research topics

❖ Surgical treatments for pelvic organ prolapse
❖ Therapies for recurrent pregnancy loss
❖ Preterm labor prevention in women with a short cervix
❖ Intrauterine device placement at the time of cesarean section
❖ Health risks in offspring conceived using IVF
❖ Molecular basis for infection-induced preterm labor
❖ Improve patient safety by using team training and simulation
❖ Identify optimal biologic agents to treat recurrent ovarian cancer
❖ Overcome barriers to treatment of perinatal depression
❖ Improve placental function in fetal growth restriction
❖ Maternal sleep disturbance and preeclampsia
❖ Maternal obesity and health consequences for their offspring
❖ Embryo quality indicators to reduce the risk of multiple gestation
❖ Prevention of ovarian or uterine cancer
❖ Optimize gynecologic surgery via simulation and skills training
❖ Prevent and treat chronic pelvic pain syndromes
I am most pleased to present our 2009 annual report in which the accomplishments from our department at NorthShore are chronicled. In reflecting on the emphasis for this year’s chairman’s message I decided to focus attention on the research that we are conducting as I believe it distinguishes us from the majority of community-based academic departments nationwide. It is also the case that our research agenda mirrors many of our clinical strengths and departmental areas of emphasis. Distributed throughout the annual report is evidence of the scientific inquiry that continues to grow each year by all objective parameters. We have included a summary of the presentations of original work at national specialty meetings (40 more compared to the prior year), a list of the publications in a variety of key journals (almost doubled in 2009) and the growth we experienced in both new and continuing grant support as well as philanthropy that enables our research to be conducted (58% year over year increase). However, when reviewing all these quantitative accomplishments, the real ‘research message’ can easily be obscured by these positive parameters. What I am talking about are the actual questions that our physician scientists and their collaborators are seeking to answer and the impact their answers may have on patient care now and into the future. To illustrate my point I have listed representative research topics in the margin to the left. You will note the wide variety of reproductive health topics in our specialty that department members explore. When our body of research is viewed in this way, the potential impact on our patients’ future care becomes more readily apparent. Answers to any one of these research questions could significantly improve the health of the families cared for by our department membership.

I am extremely proud to be associated with the clinician scientists responsible for this work and likewise grateful to those additional personnel within each research program whose daily efforts in 2009 made these accomplishments possible. I am committed to further augmenting our faculty research roster in 2010 as we prepare to support a very exciting initiative being undertaken by NorthShore: an innovative, enterprise-wide Center for Clinical Research Informatics. The intent of this transformational moment is to effectively utilize our Epic-based data warehouse to perform a myriad of prospective clinical trials as well as comparative effectiveness research in response to results from randomized clinical trials and meta-analyses. Our overarching goal is to determine how to effectively introduce proven clinical treatments and strategies at the bedside while simultaneously reducing risk and enhancing cost effectiveness. Translating new discoveries into clinical care with greater efficiency and safety is our agenda for this next decade.

Thanks for all you do in relation to our Department and for all your support in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Silver, MD
Clinical Professor and Chairman
Associate Dean and Chief Academic Officer
Division Reports
Emmet Hirsch, M.D.
Clinical Professor, Vice Chair for Faculty Development and Division Director

Clinical Mission and Services
The Division of Obstetrics exists to provide excellent care to pregnant, laboring and postpartum women minimizing discomfort and maximizing health outcomes for mothers and their babies. Equally important activities include providing excellent educational opportunities for students and residents and researching topics important to the outcome of pregnant women. Each of these endeavors occurs in a multidisciplinary culture of safety and collaboration.

2009 Achievements
1. The number of deliveries is strong at both the Highland Park and Evanston Hospitals obstetrical units in 2009. (See graph "Deliveries")

2. A successful transition to new undergraduate and graduate medical trainees in Obstetrics from the University of Chicago took place at Evanston Hospital. Physician Assistant students from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science began training at Highland Park Hospital.

3. The process of obstetrical care was redesigned to include Certified Nurse Midwives, Physician Assistants and Associate Resource Physicians teamed with house staff and Resource Physicians to enhance the learning experience and the delivery of care.

4. Obstetrics was the first clinical section to create and utilize the power of data captured from the fully integrated Epic electronic medical record. The Epic Data Warehouse OB Data Mart was inaugurated and is already being mined for quality assurance and research activities to increase both the accuracy and comprehensiveness of our clinical data collection.

5. The focus on safety initiatives included a broad educational program on obstetrical hemorrhage geared to all members of our multidisciplinary team, including obstetricians, midwives, family medicine doctors, colleagues from Anesthesia, Nursing, Blood Bank and clerical staff. An Obstetrical Rapid Response Team has been established, hemorrhage emergency carts have been prepared and drills have been conducted across the institution to prepare for hemorrhage emergencies.

