

Special Delivery

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THE NAS, MILESTONES, CLER AND BEYOND

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) introduced the six domains of clinical competency in 1999 as part of The ACGME Outcomes Project. Since that time, the Ob/Gyn Residency Review Committee (RRC) Program Requirements, our evaluation of residents, the CREOG educational objectives, and our curricular programs have been structured within the context of the competencies: medical knowledge, patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, systems-based practice, and practice-based learning and improvement.

In 2009, the ACGME began the process of restructuring its accreditation system with several goals in mind: 1) To accelerate the move to accreditation that is based on educational outcomes (rather than process and program structure) within each specialty in the context of the competencies; 2) to allow for innovation; 3) to reduce the administrative burden associated with comprehensive intermittent accreditation site visits; and 4) to assure the public that our profession is setting and enforcing standards for the education of the next generation of physicians.

The result of this effort by the ACGME is the **Next Accreditation System (NAS)**, the **Milestones Project**, and the **Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER)** program; all of which have begun implementation in phases as of July 1, 2013 (see <http://www.acgme-nas.org>).

In July 2013, 7 Phase I specialties implemented the **NAS**; Ob/Gyn is part of Phase II which begins July 1, 2014. In the NAS, we will move from every 3-5 year RRC site visits (our last was August 7, 2012) to annual data collection and reporting (began September 2013) to the ACGME with trend analysis by the RRC. Self-studies and subsequent site visits will occur every 10 years with targeted site visits in between for programs with persistent or significant concerns identified on annual program updates.

As part of the yearly reporting of data regarding program and resident performance, we will be required to report semi-annual progress of residents to the ACGME according to the new **Ob/Gyn Milestones**. In the most basic terms, the **Milestones create a timeline and benchmarks for resident progression of competence toward graduation and independent practice.**

The Ob/Gyn Milestones have been developed as a collaborative effort among the ACGME (and Ob/Gyn RRC), ABOG, and ACOG (and CREOG) with pilot testing in residency programs across the U.S. twice in the past 12 months (UAB participated in both). Additional new requirements as part of the NAS include specific guidelines regarding resident evaluation and program review. Fortunately, the necessary components to address these other requirements have already been in place for several years in our department.

The **Clinical Competency Committee (CCC)** is appointed by the program director and is responsible for semi-annual review of resident performance with reporting of Milestone assessment to the ACGME. In addition, the CCC is responsible for advising the program director regarding resident progress including promotion, remediation and dismissal.

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THE NAS, MILESTONES, CLER AND BEYOND

... Continued from page 1

At UAB, the Ob/Gyn CCC is composed of key faculty representatives from each division (the Resident Executive Education Committee or REXEC members), other Education Office faculty and staff, and resident leadership (Administrative Chiefs and Education Chief). The UAB Ob/Gyn CCC meets in early October and early May each year. We will begin Milestone assessment of the residents at our October 2013 meeting using the near final draft of the Ob/Gyn Milestones. Data considered during milestone assessment include evaluations of resident performance by faculty/fellows on each service, evaluations by peers, patients, students and nurses, testing scores (CREOG, KOCH, ASCCP), focused assessments, participation in scholarly activity including research, procedure logs, and evidence of professional responsibility (dictations, M&M submissions, etc.) among other performance measures. We are required to officially report Milestone assessment for each resident to the ACGME beginning in December 2014.

The **Program Evaluation Committee (PEC)** is made up of faculty and residents who actively participate in the planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating of the educational activities of the program. The PEC must monitor and track: 1) resident and program performance including graduate outcomes, 2) faculty development, 3) program quality and 4) progress on the previous year's action plan. The PEC is responsible for the **Annual Program Evaluation (APE)**, which formally and systematically reports on the items listed above. In addition the PEC must prepare a written plan of action for program improvement with measures outlined to monitor the results of the plan.

At UAB, we have held an Annual Education Retreat with Annual Ob/Gyn Program Review each May since before 2008. Residents and faculty, including Division Directors, the Chairman and Department Administrators are invited to the retreat; data for monitoring and tracking resident and program performance are compiled in a binder and provided for review. Minutes and a plan of action for the coming year are documented. Although always available for anyone who is interested, the minutes and plan of action were provided this year to all department faculty, fellows and residents for review and approval.

The final component of the NAS to discuss, involves review of the sponsoring institution. This will be much like hospital accreditation reviews by The Joint Commission. However, the focus will be on the clinical environment in which residents train to ensure that the institution is promoting quality care and preparing residents to be safe practitioners.

The **Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER)** program involves site visits every 18 months conducted by a team including ACGME staff and volunteer site visitors from other institutions. **The purpose is to assess the sponsoring institution in 6 focus areas: 1) patient safety, 2) quality improvement, 3) transitions of care, 4) supervision of residents, 5) duty hours, fatigue mitigation and 6) professionalism.**

The CLER site visits will last 2-3 days and the institution will receive 2-3 weeks' advanced notice of an upcoming visit. During the visit, the CLER team will meet with hospital executive leadership, resident physicians, faculty, GME leadership, nursing and other hospital staff. Site visitors will gain knowledge about residents' participation in and staff's understanding of the 6 focus areas above through group meetings and unplanned walking rounds in clinical service areas. At the end of each visit, the CLER team will provide the institution with feedback and a written report. The site visits and reports are designed to stimulate improvements in training of physicians in quality and patient safety as well as the other focus areas. The CLER site visits and results are not directly linked to individual program accreditation. An ACGME evaluation committee is currently developing performance expectations for teaching hospitals and medical centers. The initial exploratory site visits have begun and are being conducted through the end of Academic Year 2013-2014 with official site visits beginning thereafter. The UAB Office of Graduate Medical Education is preparing for a potential CLER visit at UAB Hospital at any time this year; more to come!

