

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Medical University of South Carolina

Summer/Fall 2008

843.792.4500

The new academic year is already under way, and we are excited about a number of new people and new programs. We are extremely proud of our new interns. Scott Sullivan and his team had another outstanding recruitment, where we matched 5 of our top 7 choices. We look forward to great things from Caroline Billingsley, Brad Campbell, Leah Lamale-Smith, Jennifer Loehle, and Erin Swanson.

We also welcome our incoming fellows. Our new fellow in Maternal Fetal Medicine is Tameeka Law, who joins us after a two-year military (US Navy) commitment at the Beaufort Naval Hospital. David Soper will mentor his first fellow in Infectious Disease; Wendy Lazenby, a former MUSC student, has just finished her residency at the University of Hawaii and is starting a 3-year combined Ob-Gyn/Internal Medicine fellowship. Similarly, Steve Swift will mentor his first fellow in Urogynecology. Brett Lebed will start a combined fellowship in Urology/Ob-Gyn. We look forward to this collaboration with the Department of Urology.

Also joining our faculty, Angela Dempsey is another former MUSC student. She completed her residency at the University of Colorado and finished her Master's in Public Health as well as her Fellowship in



J. Peter VanDorsten, MD

Family Planning from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Dr. Dempsey will practice in the generalist division with a primary interest in family planning. She has already received a grant even before she started. Wow!

I would like to personally welcome all of these new folks to the department. We are deeply committed to fostering our people because they hold the key to our success. At the same time, we are optimistic that they will enhance our programs and services for our patients as well as the community. Thus, we look forward to another great year as we meet our ever-important mission of providing excellence in clinical care, research, and education.

Department Mission

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is committed to providing excellence in patient care, teaching and research in an environment that is respectful of others, adaptive to change, and accountable for outcomes. We strive to improve the health of women in South Carolina and beyond as we endeavor to become the preeminent Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Chairman
J. Peter Van Dorsten, MD

Vice Chairman of Academic Affairs
& Director of Research
Roger B. Newman, MD

Vice Chairman of Clinical Affairs
& Director, Division of
Gynecology and General Obstetrics
David E. Soper, MD

Director, Division of Oncology
Paul B. Underwood, MD

Director, Division of Reproductive
Endocrinology & Infertility
John A. Schnorr, MD

Director, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine
Donna D. Johnson, MD

Vice Chairman,
Administration & Business Affairs
Chris Darnell, MHA

Upcoming Events

The South Carolina Ob/Gyn Annual Society Meeting will be held at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC on **September 11 - 14, 2008**.

The **Susan G. Komen Foundation's** largest and most popular event is the **Race for the Cure®**. This year the race will be held on Daniel Island, SC on **Saturday, October 18, 2008** at 8:00 a.m.

Charleston's Signature Chefs Auction will be held on **Thursday, November 6, 2008** at the Embassy Suites Convention Center. This is an exciting black tie optional evening that combines a cocktail reception, silent auction and generous gourmet samplings with the excitement of a live auction all to benefit the **March of Dimes**.

The **South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** 71st Annual Meeting will be held at the Grove Park Inn Resort and Spa, in Asheville, NC, **January 17 - 20, 2009**.

Dr. James Carter has been invited to present his abstract entitled "Abdominal Cerclage for the Treatment of Recurrent Cervical Insufficiency: Laparoscopy or Laparotomy."



The Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) will meet in San Diego on **January 28-31, 2009**

"Benign and Gynecologic Oncology" will be the topic for the 40th Annual **Ob/Gyn Spring Symposium** which will be held on **March 23 - 25, 2009** at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Historic Downtown Charleston. For additional information, contact Pam Benjamin at 876-1929.

The 22nd annual **College of Medicine Charity Ball** will be held on **Saturday, April 11, 2009** at the Omar Shrine Convention Center in Mount Pleasant. The Charity Ball is the College of Medi-

cine's largest single charitable event and is planned entirely by medical students. For additional information, contact Candace Gillespie at 792-2086.

The March of Dimes **March for Babies** annual walk will be held on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**, at 9:00 a.m. at Cannon Park.

The 180th MUSC **Commencement Ceremony** will be held on campus of the Medical University (weather permitting) in the Horseshoe on **Friday, May 15, 2009** at 9:00 a.m.

The 44th annual **THEGOS** meeting will be held at the Wild Dunes Resort on **Thursday, May 22 - Sunday, May 25, 2009**. For more information, contact our THEGOS coordinator, Frances Mims at mimssf@comcast.net or 884-6860.

