

OB/GYN Connection

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Monthly News for Faculty and Staff



Dean Goldschmidt addresses the audience at Chief Resident Research Day.

Chief Resident Research Day Showcases Grads

The annual Chief Resident Research Day took place on Thursday, May 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The event gives fourth year OB/GYN residents a chance to showcase research work to an audience of faculty and peers. Also in attendance was Dean Pascal Goldschmidt, who made the event's opening remarks.

Topics presented were varied and ranged from race/ethnicity disparities in adolescent pregnancies to the impact of the media on Ob/Gyn patients. Many of these research projects have generated publications and presentations at international meetings. Also, three of this year's graduating class will go on to pursue post-graduate fellowships at top-ranked institutions.

Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero Receives Grant

Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero was awarded a grant by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero

The grant will support a multicenter study on safe labor. The primary purpose of the study is to describe contemporary labor progression and to evaluate the timing of Cesarean delivery in women with labor protraction and arrest.

Dr. Cotter Joins Panel

The Department of Health and Human Services has selected Dr. Amanda Cotter to join their panel on Treatment of HIV-Infected Pregnant Women and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission.

The panel has a limited amount of slots and only qualified candidates are awarded membership.

Dr. Takacs Receives Grant

The Scientific Awards Committee awarded a grant to Dr. Peter Takacs. The grant will fund a research project titled, "The role of apoptosis and matrix molecules in the aging of the female pelvic floor and in the development of pelvic organ prolapse."

Other participants in the project include Dr. Carlos Medina and Anesthesiologist Dr. Keith Candiotti.

Events

► Friday, June 15

Graduation for Ob/Gyn residents will be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Coconut Grove. For more details, contact Rebecca Cardenas at 305-585-5640.

► 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. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Contact Aida Pazos at APazos@um-jmh.org to reserve a spot.

Research

► [Heavy Bleeding](#)

► [Hot Flashes](#)

► [Cervical Dysplasia](#)

OB/GYN Welcomes New Employees

A warm welcome goes out to **Barbara Diaz and Ana Maria Valdez**; both were hired as front end analysts in the Billing Division.

The department would also like to congratulate **Gina De Leon**, who was promoted to the title of Supervisor III. Gina works in the Generalist Division.

News



Carmen Stewart, RN, MSN, poses with the award.

OB/GYN Nurses Honored

Gynecologic Oncology Nurses at the Women's Hospital Center (East Tower 7 A) were recognized by *Advance for Nurses Magazine* as the Best Nursing Team of 2007.

Among other things, the nursing team was recognized for improving patient and staff satisfaction, empowering staff members and raising cancer awareness in the community. Staff recognized by the team include: Carmen Stewart, RN, MSN, Cheryl Fleming, RN, Lacollette Edwards, RN, Patricia Joseph, RN, Gioconda Orellano, RN, Nicole Hunte, LPN, Bibi Ulla,

LPN, Roselle Augustine, and Brynda Carter, hospital unit secretary.

Lecture Features Brazilian Advocate for Cervical Cancer Prevention

Dr. Paulo Naud, OB/GYN assistant professor at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (pictured left with Dr. Twiggs), was the featured speaker for Grand Rounds on Thursday, May 17.

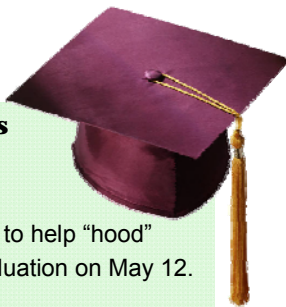
Dr. Naud spoke about the development of clinical cancer prevention in Brazil and Porto Alegre. He also discussed a number of research projects involving HPV screening and vaccination currently taking place at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.



Dr. Norris Participates in Graduation

Dr. Paul Norris was selected to help "hood" medical students during graduation on May 12.

"It was an honor and privilege," said Dr. Norris of the experience.



Miami OB/GYN Society

Recognizes Members

The Miami OB/GYN Society congratulates its newly inducted members.

Drs. **Lorna Rodriguez** and **Elvire Jacques** were initiated into the Society as Associate Fellows during the group's April Meeting.

Additionally, the following Associate Fellows were promoted to Fellows: **Dr. George Attia**, **Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura**, **Dr. Nicholas Lambrou**, **Dr. Joseph Lucci**, **Dr. Paul M. Norris** and **Dr. Salih Yasin**.

Dr. Arthur Shapiro received a special honor, as he was named Life Fellow. Also, **Dr. Jorge Garcia** was recognized as Outstanding Member and **Yamira Cuervo**, the Society's longtime administrative support, was recognized for her seven years of service to the group.