Highlights
Minor gynecological procedures, such as surgical treatment for miscarriages, are being performed in the Labor Room at Evanston Hospital, which is an important activity that produces high levels of satisfaction for patients dealing with difficult circumstances.

The OB Practice Committee has now published 37 guidelines for clinical care which appear on the NorthShore University HealthSystem intranet and are frequently consulted in support of clinical decision making.
Kenneth Nelson, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor, Vice Chair for Quality and Division Director

**Clinical Mission and Services**
The Division of Gynecology includes all of our Department’s specialists and encompasses the disciplines of office practice, adolescent gynecology, contraceptive and family planning services as well as surgical procedures in both out-patient and in-patient settings. The Department recognizes that gynecologic surgery in particular is an iterative area within our specialty. As such, members are committed to lifelong and collaborative learning for the benefit of our patients. Our Division’s collegial culture is manifested by preceptor programs in which more experienced Department members proctor others in order to elevate the quality and procedure-related expertise across the Division.

**2009 Achievements**
1. Gynecological surgery volume remains strong and has realized important growth with the assimilation of NorthShore University HealthSystem’s (NorthShore) fourth surgery facility – Skokie Hospital. (See graph "NorthShore University HealthSystem Gynecologic Surgery Cases")

2. The NorthShore Gynecological training rotations received high marks from our new academic affiliate, the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago with phenomenal teaching across dozens of faculty members noted. NorthShore has doubled the residents’ surgical experience available for learning, as well as increased the breadth and depth of case exposure.

3. The Gynecologic Morbidity and Mortality Committee has fully developed the process of case identification, review and resolution. The Committee has reviewed more than 40 instances of identified encounters that warranted additional scrutiny, along with converting findings into institutional and individual learning through targeted educational opportunities. The product of this quality initiative included development of an educational initiative on the topic of informed consent.

4. For the full year in 2009, NorthShore Gynecology has performed exceptionally in compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid’s (CMS) Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) performance measures. Collectively our gynecological surgeons out-performed 5 of the 6 SCIP goals for safe, high-quality surgery. (See table "Surgical Care Improvement Project *(SCIP) – NorthShore 2009 Performance Results")

**Highlights**
Planning for a collaborative research initiative has been completed. Our Division is partnering with the Department of Pathology to gather and analyze data on compliance with guidelines related to human papillomavirus (HPV) and Pap smear screening and the subsequent impact on women’s health.

Our quality initiative is underway to develop and communicate effective physician "report cards" combining individual SCIP data with complications, cost of case, length of stay and loyalty data compared to peers and national benchmarks, where available.
Gynecologic Oncology

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor and Division Director

Clinical Mission & Services
The Division of Gynecologic Oncology is committed to a multidisciplinary approach to treating women with malignant or pre-malignant conditions of the gynecologic tract. Our mission is to provide comprehensive and compassionate care for our patients while performing basic and clinical research that will make a significant impact in our community and beyond.

2009 Achievements
1. Patients are now able to undergo diagnosis and treatment with greatly improved access. Physicians are seeing patients at the Highland Park Hospital and Glenbrook Hospital campuses, in addition to Evanston, and have expanded clinic hours to enhance convenience for patients.

2. The Division hosted its second annual NorthShore University HealthSystem Gynecologic Oncology Symposium in cooperation with the University of Chicago. In 2009 Philip DiSaia, M.D. was the keynote speaker preceded in 2008 by William Creasman, M.D. We were honored to have both Drs. DiSaia and Creasman because of their enormous contributions to the field of gynecologic oncology.

3. The Division of Gynecologic Oncology continues to be recognized for outstanding patient loyalty. The Net Promotor Score is defined as the percentage of surveyed patients who respond that they are very likely to recommend the NorthShore gynecologic oncologists minus those that are neutral or negative. Within its peer group of more than 650 physicians, as well as national benchmarks, Gynecologic Oncology maintains exceptional rankings.

4. The NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) gynecologic oncology robotics program has become fully established in Gynecologic Oncology for the surgical staging of endometrial cancer under the leadership of Carolyn Kirschner, M.D.

5. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) awarded a grant to NorthShore to continue follow up of patients who were enrolled in a national cooperative group trial (GOG199) run by the Gynecologic Oncology Group. Eligibility for enrollment in GOG199 was based on a high genetic risk of ovarian cancer. Women who enrolled in the trial underwent a novel ovarian cancer screening approach or prophylactic salpingo-oophorectomy due to their elevated risk. Dr. Gus Rodriguez is the lead investigator for the NorthShore arm of this trial and NorthShore’s accrual to the trial was the highest in the country resulting in significant additional funding.

