Department introduces Dr. Sujata Yavagal

Sujata Yavagal, M.D., joins the department as assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (urogynecology) after completing a fellowship in the specialty under the mentorship of Dr. Carlos Medina and Dr. Peter Takacs.

Prior to completing residency, Dr. Yavagal completed a research fellowship in obstetrics and gynecology (with a focus on reproductive immunology) at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA. She completed residency in OB/GYN at Loma Linda University Medical Center (Loma Linda, CA). Dr. Yavagal then served as an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical Center for two-and-a-half years.

Dr. Yavagal will be seeing patients on Thursdays at UHealth at Kendall. Patients can call 305-243-4530 to make an appointment.

Quality service pays off

A grateful patient gave Julissa Galarza, senior patient access representative (pictured left), a thank you card that included a scratch off lottery ticket.

Julissa got lucky and won $10!

Fetal Therapy Center Exhibits at National Conference

The Fetal Therapy Center at University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital showcased their services at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's annual meeting, held this year in Houston, TX, February 6-11.

The center, led by Ruben Quintero, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Efthia Kontopoulos, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, is a member of USFetus, a consortium for fetal therapy research that includes the University of Miami and the University of Southern California.

Pictured from left are: Dr. Quintero, Arlyn Llanes, Dr. Ramen Chmail, Cyndee Woelfle, Michaela Tregembo, Dr. Kontopoulos and Teri Lowstetter.

USFetus physicians and their staff had the opportunity to interact face-to-face with referring physicians. Close to 2,000 physicians attended the conference this year.

For more information on USFetus, visit www.usfetus.org.

Dr. Estes will also present, “Comprehensive Care for Transgender Patients: The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Center,” at the Second Annual Transgender Medical Symposium, held March 16-17 at Broward General Hospital.

► OB/GYN residents Paola Bordoni, M.D., and Yvette C. Cordova, M.D., JoNell Potter, Ph.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Salih Yasin, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Amanda Cotter, M.D., M.P.H.S., voluntary faculty, are coauthors on, “The Impact of Prompt Diagnosis and Treatment on Maternal and Perinatal Outcome in Pregnant Women with Influenza A (H1N1),” a poster presented at the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine’s (SMFM) annual meeting held this year in Houston, TX, February 6-11, 2012.

► Also presenting a poster at the conference were Kathleen Brookfield, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., OB/GYN resident, Lunthita Duthely, senior database analyst for OB/GYN, and Dr. Cotter. They coauthored, “Can a Zero Perinatal Transmission Rate of HIV be Achieved in the US?”

► Ruben Quintero, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, also attended the SMFM meeting, where he served as a panel leader for a scientific forum titled Maternal-Fetal Surgery. During this forum, he also gave the lecture, “Randomized Clinical Trial of Expectant Management vs. Laser Surgery for Selective IUGR in Monochorionic Twins.”

► Additionally, Eftichia Kontopoulos, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was also a part of the Maternal-Fetal Surgery forum at which she presented, “Modified Z-stent Tracheal Occlusion for Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia: The USFetus Trial.”

► Yvette Rivero, research coordinator for the Division of Research and Special Projects, is a lead organizer for the Second Annual Transgender Medical Symposium, held March 16-17 at Broward General Hospital.

Rivero was also coordinator for two events taking place on National Women and Girls HIV Awareness Day, March 8, 2012. “Many Women, One Voice: African American Women & HIV,” took place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Clinical Research Building.

► The following abstracts will be presented at the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists’ Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer in Austin, TX (March 24-27, 2012):


A Cost Effectiveness Analysis of the Use of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan in the Pre-treatment Evaluation of Stage I Cervical Carcinoma. Coauthors include Eric Schroeder, M.D., gynecologic oncology fellow, Dr. Schuman, Dr. Pearson, Leo B. Twiggs, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Lucci and Dr. Diaz. [E. Schroeder, X. Burbano-Levy, S. Schuman, R. Castillo, A. Wolfson, F. Simpkins, J. Pearson, L. Twiggs, J. Lucci, J. Diaz].

A Cost Effectiveness Analysis of the Use of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan in the Pre-treatment Evaluation of Locally Advanced Cervical Carcinoma. Coauthors include Dr. Schroeder, Dr. Pearson, Dr. Simpkins, Dr. Twiggs, Dr. Lucci and Dr. Diaz. [E. Schroeder, X. Burbano-Levy, J. Pearson, F. Simpkins, A. Wolfson, R. Castillo, S. Schuman, L. Twiggs, J. Lucci, J. Diaz].

