



Texas Two Step

Serving ACOG members in Texas

December 2009



Chair's report

John C. Jennings, MD

The last few months have been extremely busy for District XI. Our Annual District Meeting was held in October, and everyone who attended can attest to the fact that it was a tremendous success. (For a full report, see below.) For those of you who were unable to attend this year, we hope to see you October 14–16, 2010, in Maui, HI, for our next ADM.

In October, District XI hosted its first Women's Health Interdisciplinary Summit with sponsorship from the March of Dimes. Representatives from organizations with major interest in women's health issues attended, and they left the meeting with an enthusiastic commitment to work together in addressing challenges facing women's health care in Texas. (For a full report, see page 2.) Be assured that District XI will continue to represent our Fellowship on all issues of importance in Texas that

are relative to women's health and the practice of ob-gyn.

Texas ACOG Fellows have been very active in addressing practice issues with a successful defense of obstetric ultrasound. Threats to tort reform in Texas were neutralized during this past legislative session, and Texas continues to have an influx of ob-gyns.

On the national level, District XI is well represented on a multitude of important ACOG Committees. District XI Fellows have made important contributions this year to ACOG's mission of education, practice improvement, and advocacy. Our Fellows have direct input on many ACOG activities, documents, and policy decisions.

With the health care debate raging in Washington, ACOG has managed to stay at the table without compromising issues that are so important to the specialty of ob-gyn and to women's health overall. I encourage all of you to stay up-to-date on issues important to you and to liberally express your opinion to our district

and national leadership.

It is necessary to keep our legislative delegations informed of issues that are critical to the delivery of care to our patients. To do this, we need the help of Fellows who have personal contacts with our congressional delegation. There are many opportunities for ACOG service at the section, district, and national level, but it is also very important for our Fellows to advocate the betterment of women's health care where we might be most effective—namely, in our own communities. Remember, when so much is at stake as health care reform continues, ACOG provides an avenue for your involvement.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Joint Meeting of District XI and the Texas Association of Ob-Gyns in April and the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting in May. In the interim, be sure to check the ACOG website for information about all of the ACOG meetings and the continual flow of information about important issues. ♦

2009 Annual District Meeting report

Carl A. Dunn, MD, District XI secretary and program chair

The 2009 Annual District Meeting, a joint meeting with our friends in District VII, was held October 9–11 in San Antonio at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa. The meeting was attended by nearly 300 registrants. Our excellent speakers program included an address by J. James Rohack, MD, president of the American Medical Association, on the importance of remaining engaged with the debate on health care financing reform.

Our Saturday evening gala featured a charity "Casino

Night" and silent auction, which raised more than \$14,000 to benefit the respective Junior Fellow educational funds of the two districts. Thank you to the generous donors that contributed to this event. Congratulations to Texan Charles D. Harzke, MD, from San Angelo, who won our inaugural "Texas Hold'em Tournament."

Next year's meeting will be a joint ADM with Districts VII, VIII, IX, and XI at the Grand Wailea Resort in Maui, HI, October 14–16, 2010. Don't miss it! ♦

Vice chair's report

Amy E. Young, MD


District XI's first Women's Health Interdisciplinary Summit was held in Austin on October 1. The summit, the brainchild of John C. Jennings, MD, District XI chair, was a collaborative effort to bring stakeholders in women's health care in Texas together to strategize for educational and legislative programs to improve women's health. The summit was supported by the March of Dimes, which was represented by Karen Littlejohn, Texas state director of program services, and Jessica Lundgren, Texas director of program services.

Other attendees included:

- ▶ Charles E. Brown, MD, Texas Association of Ob-Gyns
 - ▶ Emily Merrill, PhD, RN, FNP, and JoEllen Wynne, RN, MSN, FNP, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
 - ▶ Carolyn Sutton, MSN, RN, WHNP, National Association of Nurse Practitioners
 - ▶ Becky Burpo, MSN, RN, CNM, American College of Nurse Midwives
 - ▶ Lloyd Van Winkle, MD, Texas Academy of Family Physicians
 - ▶ Janet Realini, MD, MPH, Healthy Futures Alliance
 - ▶ John Holcomb, MD; Marcel Thompson, DO; and Helen Kent Davis, Texas Medical Association
 - ▶ Nancy Sheppard, Texas Perinatal Association
 - ▶ Betty J. Edwards, MD, Texas Women's Health Foundation
 - ▶ Janet D. Lawson, MD, Texas Department of State Health Services
 - ▶ June Hanke, MSN, MPH, RN, Harris County Hospital District
 - ▶ Mignon McGarry, legislative liaison to TAOG
- The group identified multiple areas of need and narrowed

down its areas of focus to three primary goals: preterm birth, access to care/intermittent health care coverage, and unplanned pregnancy. Small groups were formed and tasked to further develop each of the aforementioned areas of need. Each group presented its strategy, complete with methods, metrics, and accountability. Ultimately, all participants agreed to focus their energies on preterm birth as the first collaborative initiative (Texas ranks 48th in the US in preterm births). This area of focus was also appealing because it encompasses many components of the strategies around access to care. Initial action items that were identified, and have either already been completed or are in process, are:

- ▶ Increase communication with the Texas Hospital Association regarding iatrogenic preterm birth and plan a round-table conference to enhance hospital administrators' awareness of the problem
- ▶ Plan a women's health caucus for the spring of 2010 with political representation
- ▶ Collaboratively write the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives requesting an interim study regarding preterm birth in Texas
- ▶ Feature the Women's Health Interdisciplinary Summit in *Texas Medicine*, a magazine for Texas Medical Association members
- ▶ Request that preterm birth be raised as a significant issue at the TMA Specialty Society Legislative Retreat
- ▶ Recruit TMA to help develop an algorithm for statewide access to care. Then, make it available on the TMA website to facilitate physician and patient referrals for appropriate care and to better identify any gaps creating episodic health care for women in Texas of a child-bearing age ♦



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Amy E. Young, MD, District XI vice chair and editor
Jill Hindenach, editorial manager

The District XI newsletter is produced and distributed by the ACOG Office of Communications.

