UF&Shands President Headlines Second Annual OB-GYN Alumni Society Meeting

From the Alumni Welcome Reception on Friday evening through the last lecture on Sunday morning, the meeting progressed splendidly.

On Saturday morning, following a welcome from Dr. Stan Williams, current Chair of the Department of OB-GYN, presentations were made by three former Chairs: Dr. Jack Masterson, Chair from 1987 through 1995, presented “How to Have Fun in Academic Medicine;” Dr. Bill Spellacy, Chair from 1973 through 1979, presented “Fetal Growth Retardation (FGR): Infant and Adult Problems;” and Dr. Keith Stone, Chair from 1995 through 2007, presented “Obstetrics in West Africa: Six Months with Medecins Sans Frontieres.” Following these presentations the business meeting was held, where it was decided that next year’s meeting will be held at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate. The date is set for May 11-13, 2012, and the venue should be just as inviting and family-friendly as the Gaylord Palms has been for everyone.

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Once the meeting was adjourned, many families headed to the resort’s swimming complex, and guys in one group headed to the golf course, while another group headed to the sports bar to watch the Gator basketball team defeat UCLA and advance to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA March Madness basketball championship.

The evening alumni dinner speaker was Dr. David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Vice-President for Health Affairs, and President of the University and Shands Health System. Dr. Guzick presented “UF & Shands: A Work in Progress” with special emphasis on future plans for the Shands Hospital for Children and Women at the University of Florida. We were all excited to hear Dr. Guzick’s visionary presentation.


Dr. Emily Weber LeBrun presented “Vaginal Reconstruction: Considerations for Mesh Augmentation.”

The meeting was adjourned on Sunday at noon, and everyone returned home with the knowledge gained from eight lectures, a round of golf, one basketball victory over UCLA, one visionary presentation by the Senior Vice-President of Health Affairs, and the camaraderie of alumni and their families.

Dr. Ken and Irene Kellner, Drs. Helen Rogers and Amelia Cruz
Drs. Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, Laura Stickler, Nikki Jarvis and Brenda Shoup

Faculty News

- Judy Simms-Cendon, MD, along with her husband, Dr. Juan Cendon, both accepted new positions at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine in Orlando last July.
- Orhan Bukulmez, MD, became Division Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas last November.
- Thomas Young, MD, will be officially retiring in May from his voluntary service as GYN attending for the Monday Continuity Clinics.
- Ken Drury, PhD, Director of OB-GYN’s In Vitro Fertilization Laboratory, will be retiring in June after 19 years with the department.
- Douglas Richards, MD, Director of MFM, will be moving to Salt Lake City in June to join his extended family. He will be Co-Director of the residency program at the University of Utah and the Intermountain Health Care Hospitals.

Alumni News

- Virginia Su (Class of 2009) is currently doing a pelvic/robotic surgery fellowship at Women’s Cancer Care of Seattle, Washington.
- Caroline Cox Signore (Class of 1996) has risen through the ranks of the NICHD and has an article on “Pregnancy in Women with Physical Disabilities” in the April 2011 Green Journal. She also wrote a very cogent opinion piece on elective inductions in the July 2010 edition of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- John Van Wart (’88) and Pam Snook (’99) were featured on the Dec 2010 cover of LifeStyle magazine for Central Florida with an article on their practice at Premier OB-GYN of Maitland, P.A.
- John L. Taylor (Class of 1976), we recently learned, passed away on December 13, 2009. Following residency he served as a Lt Commander in the US Navy, then had an OB/GYN practice in Tallahassee for 19 years. He moved to Thomasville, Georgia, in 1998 and established solo practices there and in Cairo, GA, until his death.
- If you have any news to share, please let us know!

Spotlight on Research

Nasser Chegini, Ph.D., continues his research focused on the role of non-protein coding RNA, or microRNA that regulate the expression of estrogen and progesterone receptors as well as other genes that are considered to account for cellular transformation of myometrial into leiomyoma cells and endometrial cells into endometriosis and possibly endometrial cancer. These studies are supported by two NIH grants.

- Dr. Chegini has served as an editorial member of Fertility & Sterility since 2009.
- Dr. Chegini serves on the Editorial Board of Reproductive Sciences, the official journal of the Society for Gynecological Investigation (SGI).

Gregory Schultz, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the COM Medical Sciences Research Program, continues to investigate the molecular regulation of wound healing in several tissues including the eye, skin, and peritoneal cavity, and the role of bacterial biofilms in chronic wounds. His program is currently funded by two NIH grants, a grant for the Department of Defense for antiscarring in the eye, and several grants from medical device companies. He completed a three-year term on the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) in 2010.

- Dr. Schultz was awarded the UF Research Foundation Professorship Award for a distinguished record of research and scholarship that is expected to lead to continuing distinction in the field of wound healing for 2010-2012.
- Dr. Schultz was also made a Silver Fellow of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in May 2010, which is given to approximately 1% of the 8,000 members for distinguished service and contributions to ARVO.

Stan Williams, M.D., is a co-investigator on a Program Project Grant using IVF and donor egg recipient patients to study the effects of relaxin during pregnancy. If fully funded, UF will receive $7.7 M over 5 years.
New Faces, New Places

Dr. Anthony R. Gregg will join the Department this June as the new Director of the Division of Maternal–Fetal Medicine. Dr. Gregg comes to us from the University of South Carolina in Columbia where he is the current Director of MFM as well as Medical Director of the Division of Genetics. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor in OB-GYN at the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston.

Dr. Gregg graduated medical school and completed his residency in OB-GYN at Loyola University in Illinois. He continued his education with a Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Gregg has authored and edited over 30 research manuscripts, two books, and has over 90 abstracts, invited speaker presentations, and conference courses.