For additional information:

1. The ACGME Next Accreditation System, see <http://www.acgme-nas.org>
2. Nasca TJ, Philibert I, Brigham T, Flynn TC. The next GME accreditation system—rationale and benefits. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;366(11):1051-1056.
3. Weiss KB, Bagian JP, Nasca TJ. The clinical learning environment—the foundation of Graduate Medical Education. *JAMA*. 2013;309(16):1687-1688.
4. Sullivan G, Simpson D, Cooney T, Beresin E. A milestone in the milestones movement: the JGME milestones supplement. *J Grad Med Educ (supplement)*. March 2013:1-4.

INTERN INTRODUCTIONS . . .

**Mitchell Alvarez, MD***Undergrad:* Auburn University*Medical School:* UAB School of Medicine*Hometown:* Birmingham, AL*Interesting Info:* Hobbies include mountain biking, hiking, history, and church activities**David Becker, MD***Undergrad:* University of Virginia*Medical School:* University of Virginia School of Medicine*Hometown:* Alexandria, VA*Interesting Info:* Organized his medical school football league for 3 seasons; Hobbies: cooking, distance running, weightlifting, yoga, music, currently training for a marathon**Sukhkamal Campbell, MD***Undergrad:* UAB*Medical School:* UAB School of Medicine*Hometown:* Pittsburgh, PA*Interesting Info:* Speaks Punjabi very well and her Hindi is pretty decent, too; Hobbies: performing traditional Indian dances, teaches swing/ballroom dancing, training for half-marathon**Brittany Lees, MD***Undergrad:* Duke University*Medical School:* Loyola University of Chicago's School of Medicine*Hometown:* Norman, OK*Interesting Info:* Extensive medical volunteer work, including time spent in Bolivia, worked for AmeriCorps service teaching high school English, JV field hockey assistant coach**Hugh Nadeau, MD***Undergrad:* University of Florida*Medical School:* Medical College of Georgia*Hometown:* Manitowoc, WI*Interesting Info:* High School English teacher for 4 years while simultaneously doing premed work, research in health-care policy, volunteered at multiple homeless shelters/free-clinics**Anne Siegel, MD***Undergrad:* Emory University*Medical School:* The Ohio State College of Medicine*Hometown:* Cincinnati, OH*Interesting Info:* Extensive work in community service, has finished a Marathon**Brentley Smith, MD***Undergrad:* University of Mississippi*Medical School:* University of Mississippi School of Medicine*Hometown:* Flowood, MS*Interesting Info:* Ole Miss Varsity Football Team in college, went to Cotton Bowl**Sarah Whitehead, MD***Undergrad:* Samford University*Medical School:* UAB School of Medicine*Hometown:* Johannesburg, South Africa*Interesting Info:* Grew up in Botswana and Zimbabwe where her parents were missionaries

UAB OB/GYN FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

The UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education was established in June 2012 to leverage existing resources and to help ensure the Department continues to provide the highest quality educational experiences to our residents and fellows by providing an opportunity for alumni, faculty and friends to invest in the future of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Funds are used to support travel for residents to present at regional and national meetings, as well as provide the necessary research support, including laboratory supplies, and data collection and analysis. In addition, funds are available to support faculty, fellows and residents for innovative educational initiatives including simulation activities and educational research.

Enthusiastic initial support for the fund has resulted in 100% participation from the 2012 residency graduates, many graduating fellows as well as 60% of the current faculty. An advisory committee was established including faculty, alumni and residents and the first call for applications went out in the spring of 2013. The first awards provided more than \$6,000 to support travel and simulation equipment for five deserving trainees and faculty as outlined below:

- **Janeen Arbuckle, MD, PhD (PGY4)**, Category: travel to national conference (no presentation), the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, April 18-10, 2013, \$750
- **Vieng Bounkeua, MD, PhD (PGY2)**, Category: travel to national research meeting (non-oral poster, advisors: David Ellington, MD and Holly Richter, PhD, MD), the Society for Gynecologic Surgeons Meeting, April 8-10, 2013, \$850
- **Ali Parden, MD (PGY4)**, Category: travel and expenses for international elective in Cameroon (\$1600 airfare to be covered by Dr. Alan Tita's international travel fund), \$2183
- **Blake Porter, MD (PGY3)**, Category: travel to national conference (no presentation), the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine 33rd Annual Meeting, February 11-16, 2013, \$750
- **John Woods, MD (Assistant Professor, Director of Ob/Gyn Simulation)**, Category: simulation equipment (Simulation Screen [SimScreen] for in-situ L&D drills and floor scenarios—provides a barrier [one-way mirror] between technical equipment and the participants), \$2115

With the help of Erica Hollins, our Director of Development and Community Relations for the Department we are continuing to encourage faculty and alumni support for the Fund. All gifts, no matter the size, make a difference and are greatly appreciated. The easiest way to contribute is to visit www.uab.edu/onlinegiving; click the "Start" button, choose "Medicine" on the main list, and then choose "OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education" to make your gift. A donor form and brochure with more information are also available online (see *links below*). Questions can be directed to Erica, at 205-996-6839 or ehollins@uab.edu.