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Junior Fellows news

Kristy K. Ward, MD, District XI Junior Fellow chair

We had a very productive and entertaining Annual District Meeting this year. The medical student program was very successful, as we had more than 60 medical students in attendance. At the Junior Fellow program, we played "Fellow Feud" for the first time, and we will definitely be playing again since it was great fun. Luke A. Newton, MD, District XI Junior Fellow vice-chair, was a fantastic game show host, and the players were good sports.

Our goal for this year is to increase Junior Fellow and medical student involvement. To help with this goal, we have reformatted our district's committees to include more Junior Fellows. If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact one of your Junior Fellows officers. Our contact information is on the District XI Junior Fellow website. Click on "ACOG Districts" under "Quick Links" at acog.org. Then, click on "District XI Junior Fellows." ♦

Legislative report

Albert T. Gros, MD, District XI section 3 chair, past president of the Texas Association of Ob-Gyns, and past chair of the Texas Medical Association Legislative Committee

The Texas Legislative Session ended on a positive note for medicine. Going into the session, we were concerned about a number of issues, such as threats to our tort reform caps, scope of practice challenges from nurse practitioners and midwives, and corporate practice of medicine legislation. At the end of the session, we did not have any erosion of the gains in tort reform, nor were there any gains by those interested in widening scope of practice. We also avoided a watering down of Texas prohibition on the corporate practice of medicine.

We were pleased that a bill requiring ultrasound prior to abortion was defeated. Positive legislation for medical student loan repayment, paid in part by a smokeless tobacco tax, and a number of insurance reforms were also a part of a very successful legislative effort. We are now working to make sure that national health care reform does not negatively impact our state's progress on tort reform. ♦

Section 4 highlights

Eugene C. Toy, MD

Our first Section 4 Scientific Meeting, held at The Methodist Hospital in Houston on August 29, was jointly sponsored by the Houston Gynecological and Obstetrical Society. It was very successful and well received by more than 120 attendees. Nearly every county in our section was represented.

The meeting offered three hours of CME with four 30-minute scientific sessions and break-out sessions for physicians, Junior Fellows, and medical students. Current hot topics, such as immunizations and what ACOG and the Texas Association of Ob-Gyns are doing on behalf of ob-gyns, were highlighted. All six academic institutions, four medical schools, and five ob-gyn residency programs in the area were represented. There were 35 medical students and 16 residents in attendance.

A section project, led by Laurie S. Swaim, MD, section vice-chair, has been devoted to the issue of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccines. Progress has been made in raising awareness in physicians and hospitals, and Dr. Swaim has interacted with manufacturers of the vaccine to help advise physicians how to get reimbursed. Additionally, through a grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services and a joint effort with TAOG, the section is part of a state-wide initiative to develop posters in English and Spanish for all labor, delivery, and birthing centers, as well as a mailing to all physicians in the state by the end of December. ♦

Annual District Meeting highlights



At the ADM, medical students had the opportunity to talk to more than 20 representatives from residency programs and participate in hands-on training simulations and seminars preparing them for interviews for residency positions.



William L. Rayburn, MD, Texas Section past chair; John W. Calkins, MD, District VII past chair; J. James Rohack, MD, president of the American Medical Association and keynote speaker at the ADM; Carl A. Dunn, MD, District XI secretary and program chair; and John C. Jennings, MD, District XI chair

Young physician report

Kimberly A. Pilkinton, MD, MPH,
District XI young physician representative

I am enjoying serving District XI as its young physician representative. For those who don't know, young physicians are a sub-group of Fellows who are younger than 40 years of age or within their first eight years of practice.

At our Annual District Meeting in San Antonio, a meet and greet was held during the Welcome Reception. A brief survey was available, and, though a few surveys were returned, I would like to obtain additional input. Some topics for future meetings suggested on the survey were: practice tips; business of medicine; promotion/tenure; natural moral law/ethics; and new practice guidelines/technology. Our district is considering a brief online survey for the future. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or comments you may have. ♦

New HIV testing alert

Effective January 1, 2010, the following changes will be made to the Texas law for the testing of HIV in pregnant women:

- ▶ An HIV test must be performed at the first prenatal care visit and during the third trimester of pregnancy
- ▶ If there is no record of a third-trimester test when a woman arrives at labor and delivery, a test must be immediately performed. The laboratory must provide the results of the test to the clinician within six hours of the submission of the sample
- ▶ If there is no record of a third-trimester test and no test was performed during labor and delivery, the infant must be tested within two hours of birth, and

those test results must also be provided to the clinician within six hours of the submission of the sample. Current Texas state law requires providers to test pregnant patients for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B at the first prenatal visit and at delivery. The law is changing to align requirements with recommendations for prenatal HIV testing published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please note that women will still have the right to refuse the test.

Details of changes to the law are posted on the Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership website at tmhp.com and will be published in the November/December 2009 *Texas Medicaid Bulletin*, No. 226. More information may also be found at txobgyn.org. ♦

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 acog.org/acog_districts. Click on "District XI"
- ▶ Junior Fellow website: 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 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

2010

April

16–18

Annual District XI and Texas Association of Ob-Gyn Joint Meeting
Moody Gardens Hotel and Spa Resort
Galveston, TX

May

15–19

58th ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting
San Francisco
acog.org/acm

October

14–16

Annual District Meeting
(Districts VII, VIII, IX, and XI)
Grand Wailea Resort
Maui, HI