OB/GYN kicks of robotics training at University of Miami Hospital

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was the first to offer a formal robotic surgery training session for its residents on Saturday, March 10, at University of Miami Hospital (UMH).

The session is part of a new UMH-based robotics curriculum aimed at preparing residents from all surgical specialties to use the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System (made by Intuitive Surgical). The training, modeled after Duke University’s program, consists of online computer based learning modules, a bedside orientation session with console practice time and a timed practical exam, which assesses skill sets. Residents must successfully perform the timed tasks assigned during each of the five skill set stations to receive console certification. The online training modules are mandatory for all participating residents and the practical exam is available to senior residents interested in practicing robotic surgery after completing residency.

The bedside orientation and console practice session held on March 10, was organized by J. Matt Pearson, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and member of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and Mike Quijano, Intuitive Surgical representative for UMH. Three OB/GYN residents, Alexander Mejia, M.D., Daniel Bolet, M.D., and Diana English, M.D., successfully completed the training session and are now eligible to sit for the practical examination. The session was especially beneficial to fourth-year resident Dr. English, who was recently accepted to Yale University’s fellowship program in gynecologic oncology.

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Dr. Estes recognized for teaching excellence

Christopher Estes, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is the recipient of a Paff Award, which honors professors and mentors for their excellence in teaching and spirit.

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Class of 2013 selected Dr. Estes for the honor.

The award ceremony was held April 11, 2012 at the Reetter Auditorium.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lilian Montalvo, a licensed practical nurse, successfully passed the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) to become a registered nurse.
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"The formalization of this process will allow for a more objective assessment of each resident's skill level throughout the learning curve," said Dr. Pearson, who is a member of the Miller School's Robotics Steering Committee and director of the gynecologic oncology robotics program. Karen Tang, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, also serves on the committee and has helped with the structure and design of the program.

"Robotics training for residents may also simplify the post residency credentialing process for individual robotic surgeons, as well as the institutions where they will ultimately practice medicine," added Dr. Pearson.

Faculty members involved in the implementation of this curriculum are hopeful for the addition of a robotic console simulator at UMH, which will allow more residents and fellows access to console practice time so they can further sharpen their skills.

The simulator, which attaches to the console but doesn’t require the use of the robot, would also allow faculty to measure trainee accuracy, precision, tissue handling and instrument clashing. Simulator software keeps metrics on each user’s performance, allowing faculty to determine trends for a group of trainees, or for individual trainees.

The data collected by the simulator is also helpful in measuring the effectiveness of current training and developing better ways to train future surgeons.

Photos, from left: In the loop-d-loop skill set module, the console surgeon learns to navigate the camera and clutch constantly to reposition their hands as they pass the ring along the loops. They are penalized with time deductions on the practical exam for dropping the ring and touching the loop. Right: In the suturing and knot tying module, wristed instrumentation is particularly advantageous for suturing and allows the surgeon to perform and instrument tie with little difficulty.

Press Ganey surveys indicate increase in likelihood to recommend practice

The latest patient surveys conducted by Press Ganey show an increase in the likelihood patients would recommend our practice.

The surveys help department leadership set goals for patient satisfaction. Currently, the department is focused on maintaining high scores on the likelihood to recommend the practice.

For more details on what factors have impacted the current score, employees should contact practice site managers, who have access to survey results that can be filtered by physician. Data is also available on responses pertaining to care provided by nursing and front office staff.

Press Ganey surveys indicate increase in likelihood to recommend practice

www.uhealthobgyn.com
Diana English, M.B.B.S., fourth year OB/GYN resident, and Fausto Andrade, M.D., second year OB/GYN resident, were lead presenters on two posters, “Enrollment in a Tobacco Smoking Cessation Program and Regression of Abnormal Cervical Cytology” (authors Diana English, M.B.B.S., Fausto Andrade, M.D., Monica Pasternak, B.A., M.B.A., Asma Aftab M.D., M.P.H., Jorge Garcia, M.D) and "Conservative Multi-Modality Management of a Mid-Trimester Cervical Ectopic Pregnancy with Placenta Percreta Followed by a Successful Term Pregnancy" (authors Diana English, M.B.B.S., Fausto Andrade, M.D., and Salih Yasin, M.D.) at several meetings:

American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology Biennial Scientific Meeting; San Francisco, CA, March 14-17
Society for Gynecologic Investigation's 59th Annual Scientific Meeting; San Diego, CA, March 21-24
Society of Gynecologic Oncology Annual Meeting; Austin, TX, March 24-27

Andrea Papadia, M.D., OB/GYN resident, was the lead author of a study recently published in Hormone and Metabolic Research about ovarian carcinoma which is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women with gynecologic malignancies. Results of the study indicate antagonists of the growth hormone-releasing hormone (GHRH) have been shown to inhibit growth of various cancers through endocrine, autocrine, and paracrine mechanisms. http://www.newsrx.com/health-articles/2997180.html

Ruben Quintero, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the UM/Jackson Fetal Therapy Center, as well as Eftichia Kontopoulos, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of obstetrical ultrasound services for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, were invited speakers at the Joint 2nd World Congress on Twin Pregnancy and the 14th Congress of the International Society of Twin Studies (ISTS) held in Florence, Italy, April 1-4, 2012.