Erica Hollins

In addition, other events have been initiated to encourage alumni participation in and reconnection with the Department. We just held our inaugural **Third Thursday**, which is a causal gathering of our alumni, residents, fellows, faculty, and friends of the Department. It was on September 19 from 5:30-7:30pm at FIVE BAR (*Lakeview District*) and was well attended. There is also the **3rd Annual Alumni Reception** on Thursday, February 20, 2014 held in conjunction with the **39th Annual Bruce A. Harris Symposium: Progress in OB/GYN** on February 20-21, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Birmingham—The Wynfrey Hotel. We hope to see you at one, or more, of these upcoming events.

- [UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education Brochure](#)
- [UAB OB/GYN Fund for Excellence in Education Donor Form](#)



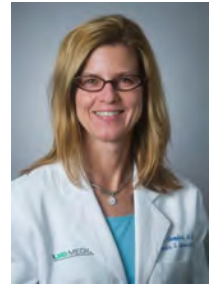
J. Max Austin, Jr., MD

DR. AUSTIN APPOINTED TO NEW POSITION

J. Max Austin, Jr., M.D., as of May 31, 2013, retired from the clinical practice of medicine here at UAB. Effective June 1, 2013, Dr. Austin has been appointed to a recently developed position titled "Director of Ob/Gyn Philanthropic Initiatives." In this position, Dr. Austin will focus on developing strategies resulting in major gift support for the Department of Ob/Gyn in education, research, and patient care programs. He will be working very closely with the UAB Development Office and our newly appointed Development Director, Erica Hollins.

MESSAGE FROM THE PD

We are off to another great start for Academic Year 2013-2014! We say good-bye to an amazing class of residency graduates and hello to a wonderful group of new interns. There are lots of exciting things going on in the department including our new alumni activities, the UAB Ob/Gyn Fund for Excellence in Education, a rapidly growing Ob/Gyn Simulation Program, a new Family Planning Curriculum, a new Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Fellowship among many others.



Alice R. Goepfert, MD

We celebrated the graduation of 8 chiefs and 6 fellows at the Chiefs Party in June 2013. It is clear that this department enjoys having fun and celebrating together—thank you to Dr. Andrews for making it all possible! Thank you to Drs. Ali Parden and Michael Polin for their leadership and tremendous hard work as last year's Administrative Chiefs! Also, a big thank you to Dr. Jared Roberts who served as our first Education Chief! The new Administrative Chiefs, Drs. Deidre Gunn and Blake Porter, as well as Dr. Jonathan Boone, new Education Chief, have been very busy in their new leadership roles while getting another amazing class of incoming interns settled into the residency.

Our ACGME Ob/Gyn Residency Review Committee Site Visit on August 7, 2012 was successful and we all enjoyed the opportunity to highlight the many strengths of this program including our outstanding teaching faculty and fellows, clinical volume, educational curriculum and our dedicated residents. The 2012 site visit was the last 'traditional' site visit for our program as we now enter the Next Accreditation System (NAS) with yearly reports to the ACGME and site visits every 10 years.

We welcome Dr. John Woods to the Education Office faculty as the first Director of Ob/Gyn Simulation. Dr. Woods has done an amazing job enhancing the simulation activities for our residents, nurses and faculty in both obstetrics and gynecology. We also welcome Dr. Chere' Stewart as the new Associate Clerkship Director. As always, a huge 'thank you' to our other Education Office faculty and staff for their hard work and support of our residents, students, and the educational program in our department: Dr. Jacob Estes, Associate Professor and Associate Residency Program Director; Dr. Julie Covarrubias, Associate Professor and Associate Director of Education; Dr. Brian Gleason, Professor and Clerkship Director; Nancy Atkins, Residency Program Coordinator; Christy Willis, Clerkship Coordinator; and Candace Goudy, Office Service Specialist. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group directing and supporting our educational programs!



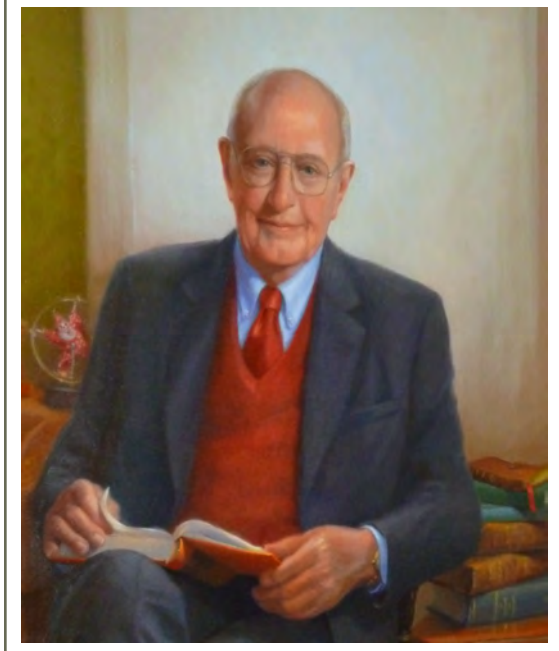
A WORD FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE & EDUCATION CHIEFS

As we begin the 2013-2014 academic year, a farewell is in order for the graduating chief residents. We wish you all well in everything you pursue in your medical careers. We are excited about the incoming interns and the developments that will take place in the residency over the coming year. Major events to look forward to include transitioning to the Milestones for assessment of resident education, transitioning to new evaluation software, recruiting yet another exceptional class of residents, and the many residency and departmental social events. Lastly, thanks to everybody in the department who support and facilitate us becoming the best residents in the country. To quote Isaac Newton, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Cheers.

