



University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

OB/GYN *Connection*

Monthly News for Faculty and Staff— October 2007

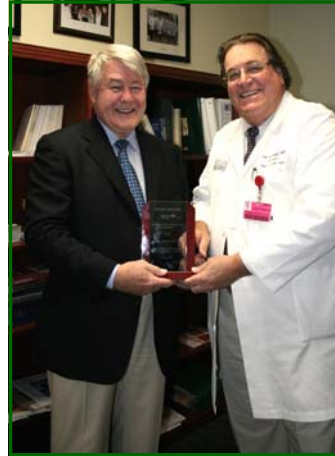
Dr. Gall is inducted into Hall of Fame

On Sept. 20, 2007, the Department inducted the first honoree of the UM/Jackson Women's Hospital Center Hall of Fame - Dr. Stanley Gall.

Dr. Gall, who is currently professor of OB/GYN and professor of public health and informational health sciences at the University of Louisville, is a renowned leader in the specialty of OB/GYN. His major clinical interests are in the immunology of vaccines and infectious diseases. He is a principal investigator for the HPV-16 and HPV-18 vaccine trials.

He became part of the UM family in 1969 when he came here to complete a post-graduate fellowship program in biochemistry and microbiology. He served as OB/GYN professor from 1969-1973. Following UM, career highlights include being Donald A. Baxter Professor and Chair of the OB/GYN Department at the University of Louisville; director of the MFM program at Duke University Medical Center; and professor of OB/GYN at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

For his achievements and contributions to women's health, the Department recognizes Dr. Gall. Other honorees for the Hall of Fame will be inducted on a yearly basis. Honorees should have a



connection to UM/Jackson and will be recognized for their contributions to the OB/GYN field.

To nominate a candidate, please contact Jackie Taylor at 305-585-5131, or e-mail her at jtaylor2@med.miami.edu.

Dean appoints Dr. Lupi to Women Liaison Officer

Dr. Carla Lupi was appointed by Medical School Dean Dr. Pascal Goldschmidt to serve as a Women Liaison Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

"I am appointing Carla in recognition of her achievements and demonstrated interest in promoting an outstanding environment for trainees and faculty in her current roles," wrote Dean Goldschmidt in a letter to OB/GYN Chair Dr. Leo Twiggs.

In the role of Women Liaison Officer, Dr. Lupi will help disseminate information from the AAMC pertaining to faculty development and women's affairs. She will also attend the Women in Medicine program at the AAMC annual meeting to network with Women Liaison Officers from other institutions and participate in the development and sharing of resources among academic medical centers.

The Department congratulates Dr. Lupi on this important achievement and looks forward to her contributions in this role.

Department Welcomes Ovarian Cancer Researcher

The Department extends a warm welcome to Xiangxi Xu, Ph.D., who will be joining the Miller School of Medicine faculty starting Oct. 1. He has joint appointments in the Departments of OB/GYN and Medicine and will be developing a research program at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Division of Gynecologic Oncology. His research interests are primarily in ovarian cancer.

Dr. Xu comes from Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, PA. He says of his new position, "I am very enthusiastic about the exciting new environment and I am highly optimistic about the potential for us to succeed and contribute to the research and academic achievement at the University of Miami."

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Events

► Saturday, Oct. 6

UM and Jackson Health System employees will participate in a health fair sponsored by The Fountain Church of Pembroke Pines from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mary Saunders Park (4750 SW 21 St; West Park, FL 33023). The fair will feature flu shots, the Jackson Care -A-Van, Blood Mobile, Asthma screening, confidential HIV Testing, and more!

► Friday, Oct. 12

"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. e-mail apazos@um-jmh.org to reserve a spot.

► Saturday, Dec. 15

The OB/GYN Holiday Party will take place at the Miccosukee Resort (500 SW 177th Ave.) at 7:30 p.m.

Research

► [Cervical Dysplasia](#)

► [Heavy Bleeding](#)

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News

Coordinators attend New Innovations Conference

Rebecca Cardenas, Residency Program Coordinator, and Tameka Collins, OB/GYN Clerkship Coordinator, attended the New Innovations Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio last month. The purpose of the conference was to update the coordinators on the New Innovations website, which will be used to record duty hours, rotation evaluations, grand rounds attendance...and basically all records related to residents and medical students.