6. Jean Hurteau, M.D.’s clinical research trial evaluating the use of tamoxifen compared to thalidomide in women with biochemically recurrent ovarian cancer was accepted for plenary presentation at the opening session of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists’ 2010 annual meeting. The data from this trial is compared with the recently completed European trial evaluating the use of delayed chemotherapy in this same population of patients.

7. Dr. Kirschner traveled to Nigeria for an extended mission to serve women with the debilitating complication of vesicovaginal fistula.

8. Dr. Rodriguez was awarded a grant from Bears Care to support research related to ovarian cancer prevention.
Gynecologic Oncology (continued)

**Goals/Next**
The Division is eager to fully integrate the gynecologic oncology academic program with the University of Chicago, including a pending application to establish a new joint gynecologic oncology fellowship.

Patient access will expand as a result of developing clinical presence at Skokie Hospital, thereby providing gynecologic oncology coverage to all four NorthShore hospitals.

Dr. Rodriguez is the recipient of a large federal grant from the Department of Defense to support endometrial and ovarian cancer research. As a result, recruitment is underway for a basic scientist to augment the basic research mission.

**Highlights**
Dr. Hurteau was an invited speaker at the annual Winter Meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology. His topic was targeted therapies in endometrial cancer. He was also an invited speaker at the ovarian cancer survivors course in both Chicago and St. Louis in collaboration with Northwestern and Washington Universities.

Dr. Rodriguez presented findings in plenary format along with the collaborative researchers at Georgetown University and Walter Reed/NCI at the annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. This research demonstrated in a mouse model of endometrial cancer that vitamin D prevents carcinogenesis in mice fed an obesity-inducing diet.

Dr. Rodriguez was an invited speaker at the Gynecologic Oncology State of the Art conference in Washington D.C. His topic was on chemoprevention in gynecologic cancers. He also gave two talks on chemoprevention both in ovarian and endometrial cancer at the survivors course hosted by the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation in Washington.

Dr. Rodriguez has become the first holder of the Matthews Family Chair in Gynecologic Oncology Research to support the development of an effective ovarian cancer preventive agent. In fact, the Division has benefited from more than ten years of uninterrupted federal funding.

Dr. Hurteau has actively served the Society for Gynecologic Oncologists regionally and nationally, specifically as a member of the Educational Committee to help educate physicians and women on the issues of gynecologic cancers.

Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D.
reproductive endocrinology and infertility

John Rinehart, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor and Division Director

Clinical Mission and Services
The Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) is composed of highly trained physicians qualified to meet the clinical needs of women and men who struggle with reproductive challenges. The Division is dedicated to obtaining the best possible outcomes using the latest effective technology and is committed to advancing the art and science through research and education.

2009 Achievements
1. The evolutionary trend in REI as a highly technical but office based specialty continued in 2009. Changing technology has vastly increased the information available to patients and general gynecologists that can improve patient’s care.

2. The assimilation of the Skokie Hospital campus into NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) brought significant growth in the number of active REI specialists in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. This created opportunity for many more physicians to participate in the educational activities of the Division. REI faculty participates in the third year medical student curriculum, in addition to John Rinehart, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.’s academic contribution to the REI training for the Saint Francis residents who rotate through his practice during their third year of residency.

3. Dr. Rinehart is an active member of both the Department Executive Committee and the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC). Because the area of reproductive medicine has consistently been at the forefront of medical ethics, Dr. Rinehart brings the most recently published guidelines about embryo transfer policies, as well as the definition of research, to the IEC. Both provide challenges to the practice of reproductive endocrinology.

4. The Division of REI has provided education for both the community and the professional staff so that new developments and improvements can be utilized by patients and doctors. Finally, the Division continues its research activities.

Highlights
Recent research advances in oocyte cryopreservation have allowed use of this technology with reasonable expectations of success.

Work is also progressing on developments to allow for the transfer of fewer high quality embryos in in vitro fertilization with reduction of the risk of multiple pregnancies while maintaining high levels of success.

Carolyn Coulam, M.D. continues to publish prolifically in the area of recurrent pregnancy loss. Dr. Coulam was an invited guest lecturer for the Seventh European Congress on Reproductive Immunology in Marathon, Greece and the Twelfth International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction in Varna, Bulgaria.
Frank Tu, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Assistant Professor and Division Director

Clinical Mission and Services
The Division of Gynecological Pain and Minimally Invasive Surgery (GPMIS) brings the skills and experience of subspecialists in female chronic pelvic pain and laparoscopic surgery to the NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) clinical, academic and research community.