Dr. Quintero lectured during a pre-congress course, "Maximal Vertical Pocket Greater than 8 Versus Greater than 10? Not a matter of opinion." He also chaired a session titled "Obstetrical Complications in Twins." Additionally, he spoke on two other subjects, "Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome: An Overview," and, "Diagnostic Criteria for Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome." Dr. Kontopoulos' lecture was titled, "Monochorionic Twins Discordant for Anomalies."

Peter Takacs, M.D., Ph.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, along with a team of researchers, has successfully filed a patent application for, "Methods and Compositions for Diagnosis of the Non-viable Early Pregnancy." The patent is based on the collaborative work between the University of Pennsylvania (Kurt Barnhart, M.D.) and the University of Miami (Dr. Takacs and Ram Datar, M.D., Department of Pathology).

Rebekah Valthaty, M.D., second year OB/GYN resident, had a poster presentation, “The Optimum Number of Oocytes Needed to Predict a Live Birth Outcome Depends on Maternal Age, FSH Level and BMI,” at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation's 59th Annual Scientific Meeting held in San Diego, CA, March 21-24. [Anupama S.Q. Kathiresan MD, Yenisel Cruz-Almeida MSPH, PhD, Rebekah Valthaty MD, David I. Hoffman MD, Wayne S. Maxson MD, Marcelo J. Barrionuevo MD, Vanessa N. Weitzman MD, Daniel R. Christie MD, Gene F. Manko MD, Steven J. Ory MD. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, Research Services, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, IVF Florida Reproductive Associates, Margate, FL]
Gene Burkett, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented on the results of a study that found pregnant women taking antidepressants known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) face a slightly increased risk of developing dangerously high blood pressure.

http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=662978
http://tinyurl.com/bqym7tq

John P. Diaz, M.D., was quoted by Telemundo's national news on a story about new guidelines regarding cervical cancer screening. A group of organizations including the American Cancer Society, American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, and the American Society for Clinical Pathology recommended that women who have no history of cancer should get a Pap smear every three years rather than every year. Other recommendations include that women ages 30 to 50, who have no history of cervical cancer, can have a Pap smear every five years.

http://tinyurl.com/76stvwl

Christopher Estes, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented on the results of a study that found 17-year-olds’ access to Plan B and other emergency contraceptives can be uncertain. Since 2009 the FDA has mandated that Plan B and other emergency contraceptives be available without a prescription to women age 17 and up.

http://www.cnn.com/2012/03/26/health/teen-contraception-access/index.html

Leo B. Twiggs, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented on a recently published Norwegian study that states that up to a fourth of breast cancers found through mammograms are harmless and would not cause noticeable disease during a woman's lifetime.

Read Dr. Twiggs’ comments on MSNBC, My Health News Daily and Fox News:


Get to know Taina Goldman

Q: What is your official job title and when did you start with the Department of OB/GYN?
A: I am a licensed practical nurse and I started working with the department a year ago.

Q: What are your main duties?
A: I assist physicians with patient care, administer injections, ensure that patient labs are done in a timely manner and verify that lab results are in the system after they are processed. I also take inventory of supplies and order supplies and medications that are needed. I answer patient calls and provide them with support and a caring environment.

Q: Prior to joining this department, what were you doing?
A: Prior to joining this department, I was a rehab nurse - hip and knee replacement, dislocated shoulders - very different from what I am doing now. But I love what I do and my greatest reward at the end of the day is a smile or a thank you and knowing that I made a difference.
Q: What do you find most challenging about your job?
A: I do not see anything as a challenge, but as a way of learning and growing.

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?
A: Waking up in the morning and doing something that I enjoy and love doing. Meeting people and been able to interact with them at different levels. I also enjoy learning. I have been able to work with some amazing doctors and I have learned a lot from them.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
A: I would go back to Tahiti, where I lived when I was a child. Because it’s located in the South Pacific, the temperatures average about 79 degrees year around. Tahiti is blessed with lots of sun and enough rain to keep the waterfalls flowing and the flowers blooming! The people love their island and it is felt through their love of music, dance and flowers. Because of my father’s work, we moved a lot and lived in many different places - Dominican Republic, Haiti, Venezuela, New York, Miami and Guadeloupe. It gave me the opportunity to learn different languages and different cultures.

Q: What do you enjoy doing during your free time?
A: I spend most of my free time with my daughter, family and friends. I also enjoy traveling, gardening, cooking and reading. Unfortunately there is never enough time to do what we like to do. I am also a volunteer in the efforts to rebuild Haiti and give care to the sick and injured. I have made numerous trips there and will continue to do so, for as long as I can. The pain and the devastation is a humbling experience and makes you realize that the little things that we take for granted are needed there to save a life.

Q: How would those close to you describe you?
A: I am known for my strength, someone who never gives up, who always looks for the answer and who is not afraid of hard work and dedication. They would also say that I am a leader and that I am always looking for a way to help others. I am a patient advocate, when it comes to work and I take pride in what I do.

Q: What song are you listening to most lately?
A: I do not limit myself; I used to dance when I was younger and developed an ear for music, which allows me to enjoy every type of music. Lately, I have been listening a lot more to Spanish songs, especially the very romantic ones; they just take my breath away.

Q: What's your favorite movie or book and why?
A: “The Thorn Birds” played by Richard Chamberlain and Rachel Ward. It's long, but a must see. They do not make movies like that anymore. I am stuck with the oldies, “Gone with the Wind” and “The Sound of Music,” to name a few.