Continued on the next page
The Changing Clinical Features of Cervical Adenocarcinoma: Increasing Proportion but Favorable Oncologic Outcome. Coauthors include Dr. Diaz. [Tanner EJ, Diaz JP, Kostolias A, Zhou Q, Iasonos A, Park K, Alektiar K, Sonoda Y, Barakat RR, Abu-Rustum NR]. The following abstract was accepted as a featured poster:

Use of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan versus Surgical Staging in the Pre-treatment Evaluation of Locally Advanced Cervical Carcinoma: A Cost Effectiveness Analysis. Coauthors include Dr. Schroeder, Dr. Schuman, Dr. Pearson, Dr. Simpkins, Dr. Twiggs, Dr. Lucci and Dr. Diaz. [E. Schroeder, X. Burbano-Levy, S. Schuman, A. Wolfson, R. Castillo, J. Pearson, F. Simpkins, L. Twiggs, J. Lucci, J. Diaz].

► Additionally, Dr. Diaz will be speaking at the Central Travel Club of Obstetrics and Gynecology, discussing "Fertility-Sparing Options in the Management of Cervical Carcinoma."

Also, Dr. Diaz was featured on the cover of the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons, Volume 97, Number 2. The bulletin’s feature story is “Gynecologic Oncology Surgeons Spare Patients' Fertility, Enhance Quality of Life.”

► Jorge J. Garcia, M.D., became a certified tobacco treatment specialist. He was awarded certification from the Addiction Professionals Certification Board, Inc. on March 12.

Dr. Garcia also became a diplomate of the American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians, Inc. He is certified in health care quality and management through December 31, 2013.

Tarek Bardawil, M.D., M.B.A., was quoted in a story about a recent study indicating that a large dose of Vitamin D may help women have less painful periods. The story was posted online by WebMD, CBS News, Times Live (South Africa) and MSN (Malaysia).

http://women.webmd.com/news/20120228/vitamin-d-may-ease-painful-periods
http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-500368_162-57386275/vitamin-d-may-ease-painful-periods/
http://www.timeslive.co.za/lifestyle/family/2012/03/02/vitamin-d-may-help-with-painful-periods

Get to know Gracie Rivera

Q: What is your official job title and when did you start with OB/GYN?
A: I am a registered diagnostic medical sonographer. I started as a per diem employee in 2007 and became a full-time employee in 2009.

Q: What are your main duties?
A: My main duty is to provide the best care for the patient. As high risk OB/GYN sonographers, we are not only the link between the mother and families to their unborn babies, but we are here to aid the physicians so that they can provide the best care to their patients. I see us as the “eyes” of the physicians. We not only care for pregnant patients, we also care for those that are not pregnant and those that desire pregnancy.

Q: Prior to joining this department, what were you doing?
A: I worked as administrative assistant for 15 years with different companies, from banking, to pharmaceuticals to the automobile industry. I changed careers in 2005. I feel it was the best career choice I could have made. I love being a sonographer. It is not only a career but a passion for me.

Q: What do you find most challenging about your job?
A: Although the majority of the cases are normal, there are times when the outcomes are not so favorable. Those are the difficult times. I always put myself in the patient’s shoes and am as compassionate as possible.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?
A: The day to day contact with the patients and their families. I also enjoy the fact that as sonographers, we play an important role alongside the physician in the care of the patient.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
A: It would be Bora Bora in an overwater bungalow. The thought of opening up your eyes in the morning and seeing the ocean all around you is exhilarating.

Q: What do you enjoy doing during your free time?
A: I love my family time. I have a three-and-a-half-year-old boy and a nine-month-old girl, so spending quality time with them is the highlight of my life.

Q: What is something that most people don’t know about you?
A: I was brought up with music as my father and my brothers are all musicians, so I love to dance. I toured with a band for a few years as a backup dancer and also worked with an entertainment company for about 10 years entertaining at corporate events.

Q: What song are you listening to most lately?
A: I love all styles of music. It is hard to pinpoint one. I love R&B, rock, hip hop and he oldies.

Q: What’s your favorite movie or book and why?
A: I love all movies by my favorite actors Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. I also enjoy horror movies. But, these days I watch a lot of Disney movies.