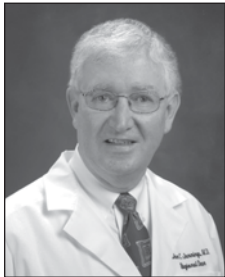




# Texas Two Step

Serving ACOG members in Texas

December 2008



## Chair's report

John C. Jennings, MD

Obstetricians and gynecologists are facing many challenges directly affecting the future of our specialty. It should be reassuring to all of us that ACOG is working on behalf of our Fellows and our patients to recognize and address problems that have a significant impact on the practice of ob-gyn.

I recently was invited to participate in a conference discussing the future of ob-gyn residency training. By necessity, the issues that arise in such a conference are directly related to the same issues facing practicing physicians.

We have manpower shortages in our specialty emanating from obvious factors such as medical liability, reimbursement, and personal lifestyle. We also have a significant misdistribution of ob-gyn practitioners with concentrations in larger communities and a shortage or absence in smaller communities.

Our surgical practices are doing fewer hysterectomies and more minimally invasive procedures. Our obstetric practices are weighted toward more cesarean deliveries and fewer operative vaginal deliveries. We have seen an explosion of technology, including improved ultrasound techniques and genetic diagnosis. As we face these challenges, we can also see that change does bring opportunity.

Our basic clinical training for ob-gyn does not need to be altered. However, our residency programs do need to make cer-

tain that our graduating residents receive the appropriate emphasis on those things they will be doing every day in practice. It is also important that we equip our future practitioners with the flexibility to adapt to evolving technology, procedures, and office practice that will allow them to meet their patients' needs while maintaining their own personal and financial viability.

It is apparent that we need to re-engineer funding of graduate medical education to provide both exposure and incentives for ob-gyns to practice in areas of need. Most importantly, our specialty must see that trained ob-gyns maintain their status as the leaders in women's health care.

As for the progress of our district, it has been a full year since the Executive Board voted to create District XI, and this first year of our existence has been very busy. Here are just a few of the things that have happened:

- ▶ All five of our new sections have a full slate of officers and have established policies and procedures
- ▶ The District Executive Committee met multiple times, both in person and by conference calls, to conduct the business of formation of the District
- ▶ The District Advisory Council met in January, March, and September to address district business
- ▶ Our first full District XI Business Meeting was held in conjunction with the TAOG/ACOG meeting in March
- ▶ The section officers attended a leader-

ship retreat in Austin in August

- ▶ Our Junior Fellows have completed their organizational structure and are already engaged in numerous projects
- ▶ We have created a program for sponsorship of medical student ob-gyn interest groups for all our medical school campuses
- ▶ Many of our Fellows have expressed interest in appointments to various national ACOG committees, and our district has actively supported their nominations
- ▶ District XI is now participating in the national officer nominating committee
- ▶ The West Texas Section I held a very successful educational program for area practitioners in September
- ▶ District XI, and particularly Southeast Texas Section 4, continues to respond to the crisis created by Hurricane Ike
- ▶ Efforts have been made by district and section officers to communicate the mission of our district to ob-gyn hospital staffs and other local ob-gyn leadership groups

District XI is poised to help our Fellows face the challenges of the delivery of women's health care. Our organizational structure in Texas and at the ACOG national office is designed to provide the very best representation and advocacy for members and their patients. The credibility and strength of ACOG is dependent upon the participation of Fellows at all levels of the organization, and District XI can provide the vehicle for your participation. ♦

# Young Physicians Corner

Mary Claire Haver, MD, District XI young physician at-large

**A**re you younger than 40 and have been a Fellow of ACOG for less than eight years? If so, welcome to the Young Physicians Corner.

As the young physician at-large for District XI, I represent those of us who meet the above criteria at the district and national level.

I have had many requests for information concerning issues that are common to us as young physicians in practice.

The ACOG website has a young physician web page specifically designed to meet the needs of our group. Visit [www.acog.org](http://www.acog.org), and under "Membership," click on "Young Physicians." You will

find a young physician online discussion, where Fellows can post questions that are answered in a timely fashion by ACOG experts. Check it out!

Two areas of great interest to us are the Maintenance of Certification process and the medical liability crisis. ABOG has a wonderful website, complete with FAQs that addresses MOC issues, at [www.abog.org/support.asp](http://www.abog.org/support.asp). This website should help guide you through the new MOC requirements with ease.

