

## **ACOG Iowa Section Report November 2011**

The Iowa Section of the American College/Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) represents the practitioners of Iowa locally and nationally. A robust group of legislative advocates and nationally renowned educators and researchers are among our members. Service to women, including international medical missions, has been one of our strengths.

Five Fellows, including Deb Piehl, MD, and Joe Hwang, MD, and two Junior Fellows represented the Iowa Section at the ACOG Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) at the end of February 2011. The theme of the conference was “Safe Births in All Settings” and ACOG’s “Making Obstetrics and Maternity Safer” or MOMS initiative was reviewed. After two days of presentations and education, we joined our ACOG colleagues from 48 other states to lobby on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. We met with both Iowa Senators’ offices and all five Iowa congressional offices. Our legislative asks: Cosponsor the Conyers Maternal Mortality Accountability Act of 2011, and Repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). We expect another strong showing by the Iowa Section at the February 2012 CLC.

State legislative issues this year for Iowa included: licensing of lay midwives, limiting abortion after 20 weeks from conception based on fetal pain, banning abortion coverage in State Health exchanges, legislation amending the state constitution to give a fetus “personhood”, and a mandate for an ultrasound prior to an abortion. Testimony by Rebecca Shaw, MD before the legislative committees and contacts with our legislators helped defeat these ACOG/women’s’ reproductive health issues. Certificate of Merit legislation promoted by the Iowa Medical Society (IMS) was unsuccessful. This is an issue ACOG also supports in an effort to limit unfounded lawsuits. Continued legislative advocacy will be required in 2012 on these issues.

ACOG’s State Legislative Conference was held in Sept. 2011 and Mike McCoy, MD and Thad Anderson, MD attended for Iowa. Discussion topics were: Medical Liability Reform, Midwifery Politics, Update on Federal Healthcare Reform, Reproductive Health Politics, ACOG’s Political Action Committee (PAC), Emerging Issues, and Maternal Mortality Review and Standardized Reporting. Physicians and state lobbyists from around the United

States shared legislative experiences and strategies, led by the experts from ACOG's National office. Iowa's issues are present in many other areas of the country and these discussions provide both instruction and warnings concerning trends in future state legislation. An Iowa ACOG Lobbying Day is planned for February 2012 at the Capitol in Des Moines.

Iowa Fellows were recognized with awards at ACOG's Annual Clinical Meeting in Washington, DC in May 2011. Stephen Hunter, MD PhD, received the ACOG/Merck and Company Research Award on Immunization. Thomas Gellhaus, MD was awarded the ACOG Outstanding District Service Award and the ACOG International Service Award the Annual Clinical Meeting in Washington, DC in May 2011.

Thomas Gellhaus, MD, led a medical mission to Bolivia in June 2011 that included Junior Fellow Sara Tikkanen, MD. Their team provided cervical screening, preventative health counseling, and surgical interventions. Future mission trips are planned and financial support for residents/Junior Fellows will be provided by the Iowa Section, University of Iowa OB-GYN Alumni Society, and the OB-GYN Department at the University of Iowa. These trips provide the residents with surgical experiences that are hard to match stateside.

ACOG members serve in several leadership positions for our state medical society. The Iowa Medical Society (IMS) Board of Directors has Curtis Page, MD, re-elected as the representative from District 1. Thad Anderson, MD, has been appointed as Chair of the Maternal Mortality Committee, Mike McCoy, MD serves on the IMS Legislative Committee, and Joe Hwang, MD serves on the Medical Services Committee. An ACOG Iowa Section meeting at the IMS annual meeting in April 2012 in Des Moines is being planned.

Junior Fellows(JF) Rachel Mejia, DO (Chair) and Aman Mahal, MD (Vice Chair) have rejuvenated ACOG for the residents at the University of Iowa. They both attended the JF District VI Interim meeting and the Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) in Washington, DC this past spring. They also participated in the JF Fall meeting in Chicago, IL. A service project at a Chicago area women/children's shelter was part of that meeting. The Iowa Junior Fellows are having a local diaper drive and also a can drive with the pediatrics department for the Crisis Center of Johnson County. Residents and faculty met with the Medical Students OB-GYN interest group, the Leopold's Society, in August to answer questions and concerns about the residency application process. Twelve students matched this past spring in OB-GYN residencies, the most

University of Iowa students in recent years. Junior Fellow mentoring of medical students is important for the future of our specialty.

The Iowa Section meeting was held on Friday, Oct. 28, 2011, as part of the University of Iowa Postgraduate Conference. The keynote speaker was Jim Scott, MD, the Editor of Obstetrics and Gynecology (the Green journal). His topics were "The VBAC Dilemma" and "Don't Believe Everything You Read – An Editor's View". Other topics were "A Case for the Resuscitation of Infants Born at Less Than 24 Weeks Gestation", "The Menopause Mess – What's New?", "Labor Management of the Obese Patient", "Operative Vaginal Delivery", "Obesity and Assisted Reproduction", and "Transvaginal Mesh vs. Traditional Repairs for Prolapse: Recent Evidence and FDA Warnings". Resident research presentations completed the educational component of the meeting. A luncheon meeting of the University of Iowa OB/GYN Alumni Society was held. The Iowa Section meeting was well attended and the Section budget was discussed. Our Section will again financially support the Leopold's Society (a medical student OB/GYN interest group), assist with expenses for Junior Fellows participating in international medical missions, and pay the ACOG dues for the OB/GYN residents at the University of Iowa. The Iowa Section will send five Fellows and two Junior Fellows to the

Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) this coming February. Two Fellows and one Junior Fellow will be financially supported by the Iowa Section to attend the CLC. The Kinnick Stadium skybox was the site of the closing reception for our meeting.

New Section officers up for election in 2012 are Mike McCoy, MD, for Chair, Marygrace Elson, MD, for Vice Chair, and Colleen Stockdale, MD, for Secretary/Treasurer.

University of Iowa OB/GYN Department Chair, Dr. Kimberly Leslie, is planning a University of Iowa Reception at the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting in San Diego, CA in May 2012.

***Thad Anderson, Iowa Section Chair***