a newsletter produced by the Human Subject Research Office). Read the profile at <http://hsro.med.miami.edu/news/x535.xml>.
- ▶ Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero was quoted by Channel 41 (Americateve) on Friday, December 21, 2007, on a story about the risks of premature labor. Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero was also quoted in the Miami Herald in December on a story titled “Triplets’ birth goes against extreme odds.”
- ▶ Dr. Paul Norris was filmed performing an ultrasound at University of Miami Hospital in December. The clip will be featured in a marketing and training video for UHealth.
- ▶ Dr. Elizabeth Updike was quoted by CBS Channel 4 on Monday, January 7, on a story outlining the symptoms of menopause.

HR Corner

The Department extends a warm welcome to the following new hires:

Tiffany Blue, medical technician, practice sites.

Mary Donovan, RN, is a procedure nurse in Reproductive Health Services.

Dania Sainz, patient clinical associate, Generalist Division.

Angie St. Jean, administrative secretary, Gynecologic Oncology Division.

Fabioloa Reyes, transferred from the GYN division to Reproductive Health Services as a patient clinical associate.

Pamela Uharriet, RN, research nurse coordinator, Research Division.

Employee Spotlight



Name: *Aurora Alonso*

cestors.

happy.

Job title: *Urodynamic
Technician*

Most people don't know that

What I like most about my

I love to dive, fish and

job is *working with my*

enjoy the wonders of

co-workers. It is not a

If I could travel to any place
in the world *I would go to*

the ocean.

job but my home away

the Canary Islands to

Three words my friends
would use to describe me

from home.

see the land of my an-

are *funny, kind, and*



Aurora Alonso

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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