

OB-GYN Special Delivery

❖ *News for Alumni and Friends*



College of Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Editor in Chief: Dr. Williams
Editor: Asha Moore

❖ OBGYN Chair Announcement from Dr. Tyndall

I am pleased to announce that John Smulian, M.D., M.P.H., has accepted our offer to become the B.L. Stalnaker Professor and chair of the UF College of Medicine department of obstetrics and gynecology. He will succeed Stan Williams, M.D., who has ably led the department for more than 10 years and plans to return to his faculty role as a reproductive endocrinologist in the department.

Dr. Smulian is currently vice chair, chief of the division of maternal-fetal medicine and director of research in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Lehigh Valley Health Network, or LVHN, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He is also currently professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine due to the partnership between LVHN and USF. Prior to his arrival at LVHN, Dr. Smulian spent 14 years at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey -- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in News Brunswick, where he was a professor and director of the division of maternal-fetal medicine, director of the fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine and director of OB-GYN research.

A native of Atlanta, Dr. Smulian received his undergraduate degree at the Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree at Tulane University School of Medicine. While at Tulane, he also received a master's degree in public health at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He completed his residency training at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta and his fellowship training in maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Connecticut, Farmington.

Dr. Smulian, who was named the 2017 Physician of the Year by the March of Dimes, Northeast Pennsylvania Market, has a strong interest in providing the highest-quality clinical care in all aspects of women's health. He has received a number of teaching awards, has been active in educational programs for students, residents, fellows and practitioners and has developed numerous regional CME conferences designed to improve clinical care in perinatal medicine.

With a variety of research interests, Dr. Smulian has been active in sponsored research funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, foundations and industry for more than 20 years. His areas of particular interest include perinatal ultrasound, clinical perinatology, disorders of extracellular matrix, the early origins of health and disease, disparities in women's health research, perinatal epidemiology and mechanisms of care delivery. He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Ultrasound.

Dr. Smulian is looking forward to working with the outstanding faculty and staff of the department and college to make UF a preferred destination for comprehensive health services, educational programs and collaborative research in all aspects of women's health locally, regionally and nationally.

I want to thank Dr. Williams for his years of excellent leadership in the department of obstetrics and gynecology and for graciously agreeing to stay on as chair until Dr. Smulian begins his new post Jan. 15.

Dr. Smulian is married to pediatrician Dr. Elaine Donoghue and has two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Laura. He enjoys fly-fishing, kayaking and playing the mandolin. Please join me in welcoming him and his family to the UF College of Medicine and the Gainesville community.

Joseph A. Tyndall, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Interim Dean,
UF College of Medicine

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For further information on
the UF
OB-GYN Alumni Society,
please visit:
www.obgyn.ufl.edu

**Resident Research Day
and Reception 2019**
Gainesville, Florida
SAVE THE DATE!
June 14, 2019



John C. Smulian, MD, MPH
Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

❖ A Letter from Dr. Smulian

To: The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

From: John C. Smulian, MD, MPH

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Florida as the next department chair. During the search visits, I had the opportunity to meet with a number of individuals in the department, but there are many more of you who I have not yet met. I look forward to getting to know everyone as we work on planning and developing strategies for the future. I have listened to many of your ideas and suggestions, and, already, it is clear to me that there is an outstanding pool of talent and creativity in the department that will be critical in shaping its future direction. Although my official start date is not until January 15, I will be engaging with the department frequently during the transition. I will be traveling to Gainesville periodically over the next few months and would be happy to meet with as many of you as time permits. I am very excited about the department's future and can't wait to start! See you soon.



John C. Smulian, MD, MPH
Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

❖ Achievements

- ◆ Congratulations to **Dr. Byun**, who was appointed to Residency Program Director & **Dr. Roussos-Ross** as Associate Residency Program Director.
- ◆ **Dr. Rhoton** has been promoted to Professor.
- ◆ **Dr. Roussos-Ross** was promoted to Associate Professor.
- ◆ **Dr. Davis** was selected to be OB-GYN Department Chair of UF Health Jacksonville.
- ◆ **Dr. Gregg** was selected to be OB-GYN Department Chair of Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas.
- ◆ **Dr. Christman** was invited to give a Plenary Lecture at the Annual Meeting of American College of OB-GYN on Endometriosis.
- ◆ **Dr. Madani Sims** was selected to serve on the national committees for OB-GYN Undergraduate Medical Education and the Testing & Assessment Committee (Association of Professors in OB-GYN, APGO).
- ◆ **Dr. Rhoton** was selected to be a member of the William Osler Society.
- ◆ **Dr. Stevens** was selected to be a member of the VA National Surgery OB-GYN Department Chairs.
- ◆ **Dr. Roussos Ross and Dr. Davis** were selected to attend ACOG Leadership Institute training!
- ◆ **Dr. Moawad** was elected as a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons.
- ◆ **Dr. Santolaya** was an invited speaker on Stem Cell Therapy at the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine.

