



OB-GYN Special Delivery

❖ News for Alumni and Friends

❖ New Leadership Appointments



John D. Davis, M.D.

We are very pleased to announce two major leadership changes for our Department: Dr. John Davis has been appointed as Associate Chair, and Dr. Shireen Madani Sims has been appointed to take over Dr. Davis's previous position as Director of the Division of Gynecology, Gynecologic Surgery, and Obstetrics. Dr. Davis is continuing on as the OB-GYN Residency Program Director, and Dr. Madani Sims is still the Medical Student Clerkship Director. Both doctors began their careers as OB-GYNs here in our department, and their new appointments are a testament to their hard work.

Dr. Davis began his residency at UF in 1986. After completing his military service in the Army, he returned to Gainesville as an Assistant Professor in our Department. He became the Chief of the Division of Gynecology, Gynecologic Surgery, and Obstetrics (formerly known as the Division of Gynecology) in 1995, and Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program in 2013.

Dr. Madani Sims graduated from our Residency Program in 2005, and was hired as an Assistant Professor that same year. She became our Clerkship Director, followed by a promotion to Associate Professor in 2012. In 2015, Dr. Madani Sims became the Director of Patient-Centered Education in the Office of Medical School Admissions.

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Davis and Madani Sims for their achievements. We are incredibly fortunate to have two leaders who are so dedicated to educating our future OB-GYNs.



Shireen Madani Sims, M.D.

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Inside this issue:

Lukowski Retirement.	2
Awards & Recognitions.	2
Faculty News.	2
Dr. Gregg.	3
Dr. Moawad.	3
Welcome New Residents.	3
2017 Alumni Society Meeting.	4

**OB-GYN Alumni Society/
Resident Research Day/
Graduation Weekend
2017**
Gainesville, Florida
June 23—24, 2017



R. Stan Williams, M.D.

❖ Notes from the Chair

As 2016 comes to a close, I look back on the 29 years I have been on the faculty at the University of Florida with a sense of fulfillment and pride. I joined the faculty at the invitation of Dr. Jack Masterson, who was recruited from his position as Chair at the University of Louisville to become Chair at the University of Florida. As a finishing fellow in REI in Louisville I needed a job! Little did I realize that I would make UF home for my entire career.

Why did I stay at UF for almost 30 years when the average academician moves around with seeming regularity? It is pretty simple. First, the University and particularly the Health Science Center, has experienced significant growth not only in its facilities, but also in the number and quality of its faculty over the years. Having the HSC on the main campus of the university is a model that only 4-5 other medical schools in the nation share. This brings significant opportunities for collaborating with not only faculty from other departments in the COM, but also multiple colleges within the HSC and departments and institutes in the general university. For almost 50 years there has been a weekly conference in our Ob-Gyn conference room, first started by Dr. Donald

Barron, where researchers and clinicians from all over UF gather to discuss various aspects of reproduction. Regular attendees include not only our department but also faculty and students from physiology, pharmacology, pediatrics, Vet Med, IFAS, animal sciences, and dairy sciences, just to name a few. These collaborations have allowed me to participate in many grants and research projects over the years from multiple departments and colleges within the university.

The second reason for staying at UF has been the Gainesville community. The excitement of living in a university town, with the diversity of its population, cultural offerings, sports and vitality is unmatched in most other cities. The friends my family and I have made in Gainesville are irreplaceable. Peggy and I raised our three children in Gainesville, mostly in the public school system, and I would brag to say that they turned out pretty well!

As I interview next year's resident applicants and new faculty, I am not shy to tell them about these reasons to come to the University of Florida in Gainesville. You also have the chance to return to visit your heritage by planning to come to the 8th Annual ObGyn Alumni Weekend! See you here!

*R. Stan Williams, M.D.
Harry Prystowsky Professor of Reproductive Medicine
Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*



❖ Retirement of Dr. Michael J. Lukowski



Michael J. Lukowski,
M.D.

Dr. Michael J. Lukowski will be retiring at the end of December from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has had an impressive medical career, and has taught generations of OB-GYNs.

Born in West Virginia, Dr. Lukowski began his residency here in our department in 1977. After graduating in 1981, he became a physician at North Florida Regional Medical Center. However, he also maintained his ties to our department as a courtesy clinical instructor. Upon his retirement from NFRMC, he became an adjunct Clinical Associate Professor for our department in 2009.

When asked why he chose OB-GYN as his specialty in a Facebook interview in January, he replied, "I chose OB-GYN because it offers a physician the opportunity to care for the whole patient...In OB-GYN, I saw a lot of happy people taking care of patients for a lifetime. The physician is a counselor, an internist and a surgeon to the patient.

In what we do, we become a part of the patient's extended family because the trust they place in us carries profound responsibility." When asked what advice he would give to individuals who are considering becoming OB-GYNs, he said, "Give and you get. The rewards in this specialty come from the relationships you develop with your patients over the years. Your personal accomplishments are tools you use to earn the trust your patients place in you."

These statements exemplify not only who Dr. Lukowski is as a physician, but as a person as well. This is just one of the many reasons why he is adored as a mentor, colleague, physician and friend. Thank you for your years of service, Dr. Lukowski, and congratulations on your retirement!

❖ Awards & Recognitions

- ◆ U.S. News & World Report ranked UF Health Shands Hospital as the 29th best Gynecology program, out of 4,467 hospitals in the United States. Although national rankings are not totally reflective of the quality of care provided by hospitals, they are widely seen by the public as being an indication of expertise and quality. Thank you to everyone in our department, and our hospital colleagues who work with us, for all of your hard work and dedication!

