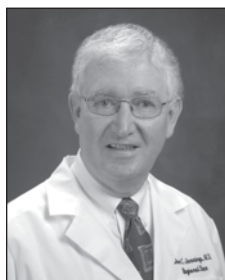




Texas Two Step

Serving ACOG members in Texas

February 2009



Chair's report

John C. Jennings, MD

ACOG has been bustling with activity recently at both the district and national levels. The District XI Program Committee has been busy preparing for the joint Annual District Meeting of Districts VII and XI at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio, October 9–11. This is a particularly attractive location that is easy to reach from any region of Texas, and the program and associated activities are simply not to be missed.

Our friends from District VII have always enjoyed San Antonio's offerings, and we expect to have a large attendance from our combined

districts. Meeting announcements with all the details should be available soon. Register early and plan to bring family members to enjoy this wonderful resort and take advantage of the educational opportunity.

We also have an excellent program in place for the 80th District XI and Texas Association of Ob-Gyn meeting at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, April 3–5. This year we will have medical students from all our Texas medical schools, and our ob-gyn residents will be presenting at the TAOG/ACOG Resident Research Day. Our District Advisory Council Meeting will be on April 2, and I encourage our Fellows to submit any issues for discussion to your section officers to add to the agenda.

As you are well aware, health care issues are at the forefront of concern at both the state and national levels. The Texas Legislature is currently in session, and there are certain to be legislative issues of interest to ob-gyns. You can also be certain that your Texas ACOG officers will be kept informed on the progress of pertinent bills and will relay information to you as issues develop. Expect the state budget to be challenged by both increasing demands on Medicaid and other health programs while facing decreases in projected state revenues.

Health care reform is undoubtedly the hot topic for the medical profession, particularly those of us in obstetrics and gynecology. ACOG has formulated a very proactive legislative agenda for

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80th Annual Joint Meeting of District XI and TAOG

April 3–5, 2009
Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, TX

Where else can a physician get 12 hours of continuing medical education from expert faculty, including one hour of ethics for your license renewal, all for the amazing price of \$150? It's the best deal in the country.

Don't miss the new format this year. The scientific program will begin on Friday at 2 pm. A full-day program on Saturday and a half-day on Sunday will attempt to meet the suggestion from several members to be able to stay in their offices and see patients as much as possible. There will also be great opportuni-

ties to meet all your colleagues in your new ACOG section.

Expert faculty from around the state will give updates on obesity and reproduction, teen pregnancy in Texas, sexual dysfunction in women, surgical trends in incontinence surgery, management of fetal hydrops, management of late-stage labor abnormalities, mesh procedures in vaginal surgery, management of uterine fibroids, and many other pertinent topics.

Our incoming president of ACOG, Gerald F. Joseph Jr, MD, will be there to update everyone on what is happening at ACOG. Special guest speakers include Audrey E. Curtis, MD, Kaiser Permanente, Northwest,

Oregon, and William H. Barth, MD, Massachusetts General, Boston.

The Renaissance Hotel is one of the nicest properties in Austin. It is right in the heart of the Arboretum area of the city, offering great shopping and dining, and is close to major new developments in the Austin/Round Rock area for your enjoyment.

The social program will be exciting as well. There will be golf at the renowned Fazio Canyons course at Barton Creek, and the Annual Banquet will take you back in time with one of the best Elvis tribute shows around from "Texas Elvis" himself.

For more information, program and registration form, see the TAOG website at www.txobgyn.org. ♦



Junior Fellows news

Christina Frome, MD, District XI, Junior Fellow chair

Greetings from the Junior Fellows of Texas! The past nine

months have proven to be a very exciting time for the Junior Fellows of District XI. We had a successful first business meeting at the Annual District Meeting in Los Cabos, Mexico. The meeting itself was very well attended by both Fellows and Junior Fellows from across the state.

The Junior Fellows have begun work on a district project, "Teenage Pregnancy." As Texas currently has the third highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the country, the main goal of this project is to reach out to teen-agers across the state and educate them. Be on the lookout for ways you can help.

Several Texas Junior Fellows have been selected to attend meetings across the country and internationally. Kristy K. Ward, MD, District XI vice chair, from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, will be our district's representative

at the Japan Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists meeting in Kyoto, Japan, this April. We look forward to Dr. Ward reporting back to us on her experiences abroad.

Additionally, five Junior Fellows (George T. Barnett, MD, Section 1; Lauren E. Giacobbe, MD, and Simi K. Gupta, MD, Section 4; Ivvanee E. Martinez, MD, District secretary/treasurer; and Dr. Ward) have been selected to attend the Congressional Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, where they will have an opportunity to meet with legislators on Capitol Hill. This opportunity will prove to be a truly unique experience for everyone in attendance.

The North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology has established a grant specifically for residents interested in pediatric and adolescent gynecology. Ten residents will be selected and awarded a \$2,500 stipend to cover travel, lodging, registration, and food expenses to attend the NAS-PAG Annual Clinical Meeting, April 23–25 in San Antonio.

This is a fantastic opportunity for residents! If you are interested please contact Nirupama Kakarla DeSilva, MD, at nirupama-desilva@ouhsc.edu for more information.


We are looking forward to two upcoming meetings that will be held within our district over the next year. The District XI and Texas Association of Ob-Gyn Joint Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel from April 3–5. We are planning a large medical student program for this meeting with a variety of informative sessions and hands-on experience. Encourage the medical students in your section to attend!