New To The Department

Justin H. Davis, CPhT, a native of Charleston, joined the department in May 2008, to do research for Dr. Goetzl. He graduated from the College of Charleston in December 2006 and is a Nationally and State Certified Pharmacy Tech. He is applying to Pharmacy school at MUSC.

Dr. Angela Dempsey joins the department after completing her fellowship in family planning and Masters of Public Health at Columbia University in New York. Prior to that, Dr. Dempsey was a graduate of MUSC and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver. Her clinical and research interests include family planning and innovations in resident education.

Kelli Flynn, Research Program Assistant, is a native of Charleston, SC. She graduated summa cum laude from Charleston Southern University in May 2006 with a Bachelor of Science and double majored in Biology and Psychology. She graduated from CSU's Pre-Med program. Kelli was employed at Palmetto Primary Care Physicians in Summerville during college. She worked a dual role as an administrator and a medical assistant. Her previous employer was Benefitfocus on Daniel Island where she worked as a Data Analyst.

Dr. Brett Lebed completed his residency in Urology at Temple University Hospital, and graduated from the

Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He will be serving as a Clinical Instructor in General Urology and training as a fellow in Female Urology/Pelvic Reconstruction under Drs. Eric Rovner, Ross Rames, and Steven Swift.

Laura Murray, originally from Orangeburg, graduated from Wofford College, in May 2008 where she majored in Biology. She was active in her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha and was a leader of Wofford's Orientation Staff. Laura will be working on the preeclampsia study with Dr. Robinson, bone density study with Dr. Creasman and the mercury study with Drs. Goetzl and Rittenberg.

Goodbye & Goodluck

Two of our research assistants, **Greer Albergotti** and **Chantel Rodner**, who were instrumental in our clinical research activities, will be leaving us to become students in MUSC's College of Medicine.

Dr. Michael Armstrong will be joining UNC Physicians & Associates, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology in Chapel Hill, NC in the summer of 2008.

Dr. Derrick Barnes, will be joining the Bradford Clinic in Matthews, North Carolina. He was awarded the Jay Marion Simms Award for surgical excellence and the Competition Award for leadership, competitive spirit and commitment.

Catherine Fair retired on July 31st. Catherine's plans include traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Dr. Jamie Fulfer, was awarded the J. Richard Sosnowski Award for outstanding achievement and humanism in Obstetrics and the Lawrence L. Hester Jr. Award for outstanding academic achievement. She will be joining the Carle Clinic in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Dr. Bill Goodnight, who completed his MFM fellowship in July, is joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC

Dr. Robert Marino joined Lee Ob/Gyn in Auburn and Opelika, Alabama. Dr. Marino was awarded the Prenatal Wellness Center Award for excellence in the ambulatory care of women and the Outstanding Medical Student Education Award.

Dr. Melissa Pearce will be working as a locum tenens physician

with her first assignment in New Zealand. She was awarded the Women's Health Research Foundation Award for excellence in research and the Minimally Invasive Surgery Award.

Dr. Heidi Sapp will be joining Charleston Ob/Gyn in Charleston, SC. Dr. Sapp received the Southeastern Fertility Center Stork Award from the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division and the H. Oliver Williamson Award for excellence in gynecology.

Dr. Stephanie Singleton will be joining Georgia Reproductive Specialists in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Emily Sutcliffe will work for six weeks at Operacion Michoacán, an organization to provide care to an indigenous population in Mexico. On September 15th, Dr. Sutcliffe will join the Center for Health and Healing in New York City.