- ◆ The following faculty and house staff have been recognized this quarter for their outstanding care and service to patients by UF Health:

-Kathleen Green, M.D.

-Monique Ho, M.D.

-Nash Moawad, M.D.

-Kathryn Patrick, M.D.

-Kay Roussos-Ross, M.D.

-Shireen Madani Sims, M.D.

-Michelle Larzelere, M.D.



- ◆ Dr. Nash Moawad was promoted to Associate Professor by the UF Board of Trustees in June. Congratulations!
- ◆ Drs. Shireen Madani Sims and Kay Roussos-Ross were inducted into the UF chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society on May 5th. GHHS honors medical students, residents, fellows, role-model physician teachers and others who demonstrate excellence in humanistic clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service.

❖ Faculty News

- ◆ UF Health Women's Center received a \$40,000 grant renewal to continue providing our CenteringPregnancy program, initiated and headed by Dr. Kay Roussos-Ross.
- ◆ Dr. Monique Ho helped provide prenatal care to conjoined twins Savannah and Scarlett, who were born in April and separated at UF Health Shands Hospital. Said Dr. Ho: "This is one example of the superlative combination of communication, thoughtful planning and situational agility that this committed multidisciplinary team exhibits every single day. Our goal is always to bring families through one of the most difficult times in their lives in the least stressful way possible; one that is specifically individualized to their unique needs and achieves the best of the potential outcomes. I always find it rewarding to be part of this process."
- ◆ Dr. Kathleen Green arrived on August 1st as our newest Assistant Professor in the Division of Gynecology, Gynecologic Surgery, and Obstetrics. Welcome!



❖ Dr. Tony Gregg Elected President of Perinatal Research Society

Congratulations! Dr. Tony Gregg is President of the Perinatal Research Society. An international society, membership is by invitation and restricted to maternal fetal medicine physicians, neonatologists and Ph.D. trained reproductive biologists.



Anthony R. Gregg, M.D.

The mission of the Perinatal Research Society is to bring together current and future leaders in a forum that facilitates the transfer of knowledge, thoughts and ideas that impact perinatal care of mothers and babies now and into the future. The Society receives funding from NIH for its meeting and the associated grant writing workshop. MFM Division senior fellow Dr. Anushka Chelliah was selected to attend this year’s workshop. As President, Dr. Gregg selects speakers for the national meeting, which is held each fall.

This most prestigious platform is named after New Zealander Sir William Liley, who performed the first fetal blood transfusion in 1963 (intraperitoneal) for Rh disease. Last month, the MFM team at UF successfully performed the procedure twice (intravascular) thanks to advances in technology. The Sir William Liley Award and associated lectures will be given by UF researchers Dr. Charlie Wood and Dr. Maureen Keller-Wood. Both are UF scientists who work closely with our MFM Division. Using a sheep model, they study the effects of corticosteroids on fetal development. Dr. Kirk Conrad, another UF researcher and a member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is a former recipient of this prestigious award.

❖ Neuropelveology—Dr. Nash Moawad



Nash Moawad, M.D.

Congratulations to Dr. Nash Moawad, who was the recipient of a Faculty Enhancement Opportunity grant to study the burgeoning field of Neuropelveology. A new field in medical science, Neuropelveology focuses on the preservation of the pelvic nerves during laparoscopic radical pelvic surgery, as well as on laparoscopic neurosurgical procedures on the pelvic nerves. Dr. Moawad has completed a course with the International School of Neuropelveology (ISNP), and will be studying further under the tutelage of Dr. Marc Possover, the world-wide pioneer in the field of laparoscopic neurosurgery.

❖ Donations

MAKE A GIFT. Please support education, research and patient-care programs in the **UF College of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology** by making a gift and/or pledge of \$ _____ to:

F02037 OB-GYN Discovery Fund

You can also make a gift online at: <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=F02037>

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E-mail	Billing Address: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Check if same as mailing address
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Mark your calendars for the 2017 UF OB-GYN Alumni Society Meeting! The meeting is already shaping up to be one for the books, and we are excited to share what we have planned so far. Invitations forthcoming. We can't wait to catch up with you!

- ◆ Chair's Welcome Reception: 6p.m. on Friday, June 23rd at the Sweetwater Branch Inn, Gainesville, FL
- ◆ Alumni CME Talks: 8:00a.m., on June 24th, Barron Conference Room, 3rd floor of UF Health Shands Hospital Medical Science Building
- ◆ Resident/Fellow Graduation & Alumni Reunion Dinner: 6:30p.m. on June 24th at the Best Western Gateway Grand



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SAVE THE DATE!
23-24 June, 2017

❖ 2017 UF OB-GYN Alumni Society Meeting



2017 UF ObGyn Resident and Fellow Graduation, & Alumni Reunion Meeting

*June 23 & 24, 2017
Gainesville, Florida*

Planned Agenda

Friday, 6 PM: Chair's Welcome Reception
Sweetwater Branch Inn

Saturday, 8 AM: Alumni Presentations
UF OBGyn Department

Saturday, 6:30 PM: Resident, Fellow Graduation,
and Alumni Reunion Dinner
Best Western Gateway Grand



Speakers

*Reem Abu-Rustum, 1997 • Jessica Hillard Feranec, 2004
Ernie Graham, 1991 • Carrie Langstraat, 2008*

Email hoped@ufl.edu for more information.

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2017 UF ObGyn Resident and Fellow Graduation, & Alumni Reunion Meeting *Gainesville, Florida*

Alumni Speakers

*Reem Abu-Rustum, 1997 • Jessica Hillard Feranec, 2004
Ernie Graham, 1991 • Carrie Langstraat, 2008*