



# OB/GYN Connection

May 2007

Monthly News for Faculty and Staff

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## Luncheon brings in funds for HPV research

The Department of OB/GYN received **\$44,000** from the Forum on Women's Health first annual spring luncheon last month.

These funds will benefit cervical cancer research and treatment at the UM Miller School of Medicine. The funds will also serve as seed money for vaccine support and outreach programs for women in need.

The event's featured speaker was Chair Dr. Leo Twiggs, who spoke about the socio-political context of the HPV vaccine and the reasons why women should get vaccinated.



From left: Monica Maroone, Dr. Leo Twiggs, Dilly Kirby, and Sandra Moss. The women are members of the Forum on Women's Health.

"The [Forum] chose to support this, because the HPV vaccine is the only vaccine for any kind of women's cancer ... Many women in our underserved community of South Florida will not have access to this magnificent breakthrough in women's health, and we hope to assist the Miller School in providing this most necessary access to the HPV vaccine to all," said Patty Kearns, founder and chair of the Forum on Women's Health.

## Events

### ► May 6-12

National Nurses Week kicks off with National Nurse Day on May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. Nightingale is credited as the founder of modern nursing. To all our nurses, we appreciate you!

For more information on National Nurses Week, visit [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org).

## Research

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## News

### Dr. Updike Receives George Paff Award; Resident Dr. Amy Flick Recognized

The George Paff Teaching Awards are presented annually to faculty members recognized by each medical school class for their dedication to students and excellence in teaching.

One of the faculty members recognized this year was **Dr. Elizabeth Updike**.

Dr. Updike was tapped by the Class of 2008 and Dr. Lupi had this to say about her, "Students were uniformly appreciative of her clear style, her extra efforts to help them prepare for orals, and her positive and constructive feedback. They also mentioned her consistency as a ward attending, and her full inclusion of students

in the rounding process."

**Dr. Amy Flick** was the resident singled out from our department by the Class of 2008 for her teaching efforts, quite an achievement for a second year. Students this year have mentioned her openness and attention to their participation.

## WLS Meeting was a Success

The William A. Little Obstetrics and Gynecology Society Annual Meeting was held at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa on Saturday, April 21.

The meeting was held primarily to reunite alumni and to showcase the latest research of residents and fellows. Residents made presentations and the following papers were awarded top honors:

### RESIDENTS

#### ► First Place:

The Impact of Media in OB/GYN Patients

By Helena de Carvalho, M.D.

#### ► Second Place:

Subchorionic Hematoma: A Prognostic Dilemma

By Subha Sundaram, M.D.

#### ► Third Place:

Trends in Antenatal Testing in the U.S.

By Juanita Mestre, M.D.

### FELLOWS

Four Fellows also presented at the meeting, two of whom are alumni but are training at different institutions. Two of them were awarded top places in the fellowship category:

#### ► First Place:

Muc4 and Her2-Neu Expression in Endometrial Carcinoma

By Edward A. Jimenez, M.D.

#### ► Second Place:

The MUC16 Mucin Gene Upregulates Gene Transcripts Associated with Invasion

By John P. Diaz, M.D.

Also honored at the meeting was **Dr. Jena Carter-Miller**, who was recognized by the Society as the **Most Outstanding Resident of the Year**. The award was sponsored by Ortho-McNeil.

**Dr. Gene Burkett** was also honored by the Society as **Distinguished Alumni of the Year**.



From left: Drs. Tim DeSantis, Dr. Omar Pasalodos and Salih Yasin.

### Mentorship Opportunity

The Dept. of OB/GYN will be participating in the Women's Health Research Scholars Program, a mentorship program that will pair up a doctor with an undergraduate or graduate student to work on a project in the field of women's health research.

Interested doctors, contact Dr. JoNell Potter at 305-243-2173.

### Congrats to Pat Roberts

Congratulations to **Patricia Roberts**, who handles HIV clinic billing in the department's Research Office. She completed her studies at Barry University this spring earning a **bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration**.



### Nurses Attend Dinner/Dance

In honor of Nurses Day, the dept. of OB/GYN treated nurses to the annual scholarship dinner dance hosted by the Black Nurses Association.

The event took place on Sat., April 21, 2007, at El Palacio Hotel in Miami Gardens. The dept. helped sponsor the event, which helps raise fund for scholarships to benefit African-American nurses, by placing an ad in the program.

### Director of Outreach is Honored

**Yvette Rivero**, who is the department's director of outreach and access to care and treatment as well as its research coordinator, was recently selected by the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, to become a member of the Florida HIV/AIDS Minority Network Liaison for Dade and Monroe counties. She was also selected to be a representative of the Hispanic Women's Minority Group for the State.



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## Community

### ► Jack and Jill Children's Center Health Fair

OB/GYN nurse **Lilia Corral**, other Miller staff and Miller School of Medicine students participated in the **Jack and Jill Children's Center Health Fair** in Ft. Lauderdale on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. Medical school students conducted screenings for children and their families at this well-attended fair.