Both coordinators expressed that the conference was helpful and informative and thank Administration for their support.



Rebecca Cardenas (left) and Tameka Collins (third from left) pose with conference presenters.

Thanks from Visiting Students

The following notes were received from Kimmy Leu and Sandhya Nicholas, visiting students from Nova Southeastern University.

Dear L & D,

Thanks for having us this month. It was fun running around with the residents and seeing and learning new things. We had great role models to teach us how to multi-task, be organized and thorough and most importantly to care for and do what's best for the patient. Unfortunately I haven't conquered writing upside down yet but maybe that comes with practice.

Well, just before our expiration date, we wanted to thank all of

the attending and residents for allowing us to tag along and teaching us to become better physicians. We also want to thank all of the nurses for letting us become involved with their patients and having the patience to **teach** new rookies in the field. I can now count to 10 in any language (j/k) and have found that I can lift legs bigger than my own body!

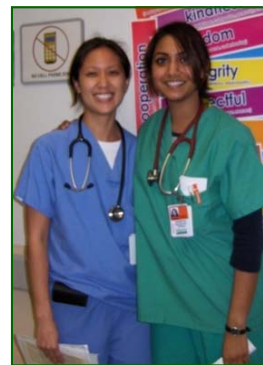
I've enjoyed my time spent here and hope to see you again in the future. Thanks for taking care of us!

Gracias,

Kimmy Leu

Dear L&D,

Well, I'm thinking Kimmy said it all...and then some :) But I wanted to personally say thank



From left: Kimberly Leu and Sandya Nicholas.

you for everything this month. We've learned so much from all of you and now hopefully I won't be as clueless at my other rotation sites. I have you guys to thank. I really appreciate your time and your patience :) You guys were awesome!

Love,

Sandhya Nicholas

Congratulations to Data Manager Lunthita Duthely

Lunthita Duthely, data manager for the Division of Research, received recognition from the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry for her contribution to their research efforts. Lunthita collected data to help determine the safety of the antiviral drugs that are currently under research by the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.

The Department congratulates Lunthita on a job well done!

Announcements

► The Institute for Women's Health, in collaboration with the Departments of Internal Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Jackson Health System, is pleased to announce the establishment of a new **Comprehensive Women Care Clinic located in ACC-West, 3rd floor**. The clinic will be training Internal Medicine residents and serving new Jackson System female patients on Thursday mornings. This interdisciplinary service delivery model and

its associated academic program have been specially designed to focus on the provision of comprehensive women's health services in a way that is responsive to the gender specific needs of women. The overall goals of the program are the enhancement of resident knowledge/skills related to women's health and patient satisfaction regarding quality of care.

► Beginning this month, Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura will be working with Dr. Diana Cardenas, chair of the Miller School's Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, and her staff by providing Gyn exams for women with spinal cord injuries and Multiple Sclerosis patients with limited mobility on the last Monday of the month.

Grant Opportunities for Faculty

The Institute for Women's Health (IWH) will be providing support for three one-year pilot projects in the amount of \$50,000 each, designed to encourage research studies targeting women's health. The goal is to provide the resources necessary to pursue a new idea and develop the preliminary experimental data needed to support a successful NIH grant application. All University of Miami faculty with an M.D., D.O., and/or Ph.D. are eligible to apply. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible.

For additional guidance, consult the ORWH website: <http://orwh.od.nih.gov/research/priorities.html>.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: December 1, 2007. For application guidelines and to download an application form, please go to the IWH website: <http://womenshealth.med.miami.edu/research>. For additional information or questions, please call Patti A. Stauffer at 305-243-2576 or at pstauffer@med.miami.edu.

UM Facility in Boca Raton Opens for Business

Dr. Ira Karmin will begin seeing patients at the University Multi-Specialty Group of Boca Raton, FAU Research Park (3848 FAU Blvd, suite 305). Patients can schedule appointments by calling 305-585-5160. He will also continue seeing patients at his Deerfield Beach office on Tuesdays and will be in Boca Raton on Thursdays.

Faculty: Administration is Updating Files

Administration is currently in the process of updating faculty member files. If you have made any changes to your medical license, DEA, ACLS, CME, etc., or if there is any other document you would like to include in your file, please make sure you submit copies of your documents to Administration so that they may be placed in your file.