- Blake, Deidre, and Jonathan

BRUCE ALEXANDER HARRIS, JR, MD**IN MEMORIAM: 1919-2013**

Bruce Alexander Harris, Jr., M.D. was born in 1919 in Ann Arbor, Michigan; he died at his Homewood residence on August 28. He graduated from Harvard College in 1939 and from Harvard Medical School in 1943. Dr. Harris was a Captain in the Army Medical Corps, serving in England, Italy, and the United States. He trained at the Boston City, Vanderbilt University, Johns Hopkins and Kings County Hospitals. Dr. Harris practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology in Huntington, New York from 1952 to 1974 before arriving in Alabama. He taught at the Tuscaloosa and Huntsville campuses of the University of Alabama and moved to Birmingham in 1978. He was appointed Charles E. Flowers Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Alabama Medical School, where he was a member of the Medical School Admissions Committee and Chairman of the University Hospital Credentials Committee. A professorship was established in his name. In 2009 he was named a "Legend" in Alabama Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Harris and Joan Leigh Maddy were married in 1944. Mrs. Harris passed away in 2004. They are survived by William Bruce Harris (Jeananne Hauswald), Glenn Ferguson Harris (Maria) and Betsy Harris Radecki (Lawrence), as well as six grandchildren. After 2004, Dr. Harris and Ms. Judi Huddleston became close companions. Her gracious presence, love and strong support brought him great happiness.



To learn more about Dr. Harris, click to read his [Biographical Summary](#) (provided by John Owen, MD, Bruce A. Harris Professor of Ob/Gyn) located on the Progress in OB/GYN Website,

ACOG UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE! [The 62nd ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting](#) will be held Chicago, IL on April 26-30, 2014.

John Gibbons Medical Student Award Opportunities: This is a medical student award (up to \$2,500 per District) to be used for travel expenses for ACOG Medical Students attending ACOG National, District, or Section Meetings. If you know a student who is interested in OB/GYN, please encourage them to apply. For more information, please contact: Steve Cathcart:

- Phone: (202) 314-2347
- Fax: (202) 554-3490
- Email: scathcart@acog.org

District VII Officers from the UAB Department of OB/GYN

Fellow Vice Chair
John M. Straughn Jr., MD



Jr. Fellow Past Chair
David Rich Ellington, MD



Jr. Fellow Secretary-Treasurer
Christen L. Walters, MD



Alabama Section Jr Fellow Vice Chair
Nguyet Anh Nguyen, MD

New in 2013

Curricula Additions

NEW FAMILY PLANNING CURRICULUM

The ACGME Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Ob/Gyn states that all programs must have an established curriculum for family planning. For academic year 2013-14, we are pleased to announce a new formal family planning curriculum where residents have structured didactics, reading lists and quizzes as well as enhanced clinical experience in complex contraception and early pregnancy failure management. Director, Dr. Sabrina Wyatt and Assistant Director and Continuity Clinic Director, Dr. Margaret Boozer have done an outstanding job pulling together resources and providing instruction for the residents. For more information on the details of the curriculum, visit the [Family Planning Curriculum Website](#).

UAB MEDICINE
UAB WOMEN & INFANTS SERVICES

New Clinic Announcement Complex Contraception Clinic



To refer a patient to the Complex Contraception Clinic, or to consult with Dr. Sabrina Wyatt, please call 1.800.UAB.MIST (1.800.822.6478)

The UAB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is pleased to announce a new and unique service for patients with specific family planning needs. The UAB Complex Contraception Clinic serves women with complex medical issues who desire, or medically need, to avoid pregnancy. Patients are counseled regarding options for contraception, taking into account any possible adverse interactions with current medications and conditions as well as the patient's own contraceptive desires.

Patients can expect one-on-one counseling with a UAB gynecologist regarding the latest evidence-based contraceptive options, taking into account her personal needs and medical history.

Various contraceptive technologies are available, including:

- Intrauterine devices
- Contraceptive implants
- Laparoscopic and trans-cervical sterilization

The Complex Contraception Clinic is located inside the UAB Women & Infants Center, 1700 6th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35233.

1.800.UAB.MIST (1.800.822.6478) • uabmedicine.org/women

UAB is consistently ranked among the nation's best hospitals for gynecology by *U.S. News & World Report*.

PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

We are pleased to announce the development of a Fellowship in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology within the Department of OB/GYN.

Childhood and adolescence mark a dynamic time in a girl's development. Young female patients have traditionally been cared for by their pediatricians until they are referred to an adult practitioner and/or gynecologist. However, there is a growing need for gynecological services amongst pediatric and adolescent patients. To better provide for these patients, the University of Alabama at Birmingham has created a fellowship in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. Kim Hoover, MD serves as the fellowship director and Janeen Arbuckle, MD, PhD is the program's first fellow. The fellowship offers specialized training in the complex anatomical, endocrine and social facets of child and adolescent development and prepares practitioners to service this unique population. Plans are currently underway to expand the fellowship and the services offered at Children's of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Kim Hoover, MD and Janeen Arbuckle, MD, PhD

NEW OB/GYN RESIDENCY PROGRAM WEBSITE

The Ob/GYN Residency Program Website has a new look thanks to the support of our IT Office personnel working with individuals in the Office of Education. This new platform matches the "look" of the Department's website and is being used across the university to give a more consistent appearance to all who visit webpages within the UAB community. There is, however, work still to be done on the website, such as updating pictures / information as well as some reorganization. The new Ob/GYN Medical Student Clerkship website is currently under design and will be released soon giving it the same "look." Any suggestions that you have are welcome. Please send those to [Julie Covarrubias, EdD](mailto:Julie.Covarrubias@uab.edu).