### ► Liberty City Health Fair

The OB/GYN Division of Research Outreach staff, **Jeanne Constant and Sherley Maturin**, participated in a **Health Fair held at the Liberty City Community Center** on Saturday, April 21, 2007. The staff provided information on women's health and provided free HIV testing and counseling.

### ► Mission to Guatemala

Labor and Delivery Nurse **Barbara Mihm** will be going on a medical mission to Guatemala on **May 15**. To make a donation, please contact her at **305-815-7295 or at travel@bellsouth.net**.

### ► HPV Screening in Peru

Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura will be traveling once again to Peru as part of **Cervicuzco**, a week-long pre-cancer screening and education mission from **May 28 to June 4**. Peruvian women have one of the highest rates of cervical cancer in the world. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering, please contact **Dr. Chakhtoura** at [nchakhtoura@med.miami.edu](mailto:nchakhtoura@med.miami.edu)

### ► Colposcope for Haiti

Dr. Mary Jo O' Sullivan is looking for someone to donate a colposcope. She 'd like to make it available to physicians in Haiti by June. She's also looking for 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"

► **Dr. Leo B. Twiggs** was quoted in *El Nuevo Herald* on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. He commented on a story which discussed a study published by the American Cancer Society on how even though cancer rates have been lower in the last 10 years, this might change soon because patients are at higher risks due to obesity, smoking, lack of physical activity and lack of funds for routine screening exams.

► **Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero** was quoted in *El Nuevo Herald* on a story regarding umbilical cord blood stem cell banking.

► **Dr. Paul Norris and Dr. Carla Lupi** were quoted in the May 2007 (p. 34) issue of *South Florida Parenting* in a story titled "Say Goodbye to Periods?"

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## Published

- ▶ **Dr. Peter Takacs**, along with Drs. S. Ryu, A.R. Huppman, N. Sambangi, and S.W. Kauma, had a paper published in the April 2007 issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. The paper is titled “Increased leukocyte adhesion to vascular endothelium in preeclampsia is inhibited by antioxidants.”
  
- ▶ **Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero**, along with **Drs. Istwan, Rhea, Smarkusky, Hoffman and Stanziano**, had a paper published in the *Journal for Maternal Fetal Neonatal Medicine* (March 2007, 20 (03): 249-52), titled “Gestational age at initiation of 17-hydroxyprogesterone caproate (17P) and recurrent preterm delivery.”
  
- ▶ **Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero** and **Drs. Loren Smarkusky, Jena Carter, Niki Istwan, and Debbie Rhea** gave an oral presentation at the national meeting of the **American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology**, May 7, titled “17 Alpha-hydroxyprogesterone Caproate (17P): Perinatal Mortality and Pregnancy Outcomes.” Also, **Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero and Drs. Subha Sundaram, John Diaz and Usha Verma** presented a poster titled “Rectal Misoprostol vs. 15-Methyl Prostaglandin F2 for Retained Placenta after Second-Trimester Delivery,” at the meeting.
  
- ▶ **Drs. Gowri Harinarayanan, Jena Carter, Lesley de la Torre, Ana Hernandez, Lucia Gaitan and Lorna Rodriguez** presented a poster at the national meeting of the **American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology** titled “Operative Deliveries in the US: Forceps (FAVD) vs. Vacuum assisted Vaginal Deliveries (VAVD).”
  
- ▶ **Drs. Carlos Medina, Peter Takacs and Clara Croce** presented a poster titled “The Effect of Two Techniques for Vaginal Fixation on Total Vaginal Length—An Intra and Inter Procedural Assessment Between Sacrospinous Ligament Fixation and Bilateral Iliococcygeal Fixation” at the **33rd Annual Society of Gynecologic Surgeons Meeting**.
  
- ▶ **Drs. Camille Hoffman, Sarah Jeffers, Jena Carter, Lunthita Duthley, Amanda Cotter and Victor Gonzalez-Quintero** had their paper, “Pregnancy at or beyond age 40 years is associated with an increased risk of fetal death and other adverse outcomes,” published in the **May 2007** issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.
  
- ▶ **Dr. Babac Shahmohamady** gave a talk titled “Taking Surgery Beyond the Limit of Human Hands: Gynecology Robotics” at Jackson South Community Hospital’s quarterly staff meeting on Tuesday, April 24 at the Crowne Plaza in Kendall.
  
- ▶ **Nathalie Dauphin-McKenzie, MD, Michel J. Celestin, MA, David Brown, MD and Victor Gonzalez-Quintero, MD, MPH**, had their paper, “The advanced life support in obstetrics course as an orientation tool for obstetrics and gynecology residents,” published in the **May 2007** issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

## 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.

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der.

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**

### ► **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](mailto:l.rivas@miami.edu).**

Submissions for the Department Newsletter must be submitted by the last week of the month, for the upcoming monthly newsletter..

Remember, submissions can include: speaking engagements, research publications, awards, promotions, charitable events, media interviews, meetings, grand rounds, recruitment for research studies, etc., and family additions.

Send your good news to [jtaylor2@med.miami.edu](mailto:jtaylor2@med.miami.edu)

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