Publications

- “The Use of Blunt Needles Does Not Reduce Glove Perforations During Obstetrical Laceration Repair.”**
Wilson L, Sullivan, SA, Goodnight W, Chang E and Soper D
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (in press)
- “Multiple Gestation”**
Newman RB and C Rittenberg
Danforth’s Obstetrics and Gynecology, 10th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008
- “Multifetal Pregnancy”**
Newman, RB and C Rittenberg
The 5-Minute Obstetrics and Gynecology Consult. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008
- “Preterm birth prevention by 17 alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate versus daily nursing surveillance.”**
Rittenberg C, Newman RB, Istwan NB, Rhea DJ, Stanziano GJ
Journal of Reproductive Medicine (in press)
- “Women receiving 17 alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate hospitalized for preterm labor <34 weeks benefit from daily nursing surveillance.”**
Rittenberg C, Sullivan SA, Istwan NB, Rhea DJ, Stanziano GJ, Newman RB.
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (in press)
- “South Carolina Partners for Preterm Birth Prevention: a regional perinatal initiative for the reduction of premature birth in a Medicaid population.”**
Newman RB, Sullivan SA, Menard MK, Rittenberg CS, Rowland AK, Korte J, Kirby H
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (in press)
- “Combined adverse effect of African American race and deep stromal invasion on survival following radical hysterectomy for cervical cancer.”**
Sapp H, Goetzl L, Creasman WT, Kohler MF, Underwood PB, Nestor E
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, August 2008, Vol. 199, Issue 2
- “Interaction between intrapartum maternal fever and fetal acidosis increases risk for neonatal encephalopathy.”**
Goetzl L and Konte JE
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, August 2008, Vol 199, Issue 2
- “Morbidity associated with sickle cell disease in pregnancy.”**
Villers M, Jamison M, De Castro L, and James A
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, August 2008, Vol. 199, Issue 2
- “Prediction of pelvic organ prolapse using an artificial neural network.”**
Robinson C, Swift S, Johnson DD, and Jonas Almeida
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, August 2008, Vol. 199, Issue 2
- “Pelvic organ prolapse: Is there a difference in POPQ exam results based on time of day, morning or afternoon?”**
Pearce M, Swift S, and Goodnight W
American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, August 2008, Vol. 199, Issue 2

2008-2009 Interns



Caroline Billingsley
MUSC



Brad Campbell
MUSC



Jennifer Loehle
Univ. of Louisville



Leah Lamale-Smith
Univ. of IA



Erin Swanson
ECU

Honors

Sandra Anderson, RN, received an Applause Award. The patient that nominated Sandra mentioned that she went the “extra mile” and exceeded her expectations.

Dr. William T. Creasman, along with other distinguished physicians from around the country, participated in a debate at the SGO’s first Fight Night Symposium. Dr. Creasman’s topic was cancer of the endometrium.

The 2008-2009 Mike Russell Award will be given to **Amanda R. Herron**. This award is given annually, to a senior medical student, who exhibits the combination of compassion, humility and clinical proficiency for which Mike Russell was universally loved and respected.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jill Mauldin** who has been selected as the medical director of the perinatal service line. This service line consists of Ob/Gyn, Labor and Delivery, Antepartum, Postpartum, Newborn Nursery, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and related Ambulatory Care units.

Congratulations to **Cynthia Maxwell** for completing her Masters in Business Administration, with a concentration in Project Management, at Columbia Southern University. She has also been chosen as the South Carolina representative to attend the Scleroderma Leadership and National Conference in Manhattan Beach, California, located just outside of Los Angeles.

Dr. Ashlyn Savage was selected as Assistant Program Director. Dr. Savage, along with Dr. Scott Sullivan, Program Director, will play an integral part in recruiting for and strengthening our residency program as well as educating the residents.

The 2008 APGO Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to **Dr. Scott A. Sullivan** by the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University of South Carolina. This award is given to recognize excellence in teaching with an emphasis on undergraduate medical education.

Dr. Paul Underwood was invited by the College of Medicine Class of 2008 to read at their Hippocratic Oath Ceremony. This ceremony was held on Thursday, May 15 at The Citadel’s Summerall Chapel and is where the College of Medicine graduates take the Hippocratic Oath and are “hooded” with their academic hoods. In addition, Dr. Underwood was

awarded honorable mention during the Faculty Excellence Awards. This award was given to him by the College of Medicine Class of 2008. The Class of 2009 gave their Faculty Excellence Award to one of our residents, **Dr. Eleanor Murray**.

Dr. Rebecca Wineland won the Berlex best resident teacher award.

The 2008 Resident Research Day award winners are: 2nd year - **Dr. Rebecca Wineland** “Role of HPV Genotype in Depth of Stromal Invasion in Invasive Cervical Cancer.” 3rd year - **Dr. Helen Brown** “Health Care Workers and Group Beta Strep Colonization” and **Dr. Jennie Yoost** “Management of the LSIL Pap Smear: A Cross-sectional, Observational, MUSC Cohort.”

March for Babies Inaugural Year

On April 26, 2008, over 2,500 members of the Charleston community participated in the inaugural year of March for Babies, previously known as WalkAmerica. It was a beautiful morning for an enjoyable 3 mile walk in downtown Charleston to the Battery and returning to Cannon Park.



for the kids, music from 107.3 FM and ended with a great hot dog lunch. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the efforts of more than 200 corporate and family teams that raised more than \$365,000 for the March of Dimes.