Home

- Office of Education
- Applicant Information
- Academic Curriculum
- Clinical Divisions
- Clinical Rotations
- Policies & Procedures
- Research Opportunities
- Residents
- Resources - Educational and Clinical
- Schedules
- Training Sites
- In the News

Welcome to the UAB Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program Website!!

Thank you for your interest in the Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program at The University of Alabama at Birmingham. As you will see, our program is proud of the balance we have among our strong clinical services in Obstetrics, Women's Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Gynecologic Oncology, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. The UAB Gynecology program has been ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top programs in the United States once again this year.

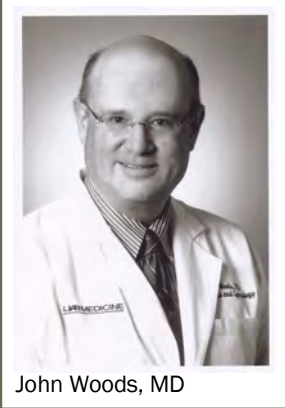
Related Links

- Department of OBGYN
- Medical Student Clerkship
- UAB Health System: Women's Health
- UAB School of Medicine
- UAB Home
- ACLS Online

Web Address: <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/obgynresidency/>

OB/GYN SIMULATION: PROMOTING EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT

Story by: John Woods, MD, OB/GYN Director of Simulation



John Woods, MD

UAB President Ray Watts and Provost Linda Lucas have selected as UAB's next Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Learning in a Team Environment" as our topic. Team collaboration and practice is critical to optimize patient safety. As you all know, simulation of different obstetrical and gynecological emergency situations has been integrated into the resident educational experience here at UAB and hopefully will be added to our clerkship as well. Along with this clinical exposure, is the practice of these emergency situations with nursing staff which fosters better understanding of team member thought processes and functioning of the patient care team as a whole.

Last year, we started our academic year with simulated OB emergencies on selected topics in the Quarterback Tower Simulation Center which involved our PGY-1's and 2's as well as nursing staff from our L + D unit. These sessions focused on "the basics" and seemed to be well received by everyone. For this upcoming academic year, similar sessions began in July and will run through August. From the simulation center setting, we expanded OB emergency simulations to in-situ simulations occurring on the third floor here in WIC. In the fall of last year, the Department of Anesthesiology joined our perinatal simulation efforts as we added a new dimension to our OB simulations. These in-situ simulations will continue this year; however, not only will we have Anesthesiology participation, but we will also have Neonatology involvement as well. Just based on the nature of these interdisciplinary simulations, our simulation drills will become more complex, challenging team thought processes and communication skills. Our Friday educational time will continue to have workshops on pertinent topics such as "Shoulder Dystocia Manipulations," "Operative Vaginal Delivery," "PP Hemorrhage Interventions" and "Third and Fourth-Degree Laceration Repair" and possibly other topics as well.

On the GYN side, simulated post-op complications for the GYN-Onc team, occurring with the nursing staff on the 7th floor, will continue to occur. These drills might broaden to include the Department of Anesthesiology as well. Improving laparoscopic surgical skills is emphasized and spending time in the Laparoscopic Surgical Skills Lab is encouraged. In addition, a TVH model and curriculum for practicing and gaining experience in this "lost art" is being developed. Hopefully, this will be available in the fall.

On a final note, we have had a UAB MS-4 involved in our simulation activities for most of the summer as she completed a "scholarly activity." The focus of the scholarly activity was the TVH model referenced above. In addition, from the MS-1 and MS-2 years, we have a large OB/GYN Special Interest Group led by our faculty representative, Dr. Kim Hoover. These students are willing to participate in our simulation activities in different roles, not only to gain clinical experience, but also to get to know our residents and faculty. Please welcome these new students as you see them involved in our different activities.

" ... our simulation drills will become more complex, challenging team thought processes and communication skills."

Teaching Tips

PRINCIPLES OF ADULT LEARNING

Adults learn best when

INSTRUCTION IS RELEVANT

Adults must see a reason for learning something. The learning must be applicable to their work, other responsibilities, or their interests.

1. Identify clear goals and objectives for your learners
2. Point out the practical applications of theories and concepts
3. Allow learners to be self-directed (choose topics of interest, identify their own knowledge gaps, etc.)

INSTRUCTION IS PROBLEM-CENTERED

The road to the diagnosis is more important than the “right” diagnosis itself. Learners can acquire new skills & information as they problem solve.

1. Use engaging clinical cases
2. Think aloud as you reason through diagnostic or management possibilities
3. Ask questions that require reasoning
4. Ask questions about hypothetical cases
5. Give learners time to think and respond to questions

INSTRUCTION IS EXPERIENCE-ORIENTED

Adults need to connect new learning to their lifetime of knowledge and experiences. Past experiences are relevant to the understanding of future problems.

1. Draw on learner’s experiences to reinforce key teaching points (e.g. When was the last time you saw a case like this?)
2. Relate concepts to learners’ experiences
3. Provide time for learners to practice skills while you supervise
4. Increase responsibility when appropriate
5. Use teachable moments

How can you facilitate these learning processes?

Most importantly, **present challenging problem-solving opportunities** in a safe risk-taking environment. Also, to foster the development of critical thinking skills, such as analyzing and problem solving, **explain the process** to your learners and model it for them. **Model cognitive skills** by asking open questions and by thinking aloud. Finally, **explaining your own thinking** — your cognitive processes — while solving medical problems not only teaches others, it improves your thinking as well!