As for the medical liability crisis, ACOG has numerous resources on its website. Visit [www.acog.org](http://www.acog.org), and under "Practice Management," click on

"Professional Liability." Also helpful is ACOG's Committee Opinion *Coping With the Stress of Medical Professional Liability Litigation* (May 2008, #406), which specifically deals with coping strategies for the stress of being named in a medical lawsuit. It's available at [www.acog.org/publications/committee\\_opinions/co406.cfm](http://www.acog.org/publications/committee_opinions/co406.cfm).

If any of you have any questions or comments for me, or if I can help you in any way, please feel free to contact me at [mahaver@utmb.edu](mailto:mahaver@utmb.edu).

I look forward to meeting you all at our Annual District Meeting in San Antonio in October 2009. ♦

## Legislative update

Mignon McGarry, legislative advocate, and Ralph J. Anderson, MD, legislative liaison

**F**or now, the Texas House partisan balance sits at 76 Republicans and 74 Democrats after incumbent Rep. Linda Harper-Brown (R-Irving) maintained her small lead in the House District 105 race. There are at least two recounts under way. Once the recounts are finished, candidates can contest the election. The Texas House has jurisdiction over such a contest, which could mean the election won't be finalized until after the Legislature convenes in January.

A key factor in a speaker's race should be noted—the winner before the results are contested is expected to take the seat in January and remain until the contest is resolved. So far, there are nine official candidates for speaker: current Speaker Tom Craddick (R-Midland), Rep. Delwin Jones (R-Lubbock), Rep. Jim Keffer (R-Eastland), Rep. Tommy Merritt (R-Longview),

along with Democrats Rep. Pete Gallego (D-Alpine), Rep. Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), Rep. Allan Ritter (D-Nederland), Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston), and Rep. Sylvester Turner (D-Houston).

### Regional impact of elections

The strong turnout from Democrats in Harris County resulted in the switch of several county offices and judicial districts from Republican to Democrat. In Dallas County, Democrats gained several judicial posts and retained county offices. Travis County remained a Democratic stronghold in the state. Republicans did well in suburban areas and in East Texas. Although the urban areas are shifting, Texas could still be considered a Republican state.

The most significant trend turned out to be early, straight-ticket voting. In Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant counties, early straight-ticket voting put many Republicans in holes they could not escape. In general, Republican candidates fared better on election day than in early voting, but election day turnout was less than expected. Fewer than 60% of the state's registered voters ended up casting ballots, which was below the secretary of state's 68% prediction. Of those who voted, 5.3 million voted early, and just 2.7 million voted on election day. Many leads held by Democratic candidates after early voting were insurmountable on election day.

### Anticipation of legislative session

Bill filing has begun. On Monday, November 10, the first day of filing, 423 bills were filed. Expect a steady stream of bills to be filed as the session approaches. Please keep in mind that we are at the very beginning of a lengthy process. Bills that have already been filed have no greater chance of passage than a bill filed on March 13, the last day for bill filing. ♦



## Texas Two Step

Amy E. Young, MD, District Vice Chair and Editor

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409 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024

Send letters to:  
Amy E. Young, MD  
[ayoung@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:ayoung@bcm.tmc.edu)

## Section News

### Section 1

This fall has been a busy time for Section 1. Our first Annual Business Meeting and Educational Symposium was very successful! We had a total of 53 attendees from all areas of the section. We had 17 vendors/display booths. Our speakers included Bobby Lewis Shull, MD; Nanette F. Santoro, MD; and Edward R. Yeomans, MD. Their presentations were outstanding and well received by the participants.

The meeting was also a financial success. Feedback from the participants indicated that everyone liked the shorter format of Friday afternoon to Saturday morning, the excellent speakers, and the idea of meeting as a section. In our Advisory Council meeting, the main issues discussed were:

The organization of the section, as well as the policies and procedures document

Ways of achieving good communication within the section

How to identify advocacy issues within the section

How to promote our Junior Fellows

During our Business Meeting, the section policies and procedures document was reviewed and approved. The goals of the section, the challenge of effective communication with Fellows, and Junior Fellow issues were presented to the membership and discussed. A poll taken of those Fellows who attended the meeting identified the main areas of advocacy as reimbursement, issues of the uninsured patient, and access to care. Moving forward, efforts will be focused on arranging meetings with Fellows across the section, developing advocacy projects, and identifying user-friendly electronic communication tools. ♦

### Section 4

As everyone is aware, on Sept 14, 2008, Hurricane Ike struck the Gulf Coast, hitting Galveston and Houston and then heading north. Galveston was evacuated, and the University of Texas Medical Branch suffered much damage. Many of the UTMB residents suffered water damage to their houses and apartments and were assigned to outlying areas to continue their training. The transition was coordinated by the Residency Review Committee and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical

Education, and communication between UTMB Ob-Gyn Program Director Daniel M. Breitkopf, MD, and program directors in the region enabled a smooth assignment of the 32 UTMB residents. Additionally, by mid-October, UTMB opened its labor and delivery unit, and many UTMB residents have returned.