MUSC won two awards at the event: 3rd place fundraising team and the top online fundraising team. Women’s services raised **\$12,762.65**.

Although the name of the event has changed, the mission is still the same. The March of Dimes is inspired by all babies – those born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive. Together they make up the millions of reasons behind the urgent mission of the March of Dimes, whose research and programs mean more babies are born healthy every day. And one day all babies will be born healthy, but we have to keep walking to get there.

Thank you to everyone who supported this great cause!

Kristy Holland, Community Director
March of Dimes, Low Country Division

Research

PI: Carter Award \$2,052

Sponsor: Ethicon

Title: Resident Training Laparoscopy Laboratory.

Purpose: “Building resident skill and competencies for PGY2 to 4 residents through suture and tissue management in an animal lab setting. The objective of the program is to teach the basic approach to diagnostic and operative Laparoscopy.”

PI: Creasman Award \$59,250

Sponsor: Precision Therapeutics

Title: A Non-Interventional, Longitudinal, Multi-Center Initiative Examining Outcomes Associated With the Use of the ChemoFX Assay in Solid Tumor Malignancies.

Purpose: “To collect data and examine outcomes associated with the clinical use of ChemoFx Assay in patients with solid tumor malignancies.”

Dr. Donna Johnson and Tamara Saunders also received recognition of their recruitment efforts on Soluble FMS-Like Tyrosine Kinase 1 (SFLT-1), Placental Growth Factor (PLGF) Levels as Predictors of Preeclampsia Prior to Onset of Symptoms in Pregnant Women, as an Aid in Diagnosis in Symptomatic Women and for Risk Stratification, funded by Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics, Inc.

PI: Newman Award \$770,000

Sponsor: The Duke Endowment

Title: Outreach Wellness House Transition Project

Purpose: The purpose of this grant is to partially fund the transition from a temporary to a permanent Wellness House over the next three years. The project will accelerate the rate at which the new Wellness House can provide a full level of women’s health and prenatal care, dental services and health education to low income residents of

Johns Island, James Island and Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina.

Congratulations to **Betty Oswald** who received her certification as a Certified Clinical Research Coordinator through the Association for Clinical Research Professionals.

PI: Ryan Award \$2,000

Sponsor: MUSC URC Funding

Title: Endothelial Progenitor Cells in Umbilical Cord Blood in Preeclampsia and IUGR.

Purpose: “To determine whether there are alterations in the population of stem cells in umbilical cord blood samples of infants born in the setting of preeclampsia or fetal growth restriction.”

Dr. David Soper and Betty Oswald, MT, CCRC recently received the Healthcare Communications Group



Achievement Award of Excellence for high enrollment on A Phase IIa, Randomized, Double-Blinded (With In-House Blinding), Clinical Trial to Study

the Tolerability and Immunogenicity of GARDASIL® Given Concomitantly with a Second Generation Human Papillomavirus (HPV) L1 Virus-Like Particle (VLP) Vaccine (V504) Administered Concomitantly with GARDASIL® to 16- to 26-Year-Old Women, funded by Merck & Co. Inc.,

PI: Soper Award \$6,000

Sponsor: Ethicon, Inc

Title: Resident Training Hysteroscopy Laboratory

Purpose: “Building resident skill and competencies for PGY2 to 4 residents

through tissue management in an animal lab setting. The objective of the program is to teach the basic approach to operative and diagnostic Hysteroscopy.”

PI: Sullivan Award \$40,000

Sponsor: South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research Institute (SCTRI)

Title: A Novel Approach to the Prevention of Cervical Insufficiency and Preterm Delivery

Purpose: The objective of this study is to construct a novel cervical cerclage



material that is designed to treat the spectrum of the potential causes of Cervical Insufficiency beyond simple mechanical support.

Dr. Scott Sullivan was awarded a \$50,000 SCTRI grant for development of a new cerclage material.

PI: Tarnawa Award: \$2,000

Sponsor: MUSC URC Funding

Title: Circadian Factor Involvement in Prolactin Gene Expression.

Purpose: “To lead to a greater understanding of pathological conditions pertaining to Prolactin and, hopefully, to new directions in clinical management.”