Source: <http://www.med.wisc.edu/files/smph/docs/education/md/curriculum/clerkships/surgery-teaching-tips-handout.pdf>

“Knowledge is power and enthusiasm pulls the switch.”

— Steve Droke

IN THE LITERATURE

Statistical Literacy of Obstetrics-Gynecology Residents

Britta L. Anderson, PhD, Sterling Williams, MD, Jay Schulkin, PhD

Abstract

Background Residents' ability to interpret statistics is important for scholarly pursuits and understanding evidence-based medicine. Yet there is limited research assessing residents' statistical literacy and their training in statistics.

Methods In 2011 we surveyed US obstetrics-gynecology residents participating in the Council for Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology In-Training Examination about their statistical literacy and statistical literacy training.

Results Our response rate was 95% (4713 of 4961). About two-thirds (2980 of 4713) of the residents rated their statistical literacy training as adequate. Female respondents were more likely to rate their statistical literacy training poorly, with 25% (897 of 3575) indicating inadequate literacy compared with 17% (141 of 806) of the male respondents ($P < .001$). Respondents performed poorly on 2 statistical literacy questions, with only 26% (1222 of 4713) correctly answering a positive predictive value question and 42% (1989 of 4713) correctly defining a P value. A total of 51% (2391 of 4713) of respondents reported receiving statistical literacy training through a journal club, 29% (1359 of 4713) said they had informal training, 15% (711 of 4713) said that they had statistical literacy training as part of a course, and 11% (527 of 4713) said that they had no training.

Conclusions The findings suggest that statistical literacy training for residents could still be improved. A total of 37% (1743 of 4713) of obstetrics-gynecology residents have received no formal statistical literacy training in residency. Fewer residents answered the 2 statistical literacy questions correctly compared with previous studies.

Article Citation:

Britta L. Anderson, Sterling Williams, and Jay Schulkin (2013) Statistical Literacy of Obstetrics-Gynecology Residents. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*: June 2013, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 272-275. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-12-00161.1>

TIPS FOR TEACHING WITH LIMITED TIME

Five Microskills for Clinical Teaching

This practical teaching technique, composed of 5 consecutive “microskills” or steps, is based on many of the principles of adult learning. It is a great technique to use when you’re teaching 1-on-1, and when time is limited.

1. **Get a commitment** – “What do you think is going on?”
2. **Probe for supporting evidence** – “What led you to that conclusion?”
3. **Teach general rules** – “When this happens, do this...”
4. **Reinforce what was right** – “Specifically, you did an excellent job of...”
5. **Correct mistakes** – “Next time this happens, try this...”

Resident Challenge: A medical student asks a question that you can’t answer.

Response 1: “Great Question, look it up for tomorrow.”

- This helps promote life-long learning skills in the student, but it could prevent him/her from asking questions for fear of a “research assignment.”

Response 2: “I don’t know.”

- Expressing uncertainty demonstrates that no physician has all the answers. Then, if you research the question with the learner he/she will learn how to formulate a focused clinical question and search for the evidence.

Adapted from: *Resident as Teacher*, Seminars in Medical Practice, 2009 Vol 12, www.turner-white.com

ACGME'S 3RD CORE COMPETENCY: PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Practice-based learning and improvement (PBLI) requires the resident/fellow to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self evaluation and life-long learning.

Physicians must be able to:

- Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise;
- Set learning and improvement goals;
- Identify and perform appropriate learning activities;
- Systematically analyze practice, using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement;
- Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice;
- Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems;
- Use information technology to optimize learning; and
- Participate in the education of patients, families, students, residents and other health professionals, as documented by evaluations of a resident's teaching abilities by faculty and/or learners.

At the core of proficiency in PBLI is lifelong learning and quality improvement. These require skills in and the practice of self-evaluation and reflection to engage in habitual Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles for quality improvement at the individual practice level, as well as skills and practice using Evidence-based Medicine. In addition, residents must learn and practice teaching skills to enable them to effectively educate patients, families, students, residents and other health professionals.

Source:

http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/Portals/0/PDFs/commonguide/IVA5c_EducationalProgram_ACGMECompetencies_PBLI_Explanation.pdf

USEFUL CLINICAL RESOURCES

We would like to highlight some useful clinical resources and programs for alumni, residents, and students:

- **Alabama Perinatal Excellence Collaborative (APEC):** This evidence-based resource has been developed for obstetric and other health care providers to assist in improving perinatal outcomes and ultimately the health of women and infants in our state. See the link for guidelines (web based and mobile device accessible for free) and more information: http://medicaid.alabama.gov/CONTENT/4.0_Programs/4.4.0_Medical_Services/4.4.7.5_APEC.aspx
- **American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ASCCP)** updated Consensus Guidelines on the Management of Women with Abnormal Cervical Cancer Screening Tests and Cancer Precursors, March 2013: These newly updated comprehensive, evidence-based guidelines were developed to aid clinicians in managing women with abnormal cervical cytology, CIN and AIS as well as incorporate and interpret cytology and HPV co-testing in their management. See the link for free published guidelines, free algorithms, and mobile app for purchase (\$9.99): <http://www.asccp.org/ConsensusGuidelines/tabid/7436/Default.aspx>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Medical Eligibility Criteria (US MEC) for Contraceptive Use, 2010:** This resource was developed to assist health care providers when counseling women, men and couples about contraceptive method choice. The US MEC provides guidance on the safety of contraceptive method use for women with specific characteristics and medical conditions. See the link for free publications, free summary charts and free mobile app: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/unintendedpregnancy/usmec.htm>



FAREWELL TO THE CHIEFS

Janeen Arbuckle, MD, PhD remains in Birmingham as she pursues a career in Gynecology with a focus in Adolescent GYN. Jennifer Brown, MD left us for greener pastures in the North as she works at the Fox Chase Cancer Center doing an MIS fellowship in Philadelphia. Conor Hardeman, MD is excited to be staying in Birmingham as a new attending at the VA Medical Center. He has enjoyed his time at UAB immensely. Ali Parden, MD remains at UAB for at least another 3 years while she trains in a Urogynecology Fellowship at UAB.