Upon hearing about the needs of the UTMB residents, Section 4, which covers the Houston/Galveston and Bay Area, has been actively assisting the residents. Loss of books was identified as the primary issue. Thus, through the generosity of countless individuals, a rapid response led to the following:

- ▶ McGraw-Hill and the Williams authors donated *Williams Obstetrics* and *Williams Gynecology* to each UTMB ob-gyn resident, a total of more than 64 textbooks.
- ▶ ACOG Vice President for Education Sterling B. Williams, MD, MS, donated numerous PROLOGs and other publications to the UTMB residency program
- ▶ A \$100 gift card to Majors Scientific Bookstore has been given to each UTMB resident, half of the cost as a donation from Majors, and half from donations by various Section 4 Fellows
- ▶ Lippincott Williams & Wilkins has provided six textbooks to the UTMB residency program and agreed to extend 50% off for orders of their ob-gyn titles to the UTMB residents for individual orders

Additionally, a bank account has been established by Dr. Breitkopf to help residents with personal expenses.

“We are asking for donations to the account to help residents who have had significant personal losses and are in need of assistance,” Dr. Breitkopf said. “We will ask a third party to decide on how to disburse these funds to those residents in need. Any leftover funds will be given to the UTMB Hurricane Recovery Fund.”

Any contribution is welcome. You may send checks made out to the fund to:

Galveston Ob-Gyn Resident Hurricane Relief  
Moody National Bank  
2302 Post Office  
Galveston, TX 77550

We continue to look for ways to encourage and support the many people affected by Hurricane Ike. ♦

## District XI Membership Survey

Please visit the website below and click on the membership survey link to take a short survey District XI has developed.

This information will be used to help District XI (Texas) be in better contact with its members and provide appropriate and timely services to you based on your individual information. Please remember that TAOG/ACOG has been important in helping accomplish direct patient access for ob-gyns in Texas and has worked closely with the Texas Medical

Association in securing tort reform in Texas.

We recognize that certain issues surround our ability to promote women's health care in Texas, and we want to be able to be an effective voice in women's health care delivery. One of our biggest limitations is our ability to communicate with members efficiently to disseminate and collect information. Correct data entry will help ensure that your voice is heard. ♦

[www.txobgyn.org/p633.html](http://www.txobgyn.org/p633.html)

# Highlights from the 2008 District XI Annual District Meeting

Tony Dunn, MD, secretary-program chair, on the left, presents District XI Chair John C. Jennings, MD, with a handmade official District XI gavel made of native Texas Mesquite wood from Dr. Dunn's property in Crawford.



Attendees at the District XI Annual Meeting Welcome Reception having a great time in Cabo

## Calendar of Events

### 2009

#### April

2-5 TAOG/District XI  
Joint Meeting  
Renaissance Arboretum Hotel  
Austin, TX

#### May

2-6 ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting  
Chicago

#### October

9-11 Annual District Meeting  
(Districts VII and XI)  
Hyatt Hill Country Resort  
San Antonio

**Note:** In the last newsletter the ADM dates were listed wrong.

## Contact us

Contact information for all district and section officers and Junior Fellows can be found on the District XI websites:

- ▶ Current news and information on women's health care in Texas can be found on the District XI website at [www.acog.org/acog\\_districts](http://www.acog.org/acog_districts). Click on "District XI"
- ▶ Junior Fellow website: [www.acog.org/acog\\_districts](http://www.acog.org/acog_districts). Click on "District XI Junior Fellows"
- ▶ Further news and information can also be found on the Texas Association of Ob-Gyn website at [www.txobgyn.org](http://www.txobgyn.org)

Please remember to use electronic correspondence to help your district save on postage costs.

**Email us at [distxi@hotmail.com](mailto:distxi@hotmail.com) or [taog@hotmail.com](mailto:taog@hotmail.com).**

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