“I am excited to join the UF family and the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine,” says Dr. Gregg. “The Division will strive to continue the traditions that have placed it among the most recognized in the country. Patient care will continue to be our central theme with the expectation that this will form the foundation for excellence in teaching and research. To accomplish these goals we plan to aggressively recruit additional faculty with the potential to grow outstanding careers here in Gainesville.”

Spotlight on Our Graduates

- Kay Roussos-Ross will be transitioning to the Division of Gynecology here in the UF Dept of OB-GYN.
- Erika Schneider will be joining “Ladies First” private practice in Pensacola and work with Baptist Hospital.
- Heather Stevens plans to remain in Gainesville and go into private practice at “North Florida Women’s Care” with Drs. Michael Cotter and Carmen Peden (’10) for 2 years before returning to Phoenix, AZ.
- LaKrystal Warren will be joining former resident Pamela Snook (’09) in private practice in Orlando at Florida Hospital Winter Park.
- Lorna Rodriguez, MD, completes her MFM Fellowship in June and will be moving to Dallas, TX, to join a private consultative MFM group, North Texas Perinatal Associates, and be near family.

Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. Orhan Bukulmez received the 2010 APGO Excellence in Teaching Award, from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics and the UF College of Medicine.
- Drs. John Davis, Pat Duff, Ken Kellner, Helen Ross, and Keith Stone were named as Exemplary Teachers by the College of Medicine.
- Dr. Ken Kellner was awarded the J. Lee Dockery Teaching Cup for 2010, becoming the only two time winner of this award.
- Dr. Lindsay Malloch was named Resident Teacher of the Year.
- Drs. Kay Roussos-Ross and Lindsay Walsh each received Physician Recognition Awards.
- Dr. Stan Williams is the current President of the Society of Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

Welcome To Our Newest Residents

- Michael Kinson, of Salem, MA, began undergraduate studies in Theater at Emerson College before transferring to New York University and pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Neural Science. Prior to medical school at Boston University, he worked as a Research Asst and Emergency Medicine Technician. He also completed the Masters in Medical Science program at Boston Univ. He has 2 journal publications of his grad school research.

- Juline Machado, of Ft. Lauderdale graduated from UF Summa Cum Laude in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree in Food and Nutritional Sciences. As a medical student at FSU, Julie became a student member of ACOG and served as Vice President of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group. In 2010, Julie was inducted into both the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society and the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She did a Summer Research Fellowship on female infants and participated in a medical outreach trip to Nicaragua.

- Caitlin Schultheis, of Pensacola, FL, attended the University of Notre Dame as an undergraduate, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Biology. She was accepted to medical school at Florida State University, becoming a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society during her first year. She will graduate in the first quartile of her class. She was a member of ACOG and FSU’s Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group, as well as the AMA and Florida Medical Associations.

- Maurine Speake, of Mobile, AL, is a Cum Laude graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and minors in both Biology and Business Administration. She pursued her medical degree at the University of South Alabama where she served as President of the Ob-Gyn Interest Group and was a member of the School of Medicine Orientation Committee. Maurine was also selected for the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society.

New Women's Clinic on NW 39th Avenue

Plans are underway to build a new Women’s Health Clinic on NW 39th Avenue to replace our current clinic at Magnolia Parke. This location will also allow us to open a new Infertility/IVF clinic and relocate the IVF Lab and retrieval/transfer rooms. Offering a larger facility with more space for additional examination rooms and offices, this location will be near the Vista Health Park on NW 39th Avenue. The new site, just blocks from I-75, will provide a comfortable, modern, convenient and easily accessible clinic. With development currently underway, the new clinic has a tentative opening date of January 2013.

Plans for New Shands Women’s Hospital

Shands HealthCare and the University of Florida have announced they plan to spend approximately $125 million over the next five years to create Shands Hospital for Children and Women. The 175-bed hospital will be built in phases by reconfiguring existing space at Shands UF.
APGO Achievements

Drs. John Davis, Shireen Madani Sims, and Sharon Byun recently attended the 2011 CREOG & APGO Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, March 9-12, 2011, where they gave a three-part team presentation on the topic of “Maximizing Resident and Medical Student Education on the Gynecology Service.”

In addition to speaking at the annual meeting, Dr. Madani Sims and Dr. Byun attended the Scholars Graduation Ceremony as new graduates of APGO’s 2010-11 Scholars Programs.

• Dr. Madani Sims graduated from the APGO Academic Scholars and Leaders Program after completing a 15-month educational project, concluding with an oral presentation and poster of her results at the CREOG & APGO Poster Reception.

• Dr. Byun graduated from the 2010-11 APGO Surgical Scholars Program following an interactive hysteroscopy training course, implementation of a curriculum, and ending with participation in a breakout session and graduation at the Annual Meeting.

Each was awarded a commemorative plaque and certificate of completion. The APGO Scholars Program is an innovative educational program for professional development to improve teaching, leadership and surgical skills. Dr. Davis is also a graduate of the APGO Scholars Program, completing his training in the Educational Scholars Development Program in 2000-01.

• Chief Resident Kay Roussos-Ross, MD, also attended the Annual Meeting where she presented a poster of her research on the topic of “How Well are Residents Trained in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Postpartum Depression?”

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You can also make a gift online at: https://www.uff.edu/OnalineGiving/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=003343

To view additional photos from the 2011 OBGYN Alumni Society Meeting, visit: http://obgyn.ufl.edu/alumni/photo_gallery.php

For further information on the UF OBGYN Alumni Society, please visit: www.obgyn.ufl.edu or email hoped@ufl.edu.