Michael Polin, MD headed to North Carolina for a fellowship in Urogynecology at Duke University. Jared Roberts, MD has moved to Norman, OK to pursue private practice. Christy Walters, MD is adjusting to life as a new mother and has started her Oncology fellowship here in our department. She is thrilled to be staying in town! Gretchen Zsebik, MD, originally from Ohio, has decided to stay in Birmingham indefinitely and is excited to join the staff at St Vincent's East. She will miss everyone at UAB, but not too much as she's already stopped by for a visit or two since she graduated! This is a diverse and talented group of young physicians who will unquestionably excel in this new stage of their lives.



"Success means having the courage, the determination, and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be."
— George Sheehan

BUSTER BRITTON MEMORIAL TRIATHLON 2013

On the morning of the Pre-Chiefs Party, June 8, 2013, several residents and faculty from the Department of Ob/Gyn and others from the greater UAB community competed in the [27th Annual Buster Britton Triathlon at Oak Mountain State Park in Birmingham](#). Team 'Levators' included Holly Richter, PhD, MD (UroGyn), Lorie Harper, MD (MFM) and Alice Goepfert, MD (MFM). Team 'GYNathletes' included Jonathan Boone, MD (now PGY4), Jen Durst, MD (now PGY4), and Blake Porter, MD (now PGY4). Other participants were Britt Erickson, MD (GynOnc fellow) and Paul Goepfert, MD (Infectious Diseases). The Levators came in



The Winners Circle

1st place for female relay teams (OK, there was only one female relay team), GYNathletes came in 2nd place for co-ed relay teams, Britt came in 2nd place for her female age group and Paul came in 5th for his male age group! Everyone had a great time. We encourage others to join the fun for 2014!

IMPORTANT DATES

	Residency Program	Medical Student Clerkship
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-8: Fall Resident Retreat • 12: EBM Journal Club • 19: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event, 5:50-7:30pm, FIVE Bar (<i>Lakeview District</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23: Student Education Committee (SEC) Meeting
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event • 25: Applicant Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-16: BLK2 Oral Exam • 18: BLK2 Final Exam • 21-27: Scholars' Week • 28: BLK3 Orientation
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: Fund for Excellence App Deadline • 1, 4, 18, 22: Applicant Interviews • 8: PGY2 Resident Research Day • 14: EBM Journal Club • 21: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11: SEC Meeting
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2, 6, 16: Applicant Interviews • 12: EBM Journal Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16-18: BLK3 Oral Exam • 20: BLK3 Final Exam
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event • 24-25: CREOG In-Training Exam • 30: EBM Journal Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6: BLK4 Orientation • 13: SEC Meeting
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-21: Progress in ObGyn 2014 • 20: UAB OB/GYN Alumni Reception / "Third Thursday" Alumni Event • 26: CREOG/APGO Annual Meeting Begins (<i>Atlanta</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-26: BLK4 Oral Exam • 28: BLK4 Final Exam
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2: CREOG/APGO Annual Meeting Ends • 13: EBM Journal Club • 20: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3: BLK5 Orientation
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA: Oral Exams • 1: Fund for Excellence App Deadline • 15: Admin and Education Chiefs' Transition • 17: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21-23: BLK5 Oral Exam • 25: BLK5 Final Exam • 28: Scholars' Week Begins
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1: EBM Journal Club • 7-11: AL ACOG • 15: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event • 30: Department Photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4: Scholars' Week Ends • 5: BLK6 Orientation
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6: Resident Research Day • 7: Pre-Chiefs • 14: Chiefs • 19: "Third Thursday" Alumni Event • 24: Interns' 1st day of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23-25: BLK6 Oral Exam • 27: BLK6 Final Exam

RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP: ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-13

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Rocconi RP, Sullivan P, Long B, Blaize M, **Brown J, Arbuckle J**, Bevis K, Estes JM, Reed E, Finan MA. Treatment of chemotherapy-induced anemia in ovarian cancer patients: does the use of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents worsen survival? *Int J Gynecol Cancer*. 2012 Jun;22(5):786-91.
- **Boone JD**, Fauci JM, **Walters CL**, Whitworth JM, Bevis KS, Alvarez RD. The effect of the APPRISE mandate on use of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents and transfusion rates in ovarian cancer patients. *Int J Gynecol Cancer*, 2012; 23(2): 367-71.
- **Boone JD**, Erickson BK, Huh WK. New insights into cervical cancer screening. *J Gynecol Oncol*, 2012; 23(4): 282-7.
- **Chappell N** and Bates GW. Sexual Transmitted Infections role in Chronic Pelvic Pain. *Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Causes, Treatments and Issues*. ABC-CLIO/Greenwood Press, Santa Barbara, CA. 2013. In Press.
- Ellington DE, **Polin MR**, Szychowski JM, Deng L, Richter HE. The effect of obesity on fecal incontinence symptom distress, quality of life, and diagnostic testing measures in women. *International Urogynecology Journal*. 2013 May; 24(5): pp.
- **Parden AM**, Gleason JL, Jauk V, Garner R, Ballard A, Richter HE. Incontinence outcomes in women undergoing primary and repeat midurethral sling procedures. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2013 Feb;121:273-8. PMID: 23344276
- Richter HE, **Parden AM**, Gleason JL. "To be or not to be, cured,some considerations" [Letter to the Editor]. Accepted by *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* February 28, 2013. Print date pending.
- **Walters CL**, Whitworth JM, Tyra SL, Walsh-Covarrubias JB, Straughn JM. Use of polyvinyl chloride pipe to construct a novel LEEP training model. *J Grad Med Educ*. 2013 Jun; 5(2), 320-2.
- **Walters CL**, Arend R, Armstrong D, Naumman W, Alvarez RD. Folate Receptor MOA. *Submitted to Gynecologic Oncology*, April 2013.