❖ Welcome & Farewell



Dr. Davis, M.D.

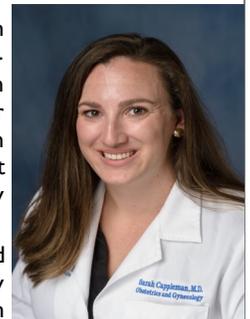
◆ **Dr. Davis** “As many of you have heard, I am leaving the department to become the chair at UF Health Jacksonville. I have been a faculty member in our department for nearly 25 years, and it is hard to believe I am leaving. However, the opportunity in Jacksonville is excellent, James and Emily are out of the house, Susan is from Jacksonville and we have family there. All signs pointed to Jacksonville, and we have decided to take the leap.

We are confident that this is the best move for us, both professionally and personally; however, that does not make leaving the department and Gainesville easy. In many ways, our life as we know it began here. As a resident, I received great training that has stayed with me throughout my career. I met Susan here, and together we have raised our family here. We have thrived here professionally and personally, and we have a wonderful group of friends here. All of these things make it very difficult to leave, but it is now time for new challenges and experiences. The department had a send-off for me recently, and at that event, I thanked the multitude of people in the department who have supported me and shaped me over the course of my career. If you were not at that event and are reading this, then you also probably

helped me at some point over the last 30 years. For that, I thank you.

While I am leaving the department, I am not leaving UF. As chair in Jacksonville, I am going to look for opportunities for collaboration between our departments and hope to strengthen the relationship between our departments. Jacksonville is not that far from Gainesville, and I am sure Susan and I will return to Gainesville often for department events. So it is not “goodbye” but “see you later.” And of course, go Gators (and go Jags)!”

◆ **Dr. Cappleman** has joined the faculty as an assistant professor after completing her residency. She was raised in Winter Garden, Florida, and then traveled to New York to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Art History at Barnard College of Columbia University. She then moved back to Florida for medical school at the University of Florida, graduating in 2014. She stayed at the University of Florida for residency in obstetrics & gynecology, which she completed in summer 2018. During residency, she was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honors Society and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. She also received awards for the Department of OB-GYN’s Outstanding Resident Teacher and Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology. She enjoys the variety of pathology seen in both obstetrics and gynecology and has an interest in medical education.



Dr. Cappleman, M.D.



Dr. Abu-Rustum M.D.

◆ **Dr. Abu-Rustum** has joined the MFM division as an associate professor. She was born and raised in Tripoli, Lebanon. She obtained her medical degree (1993) and completed her residency training at the University of Florida (1997). She is certified by the Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF) in first and second trimester ultrasound. She returned to Lebanon and practiced there from 1997 until 2018. During that time, she served as the director of the Center for Advanced Fetal Care and was the co-founder and President of SANA Medical NGO, dedicated to obstetrical care within an outreach setting. Her primary areas of interest are the first trimester fetus, the fetal heart, education and global healthcare. She has participated in ISUOG Outreach missions to Sudan and has been actively involved in the integration of ultrasound in medical education. She returned to her alma mater and joined the faculty at the University of Florida in August 2018.

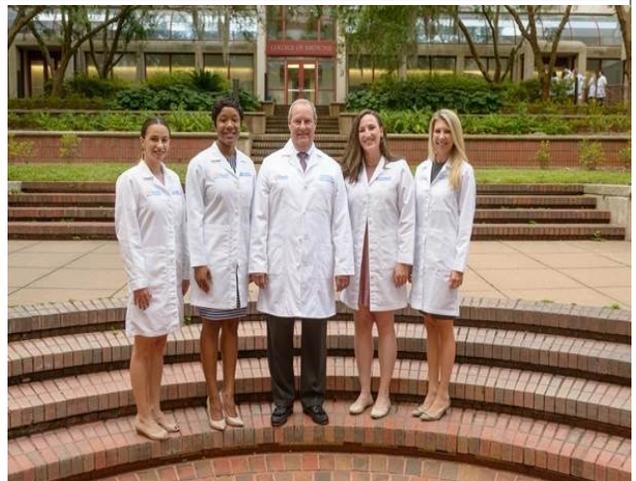
◆ **Drs. Kerry Katz and Tina O’Shea** departed the division of Gynecology, Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics as visiting clinical assistant professors in August. Dr. Katz went back to Wisconsin to continue her career in OB-GYN and

Dr. O’Shea has left the department to accompany her husband as he starts a fellowship at Duke University in North Carolina.