Mentorship Program Successful

The Department is happy to announce that we have completed the first year of the Faculty-Resident Mentorship Program. For this program, nine faculty members were chosen randomly as mentors and each was assigned ten residents (mentees), one from each postgraduate year.

Mentors and mentees were required to meet at least on a quarterly basis to discuss professional and personal issues with respect to resident performance. Evaluations filled out by mentors and mentees recognized the importance of the program and reflected its success.

We thank this year's mentors, who pioneered this much-needed program. Mentors included Drs. Gene Burkett, Makbib Diro, Matt Pearson, Nick Lambrou, Joseph Lucci, Usha Verma, Nahida Chakhtoura and Carla Lupi. A new group of faculty members will be selected for the upcoming year.

It's a Boy!



Congratulations to Dr. Sandra Black-Boxill who gave birth to a baby boy named Isaiah Khaleil Boxill on May 8, 2007. He weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces.

Just Married



Congratulations to department courier Boykin Freeman, who has been with OB/GYN since 1990. Boykin celebrated his wedding to bride Rema on Saturday, May 19.

Community

► Mother's Day Health Fair

OB/GYN Outreach staff **Jeanne Constant** and **Sherley Mathurin** participated in a Mother's Day Health Fair held Saturday, May 12, 2007 at the Renaissance Baptist Church. They provided GYN and OB educational materials, materials for getting care and treatment and free HIV testing.

► Colposcope for Haiti

Dr. Mary Jo O' Sullivan is looking for someone to donate an ultrasound machine. A refurbished or used machine will do, as long as it is in working condition. To help, contact **Dr. O'Sullivan** at **305-382-2162** or **786-371-8133**.

Quoted

► **University of Miami Infertility Center** was mentioned, as well as one of its patients, in a Mother's Day article on infertility which ran in the *Miami Herald* on Sunday, May 13.

► **Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura** was quoted by **CBS**, Channel 4, and **Fox News**, Channel 7, on Tuesday, May 15. She was interviewed regarding a SpectRX light device, now undergoing trials, used to detect cervical cancer. Dr. Twigg and Chakhtoura are participating in trials of the device.

► **Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero** was quoted on Telemundo's *Al Rojo Vivo* on Thursday, May 17, in a story examining the health risks involved in donating eggs for fertility treatments.

► **Dr. Leo Twigg** was quoted in a May 17 *Health Day* story titled "Gardasil Guards Against Vaginal, Vulval Cancers: Researchers found cervical cancer vaccine reduced risk of lesions by 49%." The story also ran in 16 other media outlets including *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, *Discovery Health*, *Yahoo News*, *MSN News* and *Forbes*.

Dr. Twigg was also quoted in the May issue of *Coral Gables Living* in a story titled "[A Mixed Bundle of Joy.](#)" In the story, Dr. Twigg says women should make decisions about having children based on their core values rather than health issues.

► **Dr. Lupi** was quoted by **CBS**, Channel 4, on Tuesday, May 22, on a story about Lybrel, a birth control pill which allows women to put off getting a period. She was also interviewed by *El Sentinel* (the Spanish version of the Sun-Sentinel) on the same topic. The story will run on June 9. Additionally, she was interviewed by *Telemundo's Al Rojo Vivo*, on the same topic.

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To include your good news in upcoming newsletters,

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

Published

► **Dr. Ira Karmin**, along with Erika Banks, M.D., Scott Chudnoff, M.D., Cuiling Wang, Ph.D., and Setul Pardanani, M.D., submitted a paper titled “Does a Surgical Simulator Improve Residents’ Operative Performance of Laparoscopic Tubal Ligation?” to the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

► **Dr. Paul Norris** presented a poster, “Estrogen Conc Following Dosing of Conjugated Estrogens,” at the annual clinical meeting of the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** held in San Diego, CA in May.

► **Drs. Peter Takacs** and **Carlos Medina**, along with Dr. J. Pollak, had their article, “Complications of three sacrospinous ligation fixation techniques,” accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*.

Research

The following clinical trials are seeking patients:

► 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)**.

► Hot Flashes

Are hot flashes making you miserable? You're not alone. As many as 85% of postmenopausal women experience the discomfort of hot flashes -- sudden sensations of heat, often accompanied by sweating, racing pulse, and anxiety. If you're suffering from hot flashes, the Department of ObGyn is conducting a clinical research trial studying a non-hormonal investigational drug to see if it may relieve hot flashes.

If you are a postmenopausal woman experiencing bothersome hot flashes with sweating every day you may be eligible to participate. Qualified participants will receive at no charge study-related medical examinations, lab tests, electrocardiograms, investigational medication and compensation for travel costs to doctors' visits.

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)**.

► 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.**

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