



University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

OB/GYN *Connection*

Monthly News for Faculty and Staff— September 2007

Department Welcomes Dr. Bardawil

The department extends a warm welcome to Dr. Tarek Bardawil, who will be working in the Generalist division beginning this month.

Dr. Bardawil, a graduate of the American University of Beirut School of Medicine in Lebanon, was recently Chief Resident for the OB/GYN department at Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston. Additionally, he completed his post-doctoral fellowship in gene therapy research at the Herman B. Wells Center for Pediatric Cancer Research at Indiana University School of Medicine.

HPV Vaccine Available to Uninsured Women

Sponsored by the Forum on Women's Health, the Department will be offering uninsured women the HPV vaccine free of charge.

Eligible candidates include women between the ages of 19-26 who are uninsured. Sponsored quantities of the vaccine are limited and will be available to the first 72 women who call to make an appointment. If you know anyone who would qualify to receive the vaccine, ask them to call 305-585-5131 to schedule an appointment.

To learn more about this program, click [here](#).

UM-JMH Completes Resident Patient Safety Course

The UM-JMH Center for Patient Safety has completed its third annual Intern and Resident Patient Safety Course, in which OB/GYN faculty participated. Over 250 interns and residents from more than 20 different specialties were trained in June and July 2007. The course, which focuses on hand hygiene, team communication, patient identification, patient confidentiality and professionalism, is mandated by JMHS for all new incoming interns and residents.

David Birnbach, director of UM-JMH Center for Patient Safety, said in a letter addressed to Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero, "Your participation was essential to our success and promoted a valuable learning experience to those beginning in your specialty."

Save the Date



What: OB/GYN Holiday Party
When: Sat., December 15, 2007
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Miccosukee Resort
500 SW 177th Avenue
Miami, FL

In this Issue:

[News](#)

[Quoted](#)

[Presentations](#)

[HR Corner](#)

[Research](#)

Events

► September

The month of Sept. is Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to increasing public awareness about prevention, detection and treatment of GYN cancers. For more info., visit www.wcn.org or www.thegcf.org.



► 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.

► Feb. 21-23, 2008

New Concepts in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Mayfair Hotel in Coconut Grove.

Research

► [Cervical Dysplasia](#)

► [Heavy Bleeding](#)

► [SpectRX](#)

News

Faculty: “Lessons Learned”

Required by UMMG

As part of the new prerequisite requirements for UMMG re-credentialing, faculty members must attend at least one of the “Lessons Learned” sessions. These educational events are designed to enhance physician awareness regarding patient safety. The events are organized by the Office of Patient Protection and the Physician-Patient Advocacy Program.

The inaugural event will feature Dr. Nicholas Namias who will be speaking on the safety implications of infection control. Dr. Namias will give his presentation four times at the **Mailman Center 8th floor auditorium** on the following dates and times:

- ▶ Thursday, September 27, 2007; 6-7 p.m.
- ▶ Wednesday, October 3, 2007; 8-9 a.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, October 9, 2007; 6-7 p.m.
- ▶ Monday, October 22, 2007; 12-1 p.m.

An on-line version of the curriculum will be accessible to obtain CME credit. This option will be available to those unable to attend the above presentations due to their work schedules.

For more details, please contact Magaly Robitaille at mrobitai@med.miami.edu or at 305-243-6545.

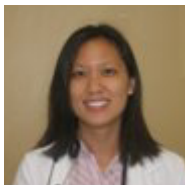


Daniela Serafimovska

Visitors Welcome!

The Department welcomes Visiting Student **Daniela Serafimovska** and Visiting Observer **Kimberly Leu**.

Ms. Serafimovska, a fourth year student from Michigan State University, will be visiting through October 31, 2007.



Kimberly Leu

Ms. Leu, a fourth year student from Nova Southeastern University, will be visiting through November 30, 2007.



From left: Dr. Makbib Diro, Dr. Victor Gonzalez-Quintero, Dr. Francisco Cruz, and Dr. Subha Sundaram at the FOGS annual meeting.

Congratulations Dr. Sundaram

Dr. Subha Sundaram, a third year resident, was selected as an American Urogynecologic Society (AUGS) Resident Scholar. She was chosen for this honor due to her interest in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery and because of the level of her performance during training.

As a resident scholar, Dr. Sundaram will at-

tend the AUGS 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting with all expenses paid. The meeting will take place in Hollywood, FL on September 26, 2007.

Additionally, Dr. Sundaram presented “Subchorionic hematoma: a diagnostic enigma” at the Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society’s annual meeting (August 24-26) and won first prize for the best resident paper competition.

Other FOGS Presenters:

Francisco Cruz, third year resident, presented “Paternal contribution to the epidemiological paradox among Hispanics” and won third prize for his presentation.

Christina Saiz, third year resident, was voted ACOG District IV Junior Fellow Florida Section Vice Chair.

Quoted

► **Dr. Leo Twiggs** was quoted in Florida-based *Eve Magazine* on a story examining women's cancers (cervical, ovarian and breast). The story will be featured in the magazine's September issue.

► **Dr. Elvire Jacques** was interviewed on August 24 by **Revodition**—a production company currently compiling an educational DVD for first time mothers. The DVD will be distributed nationally at retail stores and on Amazon.com in October.

Presentations

► **Dr. Paul Norris** presented a lecture, "Contraception Update," to the department of Family Medicine on August 15, 2007.

► **Dr. Leo Twiggs** presented a talk, "Understanding the Key Immunologic Concepts in HPV Vaccination," at the 2007 Florida Obstetric and Gynecologic Society meeting held in Naples, August 24-26, 2007.

► **Dr. Matt Pearson** will be presenting a lecture on ovarian cancer as part of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center series "Conversations about Cancer" on September 10, 2007.

HR Corner

Welcome

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

Phara Chery, patient registration representative, Patient Call Center. Previously, Phara was a temporary worker (client relations representative) in our department.

Patricia Lopez, patient clinical associate, Generalist Division.

Patricia transferred from the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Nancy Luma, patient clinical associate, Holtz. Nancy was recently working at University of Miami Hospitals and Clinics as a patient clinical assistant.

Priscilla Puche, senior patient clinical assistant, Professional Arts Center. Priscilla was recently working at the University of Miami's Spine Institute as a patient clinical assistant.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Rabah Elias Laoun, M.D.

Job Title: Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology

If I could travel to any place in the world galaxy, I'd go to the moon, since space would be my ultimate frontier.

Most people don't know that I am an artist and have won several awards for drawing, interior decorating, and modeling.

My friends would describe me as a workaholic, energizer bunny, Dr. "Yalla" (Arabic for let's go/move it), hands on, Ob/Gyn Patch Adams.

What I like most about my job is the ability to make a difference in someone's or some family's life, the joy of the daily challenges and the impact it has on people's lives.



Dr. Rabah Laoun and his son, what he calls "My biggest achievement, being a dad."

[Back to Page 1](#)

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.

[Back to Page 1](#)