❖ 2018 Resident/Fellow Graduation & Alumni Reunion Meeting

Our graduation and alumni reunion meeting weekend June 23-24 was a resounding success! The aim of the weekend is always to connect current UF OB-GYN faculty, fellows and residents together with alumni, all while celebrating the achievements of our graduating chiefs.

- ◆ 2018 Graduates and post-graduate activities
- ◇ **Laura Alsina-Sanchez, MD:** Private Practice, Jupiter, FL
- ◇ **Sarah Cappleman, MD:** Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, OB/GYN
- ◇ **Paige Swenson, MD:** Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Fellowship, University of California-San Diego
- ◇ **Kendra Sylvester, MD:** Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship, University of Florida, Gainesville



From L-R: Drs. Laura Alsina-Sanchez, Kendra Sylvester, R. Stan Williams, Sarah Cappleman, Paige Swenson

❖ Welcoming Our 2018 - 2019 OB-GYN Residents



Sarah Kelley was born in Biloxi, Mississippi, and spent much of her childhood and youth in Bangladesh where her mother served as a teacher and her father as a surgeon working for a non-governmental organization. She graduated from the University of Florida in December of 2013 with a Bachelors of Science degree in biology. She began medical school at the University of Florida in 2014 where she was elected to the Gold Humanism Honor Society and served as an officer for the Christian Medical and Dental Association at UF. During medical school, Sarah spent three extended periods of time working and volunteering with her father at the Memorial Christian Hospital in Bangladesh. She credits these experiences for her desire to

serve people of all nationalities and socioeconomic backgrounds. Sarah enjoys running, hiking, sketching, cooking/baking, reading British literature and exploring new places. We are delighted that she will be continuing her education at the University of Florida!



Mary Montague was born in Lexington, Kentucky, where her family still resides. She was awarded a National Merit Scholarship and completed her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt University in 2014 with Bachelors of Arts in both neuroscience and french, graduating magna cum laude. During medical school at Case Western Reserve University, Mary served as an admissions interviewer and medical student representative on the admissions committee, volunteered at local health fairs, and participated in the CWRU Pre-Med Mentor Program where she could offer counseling for the medical school

application process. She also competed on the CWRU Equestrian Team. Mary's research project entitled "Disparities in postpartum sterilization fulfillment for women covered by Medicaid vs. private insurance" was presented as a poster at the North American Forum on Family Planning and accepted for publication in the journal "Contraception." She enjoys horseback riding, running and French. We are pleased to welcome her to our OB-GYN family!

Massoud Shoraka was born in Gainesville, Florida, and grew up in Iran as part of a large, close-knit family. He returned to the United States at the age of 16, and earned a Bachelors of Science in microbiology and cell science at the University of Florida in 2014. During medical school at the University of Pittsburgh, Massoud assumed leadership roles through the School of Medicine Student Executive Council, on which he currently serves as president, and as a Membership and Recruitment Committee member for the American Medical Association Medical Student Section. He completed several research projects and co-authored an article entitled "Polycystic ovary syndrome in adolescents" published in the journal "Best Practices & Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology." Massoud enjoys diverse activities

such as Arabic wood calligraphy, exploring new restaurants, playing sports (including volleyball, soccer, and ping pong) and watching sporting events. We are delighted to welcome Massoud back to Gainesville!



SAVE THE DATE!
The Annual
UF OB-GYN
Alumni Society and Resident
Graduation Dinner
June 22nd, 2019
Champion Club, Ben Hill
Griffin Stadium

Lauren Silva was born and raised in Miami, Florida. As an undergraduate, she was a member of the Gator Volleyball team, and graduated



from the University of Florida in December 2013 with a Bachelors of Science degree in applied physiology & kinesiology. After graduation, she worked in the UF Department of Anesthesiology as a research assistant and coordinator before starting medical school at Virginia Commonwealth University. Lauren served as co-president of the VCU Latino Medical Student Association and organized two regional conferences to promote Hispanic/Latino health. She developed and taught beginner and advanced medical Spanish courses for VCU medical students participating in medical outreach trips to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. She was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society during her senior year. Lauren enjoys painting, drawing, volleyball, running and weightlifting. She will return to Gainesville with Brandon Janssen, who will begin residency training in the UF Department of Internal Medicine in July.

❖ Donations

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