Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

It is with anticipation that I introduce this new newsletter for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Care New England’s Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island. I’m hoping this newsletter, to be issued a few times per year, will become a key means of communication across our extended department that reaches far and wide with current faculty, trainees and alumni.

Moving forward in our goal of providing the best possible care for women and their families, I invite you to join me in sharing and celebrating the highlights, achievements and opportunities our department, and our alumni. If you have news to share with the alumni network, please forward it along to Denise Flinn at dflinn@wihri.org to be featured in a future issue.

Thank you for your continued work and commitment to excellence in women’s health clinical care, teaching, research and leadership.

Best,

Maureen G. Phipps, MD, MPH
Chair and Chace-Joukowsky | Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Assistant Dean for Teaching and Research in Women’s Health | Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Professor of Epidemiology | Brown University School of Public Health
Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology | Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island | Care New England

View the 2015 Annual Report


Take a moment to navigate the Department web page, specifically at http://womenandinfants.org/brownobgyn. Have feedback for our web team? Send all comments to web@carene.org.

Maternal Fetal Medicine Units Network conducts studies of pregnancy, maternal, fetal and infant health

Following a rigorous review process, Women & Infants Hospital, a Care New England Hospital, and The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, received notification that their participation in The Maternal Fetal Medicine Units Network (MFMU) has been renewed for the five-year cycle that begins in 2016.

The NICHD Eunice Kennedy Shriver Maternal Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network is a consortium of 12 premier clinical centers across the U.S. whose charge is to investigate problems in clinical obstetrics. Brown/Women & Infants Hospital has been a participating center in the MFMU Network since 2001 and is the only MFMU center in New England. Dwight Rouse, MD, of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Alpert Medical School, is the Brown/Women & Infants principal investigator for the MFMU.

continued
The Network conducts large randomized clinical trials aimed at improving outcomes for pregnant women and their offspring. With 140,000 births spread among its 12 centers, the Network is able to perform trials of sufficient size to reach definitive conclusions that result in health-improving practice changes locally, nationally and internationally. These trials directly inform the guidelines of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and clinical obstetric practice in the U.S. and abroad. As a result of MFMU Network trials, in the U.S. it is now routine to:

- Use weekly 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone caproate to prevent repeat preterm birth.
- Administer antibiotics to women with preterm premature rupture of membranes to improve neonatal health.
- Give women in early preterm labor magnesium sulfate to lower the chance that their baby will suffer from cerebral palsy.
- Treat mild gestational diabetes to improve maternal and neonatal health.

Dr. Rouse said, “The two most recently completed MFMU Network studies will also directly improve practice. The Antenatal Late Preterm Steroids (ALPS) study showed that betamethasone administered to mothers delivering in the late preterm period (from 34 to 36 weeks gestation) lowers the risk of respiratory problems in their babies. Of the 2,800 women in this study, 290 were enrolled at Women & Infants. The TSH study, presented orally at this year’s Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Meeting but not yet published, showed that treating pregnant women with subclinical hypothyroidism does not improve the intelligence of their children at age five (as had been claimed), and therefore screening pregnant women for this condition is not warranted.”

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Alumni Network hosts CME Symposium
The Impact of Obesity on Women’s Health, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Inaugural Alumni Network CME Symposium weekend was held on September 25 and 26, 2015.

More than 70 obstetrics and gynecology residency and fellowship graduates, current residents, medical students, and current faculty participated in an evening welcome reception on September 25th at Gracie’s Bar & Grille and a CME Symposium at Women & Infants Hospital, and an evening networking reception at the Providence Biltmore on September 26. Moderated by Drs. Maureen Phipps, MD and Kathleen Bowling, MD, the symposium presentations included:

- PCOS and Obesity in Adolescence – Ruben Alvero, MD
- Obesity and Pregnancy – Matthew Esposito, MD
- Obesity and Pelvic Floor Disorders – Deborah Myers, MD
- Gynecologic Malignancies: Big Risks for Obese Patients – Cara Mathews, MD
- Obesity and Its Impact on Cardiovascular Disease – Heather Hurlburt, MD (Kent)
- Medical Management of Obesity and Its Link to Diabetes and other Metabolic Disorders – Ken Chen, MD
- Surgical Treatment of Obesity – Jeannine Giovanni, MD (Kent)

The Alumni Network will host another event in the Fall of 2017. Stay tuned for details.
## Upcoming events

Please see list of upcoming events below that may be of interest to you. Please contact us via e-mail at dfinn@wihri.org. If you would like more information about our hospital-based lectures.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 4, 2016</td>
<td>Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center</td>
<td>87th Annual Spring Meeting</td>
<td><a href="http://www.neogs.org/meetings.html">http://www.neogs.org/meetings.html</a></td>
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| May 12, 2016| Women & Infants Hospital       | Annual Saphier Family Lecture                  | Bruce Blumberg, MD, PhD  
Professor, Development & Cell Biology, School of Biological Sciences;  
Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences; Professor, Biomedical Engineering at  
The Henry Samueli School of Engineering, University of California, Irvine  
Transgenerational inheritance of prenatal obesogen-exposure |
| May 14 to 17, 2016 | Washington Convention Center Washington, DC | 2016 ACOG Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting | Look for us at the Alumni Mix & Mingle on Sunday, May 15, 2016  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Marriott Marquis  
[http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Departments/Annual-Meeting](http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/ACOG-Departments/Annual-Meeting) |
| October 6, 2016 | Women & Infants Hospital | Justine Bonsignore Zompa, MD, Memorial Lecture  | Ellen Zane, MA  
CEO Emeritus, Tufts Medical Center  
Management pearls of wisdom: Lessons learned along the way |