Book Chapters

- **Boone JD**, Bhullar S, Huh WK. Cervical Dysplasia. *Sexually Transmitted Disease: An Encyclopedia of Diseases, Causes, and Treatments from AIDS to Zovirax*. 1st ed. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Greenwood. 2013. Accepted August, 2012. In Press.

Presentations

- **Ankumah NE**, Cantu J, Jauk VC, Biggio J, Hauth J, Andrews W, Tita AT. "Mild hypertension and risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with chronic hypertension." *Poster Presentation: The Pregnancy Meeting, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine*, San Francisco, CA, USA, February 2013.
- **Ankumah NE**, Cantu J, Jauk VC, Biggio J, Hauth J, Andrews W, Tita AT. "Mild hypertension and risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with chronic hypertension." *Poster Presentation: The Bruce A. Harris Symposium: Progress in Ob/Gyn*, Birmingham, AL, April 2013.
- **Boone JD**, Fauci JM, Barr ES, Estes JM, Bevis KS. Incidence of port site hernias and/or dehiscence in robotic-assisted procedures in gynecologic oncology patients. *Poster Presentation: Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Meeting*. Los Angeles, CA. March 2013.
- Ellington D, **Bounkeua V**, Greer WJ, Ho C, Szychowski JM, Richter HE. The effect of neuromodulation on global pelvic floor symptoms and quality of life. *Poster Presentation: Society of Gynecologic Surgeons Annual Meeting*, Charleston SC. April 2013.
- **Durst JK**, Sutton AL, Cliver SP, Tita AT, Biggio JR. The Institute of Medicine guidelines for gestational weight gain: effect on perinatal outcomes in obese, morbidly obese, and super obese women. *Annual Meeting, Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine*, San Francisco, CA, February 2013.

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RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED . . .

Presentations

- **Martin JY**, Shah MM, Erickson BK, **Daily LR**, **Pasko D**, **Walters CW**, Fauci JM, Bevis KS. Platinum Dosing for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer: Is it Appropriate to Use Actual Body Weight? *Poster presentation: Annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology*. Los Angeles, CA. March 2013.
- Erickson BK, **Martin JY**, Shah MM, Fauci JM, **Daily LR**, **Pasko D**, **Walters CL**, Leath CA, Straughn JM. Factors Leading to Racial Disparities in Treatment and Outcomes of Epithelial Ovarian Cancer. *Poster Presentation: Annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology*. Los Angeles, CA. March 2013.
- **Martin JY**, Erickson BK, Zhang B, Goepfert A. Exccellence in Life Long Learning (L30b/Gyn) and Resident Knowledge, What is the Relationship? *Oral Presentation: Annual Meeting of APGO/CREOG*. Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Martin JY**, Erickson BK, Huh WK. "Cervical Cancer." *Evidence Based Obstetrics & Gynecology*. United Kingdom: John Wiley& Sons, 2013. Book Chapter. Publication date anticipated May 2013.
- Gleason J, Chapman V, Ballard A, **Parden A**, Sung V, Richter H. Outcomes of Incontinence Surgery in Women with Mixed Urinary Incontinence. Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction Annual Clinical Meeting; Las Vegas, NV, February / March 2013.
- Ellington D, **Polin M**, Szychowski J, Deng L, Richter HE. The effect of obesity on fecal incontinence symptom distress, anal manometry measures, and quality of life in women with fecal incontinence. Abstract accepted as a poster presentation for the American Urogynecologic Society Annual Meeting; Chicago, IL; October 2012
- **Porter B.**, Cliver S., Andrews W., Carlo W., Goldenberg R., Biggio J. Effect of the Duration of Corticosteroid Therapy On Neonatal Outcomes. American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. May 2013.
- **Walters CL**, Leath CA, Straughn JM, Landen CN, Estes JM, Huh WK, Kim KH. Port-Site Metastases After Robotic Surgery for Gynecologic Malignancy. *Poster presentation at Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, CA. March 2013.

SAVE THE DATE: PROGRESS IN OB/GYN 2014 & THE 3RD ANNUAL ALUMNI RECEPTION

The 39th Annual Bruce A Harris Symposium: Progress in OB/GYN 2014 for Physicians & Nurses will be held February 20-21, 2014. The Progress Planning Committee is currently developing the lineup for the upcoming meeting. Although still in the planning stage, we are hopeful to add a few of our outside alumni to the speaker list. Also, mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Alumni Reception to be held on Thursday, February 20, immediately following the Progress in OB/GYN Symposium.

Mark Your Calendars:

- February 20-21 for the meeting & the evening of February 20 for the Alumni Reception
- Both events will be at the new Hyatt Regency Birmingham—The Wynfrey Hotel

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