Also, please make sure your CV is current—reflecting the date it was last updated, recent publications, awards, etc.

The deadline to submit updated information is October 31, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Rivero at 305-585-5393, or Karla Fuentes at 305-585-5800.

Quoted

► **Dr. Christopher Estes** was quoted by *CBS 4* on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, in a story examining the possibility of getting pregnant while on contraceptives.

Published

► **Drs. Carlos Medina and Peter Takacs** had their paper, "Comparison of vaginal length after sacrospinous ligament suspension and iliococcygeus fixation," accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*.

► **Yvette Rivero**, Assistant Director of Clinical Trials, collaborated on a paper, "Rapid Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 testing on Labor and Delivery in 17 US Hospitals: the MIRIAD Experience," that was published in the September 2007 supplement to the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Presentations

► **Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura** presented, "Early Detection of Cervical Lesions—Experience with New Technology: SpectRX and Colposcopy," at the conference, "International Congress of Experts in Treating Diseases of the Lower Genital Tract and Colposcopy," held August 30-31, 2007 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

► **Drs. Samer Schuman and Namita Jhamb**, gynecologic oncology fellows, presented at the Florida Cancer Conference in West Palm Beach on September 13, 2007. Dr. Schuman presented "Pegfilgrastim administration on the same day as myelosuppressive chemotherapy in ovarian cancer patients is safe and effective." Dr. Jhamb's presentation, "Influence of ethnicity on outcome in uterine sarcoma," was awarded the "Best Fellow Presentation in Clinical Research."

► **Dr. Leo Twiggs** presented a talk, "Prevention of Cervical Cancer: The Perfect Storm," at the Institute for Women's Health Grand Rounds on Thursday, September 20, 2007. The lecture was given at the Rosensteil building, fifth floor auditorium.

► **Dr. Matt Pearson** will be speaking at the Town Hall Meeting on Breast Cancer at Jackson Memorial Hospital, DTC 259, on October 12, 2007. The conference is multidisciplinary and designed to educate staff and members of the community about advances in the diagnosis, screening and treatment of breast cancer.

HR Corner

The Department would like to welcome the latest additions to the OB/GYN family:

Blanca Alexander, patient clinical associate, MFM division.

Tonya Barnes, credentials and medical education manager, administration.

Ms. Barnes was Medical Staff Director at Hialeah Hospital and has over 16 years of experience in hospital and faculty credentialing. She has experience in dealing with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and Organizations and knows the National Committee for Quality Assurance's federal and state regulatory standards. Additionally, Ms. Barnes is currently an active member of the National Association Medical Staff Services and its Florida chapter.

Laura Calzolari, advancement development officer, administration. Ms. Calzolari has 25 years of experience in fundraising, management and project development. In her last position at the National Parkinson Foundation, she was Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Ms. Calzolari will be creating and executing the development plan for our Department in concert with the Miller Office of Medical Development and Alumni Relations.

Diana Camacho, senior patient clinical assistant, practice sites.

Fatima Shika, patient receptionist, generalist division.

Employee Spotlight

Name: *Pamela Kay Vilaboy*

Job Title: *Senior Nurse Supervisor*

If I could travel to any place in the world I would go to an island full of

fruits and vegetable gardens with flowers, waterfalls, beaches, and live there with my family and friends.

My friends would describe me as active,

generous, dependable, committed, outgoing, friendly, brave, ambitious, empathetic, grateful, faithful, loving, and honest.

What I like most about my job is feeling at "home" at my work. Helping the patients and my co-workers is a rewarding experience. It often leads to long-term relationships



Pamela Vilaboy

that enrich the lives of both people for years to come. I love being a caregiver!

Just for fun...



Boykin Freeman and the Department's "electronic" medical files.

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 Iliana Rivas at 305-243-5832, press option 6 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 **Yvette Rivero at 786-367-7460**.

► 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 **Iliana Rivas at 305-243-5774 or irivas@med.miami.edu**.

Upcoming Research Projects

Dr. Carlos Medina will be conducting a study on incontinence.

Dr. Peter Takacs will be studying biomarkers for ectopic pregnancies.

Dr. Gonzalez-Quintero is doing a study on pre-term labor.

Check upcoming newsletters for more details regarding these studies, or contact **Iliana Rivas at 305-242-5774**.

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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