For more information regarding our clinical trials, please call our research manager at 843-792-0299 or visit our website: www.muschealth.com/women

Health Update

Childhood Obesity Prevention

The OPTIONS program stands for Obesity Prevention Teams In Our Neighborhood Schools. The OPTIONS program is funded through a grant from the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and represents an outreach to the Charleston County School District (CCSD) through a partnership involving MUSC, the Charleston County Community Education Program, and a community service group called The DAE Foundation. MUSC and The DAE Foundation will partner with the Charleston County Community Education Kaleidoscope After School Program to provide physical fitness and nutrition education along with physical training with a goal of preventing obesity, enhancing knowledge of healthy nutrition and physical activities, and promoting physical fitness.

The MUSC effort will feature collaboration between the MUSC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology under the direction of Dr. Roger Newman along with contributions from our university nutrition program led by Janet Carter, M.S., R.D., L.D., Gwen Gowan, R.D., and the exercise specialist from the MUSC Harper Student Center, Janice Newton, M.S. The DAE Foundation is a community service organization which offers the Basketball Basics 101 Training Program. The DAE Foundation's director is Jermel President, and James Leung is Director of Program Development. The DAE Foundation believes athletics is a valuable tool to teach youths to follow healthy lifestyle choices and serve as an incentive to stay in school and focus on academics. The mission of the DAE foundation is to educate and train students to be skilled, effective, and responsible citizens, students and athletes; to train and educate student athletes across gender, cultural and religious backgrounds; and to remove impediments to development for those who are economically disadvantaged or under served.

The DAE Foundation and MUSC will partner with the Kaleidoscope program. The Kaleidoscope is an after school program offered as part of the Charleston County School District's Community Education Program, funded by the CCSD and Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission. Kaleidoscope is offered to elementary school children in 34 Charleston County schools, including three in District 20, which represents peninsular Charleston. The

program offers a variety of contracted after school activities including tutoring, study skills, enrichment programs, field trips, recreation, and other physical activities. There is believed to be a deficiency in the current curriculum in terms of nutrition and dietary as well as formalized instruction in physical fitness. The opportunity for students to participate in a formal and disciplined basketball skills training program, as offered by the DAE Foundation, is also believed to be an additional benefit that will enhance the Kaleidoscope program. The OPTIONS program will be integrated into the 2008-2009 curriculum of the Kaleidoscope program at selected Charleston County elementary schools.



The OPTIONS Program Joined the Little Bulldog Summer Camp

The OPTIONS program was part of The Little Bulldog Summer Camp. The Little Bulldog Summer Camp is the Burke Community Learning Program summer initiative of the Kaleidoscope program that began the week of June 16 and continued for 8 weeks, ending on Thursday, August 7. The OPTIONS team met with the 60 students enrolled for approximately 2 ½ hours each morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During these sessions, OPTIONS offered the children three activities, including nutritional education, physical fitness education, and Basketball Basics 101. In addition they planned field trips and other special events to enhance the educational experience of the students. On the last day, OPTIONS had a combination awards day, parents day and basketball tournament, where the children had the opportunity to demonstrate to their parents and friends the knowledge and skills that they have gained through the course of the summer from their participation in the OPTIONS program.

For more information about the OPTIONS program, contact Kristin Bailey at: DAEdreemr@gmail.com or visit www.muschealth.com/research/OPTIONS

Services Offered

Gynecology

- Evaluation Abnormal Uterine Bleeding
- Evaluation Pregnancy Loss – Ectopic Pregnancy
- Gynecologic Ultrasound
- Fibroid Imaging
- Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
 - Laparoscopy
 - Hysteroscopy
- Ovarian Mass
- Saline Infusion Sonography

Gynecology Oncology

- Chemotherapy
- Evaluation Abnormal Pap Smears
- Hormone Replacement Therapy in the Cancer Patient
- Management Gestational Trophoblastic Disease
- Radical Hysterectomy - Cervical Cancer
- Radical Vulvectomy
- Surgical Staging – Endometrial & Ovarian Cancer

Menopausal Health

- Hormone Therapy

Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology

Prenatal Health

- Genetic Counseling
- Low & High Risk Pregnancy Management
 - Adolescent Pregnancy
 - Diabetic Pregnancy
 - Multiple Gestations
 - Preterm Birth Prevention Program
- Medical Complications
- Preconception Counseling
- Prenatal Screening Diagnosis
 - 1st trimester screening
 - Amniocentesis
 - Chorionic Villus Sampling
- Prenatal Nutrition
- State of the Art Obstetrical Ultrasound

Reproductive/Infertility

Urogynecology

- Pelvic Organ Prolapse
- Urinary Incontinence



Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
96 Jonathan Lucas Street, Suite 634
MSC 619
Charleston, SC 29425