The 2009 Annual District Meeting (Districts VII and XI) will be held October 9–11 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio. We will debut the First Annual Junior Fellow "Jeopardy" game in which sections will compete against each other for prizes.

As always, we cannot thank the Fellows across our district enough for their continued support of the Junior Fellows. We have truly amazing Fellows! Thank you! ♦

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women's health and is strategically positioning the organization to maintain our proper place as the leading advocates for women's health in this country.



Texas Two Step

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

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409 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024

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We have 14 representatives from Texas who will be attending the ACOG Congressional Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. This conference will offer an opportunity for Texas Fellows to have direct contact with members of our congressional delegation and have our voices heard in what will be an intense and hopefully productive debate. It is apparent that the grassroots members of ACOG are providing the majority of women's health care in the country, and we must actively be involved in the evolving processes of health reform.

Finally, our new district has come a long way since our designation by the ACOG Executive Board in November 2006. It has been the goal of our district and section officers from the beginning to expand ACOG Fellows' involvement throughout Texas. The challenges to obstetrics and gynecology and the women we serve can only be met by the collective efforts of individual members of ACOG. Please communicate your suggestions, offer your services when possible, and take advantage of the benefits of ACOG membership. ♦

Legislative update

Mignon McGarry, legislative advocate

Ralph J. Anderson, MD, legislative liaison

The Texas Legislature began its 81st session with both the House and Senate providing some political theater. The House elected a new Speaker of the House, Rep. Joe Straus (R-San Antonio), by acclamation after a weekend of surprise developments that led to the ouster of Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland).

Rep. Straus's nomination emerged from a meeting of a group of insurgent Republicans, the so-called "ABC (Anybody But Craddick) Republicans." They quickly consolidated their support for Rep. Straus with 64 Democrats who had pledged to not vote for Craddick "under any circumstances."

Speaker Straus took the oath of office and pledged a renewed focus on bipartisanship and a restoration of members representing their voters

by voting their districts. These were both major points of contention during the previous administration.

Meanwhile, the Texas Senate erupted into rhetorical fireworks as a time-honored tradition came under intense scrutiny. Typically, the Senate operates under a protocol in which two-thirds of its membership must agree to debate an issue before it is brought before its 31 members. This not only bestows a great deal of prestige on the two-thirds who can alter the course of legislation but also endows each senator with a significant amount of influence.

The controversy came when the Republican majority of the Senate crafted an exception to the two-thirds rule for legislation dealing with the identification of voters at the polls. This rule change was made to exempt the Voter ID Bill

from the procedural rules so it could make its way to the Senate.

The Voter ID Bill would require voters to present a photo ID before casting a ballot. Though the bill may pass the Senate this session, it is viewed as dead on arrival in the House.

So far, neither the House nor the Senate has appointed committees, but legislation is already being filed. Rep. Frank Corte (R-San Antonio) and Sen. Dan Patrick (R-Houston) have filed bills for informed consent for abortion. Other issues to watch include Medicaid, the imaging regulation issue, tort reform, scope of practice battles, and graduate medical education funding.

Bills may be filed until March 13, and the session is scheduled to end on June 1. ♦

2009 Annual District Meeting in San Antonio

Carl Anthony Dunn, MD, District XI Program Chair

J. Martin Tucker, MD, District VII Program Chair

The 2009 Annual District Meeting for Districts VII and XI will be held October 9–11 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio. The District Advisory Council meetings will be held on Thursday, October 8.

The resort is a beautiful venue for our meeting, featuring a relaxing four-acre water park, championship golf course, tennis courts, spa services and much more. It is a short trip to the SeaWorld San Antonio Park, the Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park, and the beautiful San Antonio River Walk.

This year's scientific program will feature a wide array of interesting topics and speakers. The Friday session will focus on the

future of medicine in the 21st century. Our keynote speaker will be J. James Rohack, MD, president-elect of the American Medical Association.

The Saturday and Sunday sessions will feature presentations on a variety of obstetric and gynecologic topics. Sunday will include a revival of the Lonnie S. Burnett, MD, video festival led by Marlene M. Corton, MD, and Bob L. Shull, MD.

The festival will showcase a number of excellent videos of pelvic anatomy and surgical procedures. There will also be separate break out sessions for Junior Fellows, residents, and medical students, including a Junior Fellow "Jeopardy" game.

Our Saturday night gala will feature a fun-filled charity "Casino Night" with food, music, and dancing. Our "casino" will include blackjack, roulette, and craps tables, along with Texas hold 'em poker.

The proceeds from Casino Night will fund educational programs for Districts VII and XI, so plan to come and be a high-roller. (There won't be any winnings to take home, but there *will* be district and section bragging rights at stake!)

Attire for the evening will be anything from cowboy casual to Las Vegas glitz, so dress up or dress down as you please.

We look forward to seeing you all here in the Lone Star State! ♦

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 ACOG and the Texas Association of Ob-Gyn have been important in helping accomplish direct patient access for ob-gyns in Texas

and has work 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

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. Click on "District XI"
- ▶ Junior Fellow website: 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

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

Email us at distxi@hotmail.com or taog@hotmail.com.

Calendar of Events

2009

April

3-5 District XI and Texas Association of Ob-Gyn Joint Meeting
Renaissance Austin Hotel
Austin, TX

See program and registration information at www.txobgyn.org

May

2-6 ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting
Chicago

October

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

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