Dr. Niurka Vazquez promoted to practice director

The department congratulates Niurka Vazquez on her promotion to practice director for the Division of General OB/GYN and gynecologic subspecialties including urogynecology and minimally invasive surgery.

In this new role, Vazquez is responsible for overseeing the operation of programs and services for the General OB/GYN practices that are aligned with the strategic, financial and academic goals of the department. She will also be developing and implementing initiatives aimed at improving patient satisfaction and streamlining processes at practice sites.

Dr. Kathleen Brookfield takes top prize for presentation

Fourth year resident Kathleen Brookfield, M.D., Ph.D., obtained first place and a $1,000 prize for top presentation, “Pregnancy Outcomes in Adolescent girls with Perinatally Acquired HIV infection,” at the Florida Obstetrics and Gynecology Society meeting, held August 12-14, 2011 at the Hilton Bonnet Creek in Orlando, FL.

Residents and fellows throughout the State of Florida participated in presenting their research at the meeting.

The department congratulates Dr. Brookfield for her outstanding achievement and for once again proudly representing the OB/GYN residency program. Dr. Brookfield won the same honor at last year’s meeting.

Dr. Salih Yasin honored as a Faculty Hero

Miller School leadership surprised Salih Yasin, M.D., vice chair and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, by presenting him with a plaque honoring him as a University of Miami Medical Group (UMMG) Faculty Hero, an award bestowed once a month to a faculty member who has been employed by the Miller school for at least ten years, has positive Press Ganey survey scores, has no disciplinary action in his/her record, and has a reputation for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Steven Falcone, M.D., M.B.A., chief operating officer for UMMG and associate executive dean for practice development, and Jorge Guerra, M.D., chief medical officer for UMMG, visited Dr. Yasin during his Friday clinic at Professional Arts Center on September 9, 2011. Dr. Yasin is UMMG’s July Faculty Hero.

Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura returns from hiatus

“It is good to be home,” said Nahida Chakhtoura, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. For the past year, Dr. Chakhtoura was at Duke University completing coursework toward a master’s in global health science. She also completed field work in Haiti and is now working on her thesis.

“It has been a wonderful experience. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to pursue my interest in global health,” she added.

She plans on applying the knowledge gained at Duke by working with Project Medishare and the Global Institute at the Miller School of Medicine in addressing women’s health issues in Haiti’s Central Plateau. She also hopes to incorporate global health science into the curriculum for medical students and residents.

Dr. Chakhtoura is seeing gynecology patients on Wednesdays at University of Miami Hospital, West Professional Building, Suite 201. To make an appointment call 305-243-4530.
Introducing the UHealth Reproductive and Fertility Center

George Attia, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Arthur Shapiro, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, joined various UHealth specialists to form a multidisciplinary reproductive endocrinology and fertility team now operating as the UHealth Reproductive and Fertility Center.

Dr. Attia is director of the center, which is operated by the University of Miami Medical Group (UMMG). Other specialists who are part of the team include Charles Lynne, M.D., a world renowned male infertility specialist and professor emeritus in the Department of Urology; Jennifer Glueck, M.D., assistant professor in the Division of Medical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine; and Farrar Celada, a reproductive health acupuncturist in the Department of Complementary and Integrative Medicine. Dr. Attia and Dr. Shapiro will be representing the Department of OB/GYN at this multidisciplinary center, located at University of Miami Hospital, Suite 5.

To refer a patient to the UHealth Reproductive and Fertility Center, call 305-243-8642. For more information, visit www.umic.miami.edu.

ACADEMIC NEWS

► Tarek Bardawil, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Karen Tang, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and J. Matt Pearson, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, are coauthors on, "Single Incision Robotic Myomectomy," accepted as a scientific video Poster at the 40th American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists Global Congress of Minimally Invasive Gynecology, to be held November 6-10, 2011 at the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood, FL.

Dr. Bardawil and Tang are also coauthors on, "Management of Rudimentary Uterine Horn Presenting as Complex Adnexal Mass," which has been accepted for presentation at this same meeting as part of Video Session 6 - Laparoscopy. The presentation will take place on November 09, 2011.


HEALTH OBSERVANCES

► September 1 - 30
Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month helps to increase awareness of the disease through national awareness campaigns, as well as local chapter community events. www.ovarian.org

► September 1 - 30
Newborn screening awareness month is sponsored by Save Babies Through Screening Foundation. http://tinyurl.com/4xywgma

► September 28
On National Women’s Health & Fitness Day more than 100,000 women of all ages are expected to participate in events at more than 1,400 local registered event sites throughout the U.S. The event’s goal: to promote the importance of health awareness and regular exercise for women of all ages. www.fitnessday.com

► Yvette Rivero, a coordinator for Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Center and a project manager with the Division of Research, coordinated an HIV/AIDS perinatal symposium for health care professionals on August 18, 2011 at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

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► Efichia Kontopoulos, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of Obstetrical Ultrasound for the department, was interviewed by CBS Channel 4 on a story about a new diagnostic test that can identify a baby’s gender as early as seven weeks. The story aired on August 10, 2011.


► Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D., professor and associate chairman of pediatrics and and chief administrative officer for Holtz Children’s Hospital, mentioned Ruben Quintero, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of the UM/Jackson Fetal Therapy Center and the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, in a Miami Herald article. Dr. Armstrong said, “He’s developing innovative programs we couldn’t even imagine three years ago for conditions that could be treated in the womb.”


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HR CORNER

The department welcomes new members to its team:

► Yolie Castellanos joins the department as an ultrasound technologist.

► On October 3, Jose Cisneros will join the UM/Jackson Fetal Therapy Center as director of research data.

► Regla Elliot is a senior patient access representative for the Division of General OB/GYN.

► Gina Peralta is a senior patient access representative at the department’s call center.

► Margency Zetrenne also joins the Division of General OB/GYN as a senior patient access representative.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Get to know Sindy Jaramillo

Q: What is your official job title and when did you start with the department?
A: My job title is research support coordinator. I officially started working for the University of Miami in August of 2009, but I have been involved with UM/Jackson since July of 2008. I did a clinical rotation at Jackson as an observer, and after that I volunteered for the Division of Urogynecology, where I worked on research projects with Dr. Carlos Medina, Dr. Peter Takacs and urogynecology fellow Dr. Sujata Yavagal.

Q: What are your main duties?
A: I assist the principal investigator to accomplish the goals and objectives of active research studies in the department’s Division of Research and Special Projects. I am responsible for participant recruitment and follow-up, data collection, medical charts abstraction, conducting pertinent literature reviews and completing summaries as needed for submission of abstracts, reports and manuscripts. I am also charged with overseeing that the studies are conducted according to IRB and HIPAA regulations.

Q: Prior to joining our team, what were you doing?
A: I was a doctor in Colombia, so I was working as a general physician in a woman’s health hospital. My duties there included delivering babies, assisting in C-sections and gynecologic procedures.

Continued on the next page
Q: What do you find most challenging about your job?
A: It's challenging to approach a patient that has just been diagnosed with a condition, for example with cancer, an ectopic pregnancy or HIV. I have to inform the patient about the research project. It may not be best time to consider participating in a research study, but it could lead to better treatments for them or for future patients.

Q: What is most enjoyable about your job?
A: I love interacting with patients. In research, we have the opportunity to educate patients and explain the situation they are facing, also to answer any questions they may have about their condition. So, I feel that in this way I can help patients. I enjoy very much being in an academic environment, where research is a priority. I am very grateful for the opportunity that I have had to participate in laboratory work here at UM, doing basic science experiments.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?
A: I would like to go to Santorini. I like the romance of the island and the sea. It seems very relaxing and peaceful.

Q: What do you enjoy doing during your free time?
A: I exercise often. Particularly, I like doing pilates. I like to cook and I like trying new food. I also enjoy going to church.

Q: What is something that most people don't know about you?
A: I was born with erythroblastosis fetalis, a blood disorder in which the mother generates antibodies against the baby’s blood. I could have died because at that time there were not that many treatment options available in my city.

Q: What song are you listening to most lately?
A: I like all types of music, but there is one song I really like. It's “El Shaddai,” by Amy Grant.

Q: What's your favorite movie or book and why?
A: My favorite movie is “The Sea Inside,” with Javier Bardem. It's a very controversial movie about a man who was a quadriplegic since the age of 22. Toward the end of his life, he wants to practice euthanasia. It was a very emotional movie. And as for books, right now I'm reading, "A Purpose-Driven Life," by Rick Warren, and so far I'm really enjoying it.