2009 Achievements
1. The addition of Skokie Hospital to our health system brought another veteran partner to the Division of GPMIS. Howard Topel, M.D. joined the Division having been an inaugural partner in the Center for Women’s Health at Skokie.

2. Sangeeta Senapati, M.D., M.S., was chosen to serve the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine as Associate Site Director responsible for resident training programs at the Evanston Hospital campus. Dr. Senapati has made an important contribution that has resulted in a smooth transition with our new academic affiliation.

3. GPMIS has experienced 48% growth in clinical services provided in the last fiscal year. This growth in the Division is directly attributable to improved patient access as the Highland Park Hospital Center for Pelvic Health and the Skokie Center for Women’s Health became fully operational.

4. GPMIS has provided leadership and coordination for the Center for Pelvic Health – a uniquely integrated complement of subspecialists collaborating to provide a single location for a team of sub-specialists relating to women’s health issues. Team members include Urogynecology, General Surgery, Gastroenterology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, along with Integrative Medicine and Radiology providing support services.

Highlights
Dr. Tu is the principal investigator for an educational trial in collaboration with physician educators at Yale University and Cedars Sinai Medical Center to develop a model for effectively teaching hysteroscopic procedures.

The GPMIS Division has instituted monthly meetings to collaborate on care provided by Center for Pelvic Health sub-specialists. Procedures are reviewed and options for care discussed which has provided patients with all available options to be actively involved in the management of their conditions. Patients have clearly reported satisfaction with the outcomes and the process of care at the Center for Pelvic Health.

The collaborative spirit of the Center for Pelvic Health is best illustrated with a specific patient experience. A particular patient had a fibroid uterus prior to her pregnancy and delivery that became 27.5 cm after delivery. In addition to the inherent risks during pregnancy, she experienced debilitating pain that negatively impacted every facet of her life. She was able to access expertise from Maternal-Fetal Medicine during her pregnancy; Internal Medicine managed her postpartum depression resulting from pain; a neonatal team for her 35-week infant; Hematology-Oncology managed blood clots post operatively, as well as prophylactically during her hysterectomy, and Interventional Radiology embolized her uterine blood supply to minimize post-operative complications – all performed during her laparoscopic procedure. The team was gratified to witness a transformative outcome in this patient’s quality of life post-procedure.

Dr. Tu’s research was recognized with the 2009 Best Research Award at the International Pelvic Pain Society’s 2009 Annual Meeting.

The Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology honored Dr. Senapati with a 2009 Faculty Award.
Clinical Mission and Services

The Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) is a group of nine board certified or board eligible sub-specialists committed to clinical service, research and educational opportunities related to patients with high-risk pregnancies and their referring physicians. The Division’s commitment to quality and loyalty is in evidence in the primary Center for Maternal and Fetal Health’s (CMFH) Fetal Diagnostic Center (FDC) at Evanston Hospital and in each of the eight other sites at Glenbrook, Highland Park, Lake Forest, St. Francis, Northwest Community, Condell, Swedish Covenant Hospitals and NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Medical Group’s Gurnee ambulatory site.

2009 Achievements

1. The MFM Division’s clinical programs have focused on service excellence and timely consultation to our patients and referring physicians. Driven by that goal, the Gurnee, Highland Park and Condell Hospital sites have expanded services to accommodate the growing number of referrals at those sites, while maintaining all services at each of the other sites.

2. Amanda Horton, M.D. is the newest physician to join the Division having completed her fellowship at University of North Carolina. Other clinical and administrative staff supporting the Division includes five genetic counselors, four MFM nurses, four FDC nurses, four research nurses, eleven ultrasonographers, a nurse assistant, support secretary, billing staff and a research scientist. For our patients with diabetes or multiple gestations, a prenatal dietician and certified diabetic educator are on staff to assist with their care.

3. The FDC has maintained certification through the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). It is interconnected electronically through the image archiving system and Epic electronic medical record. Access to Epic through any internet connection insures that the patient’s record is always available and has proven to improve care and enhance the patient’s access and experience. Again in 2009, we have upgraded these systems to continually improve communication between MFM sub-specialists and referring physicians.

4. Ian Grable, M.D., M.P.H, has provided oversight and ongoing assessment of the Safer Healthcare program. With the support of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NorthShore was one of the first health systems in the Chicago metropolitan area to introduce this program. Safer Healthcare is designed to improve patient safety at the Evanston and Highland Park Hospitals’ Labor and Delivery units. Additionally, after completion of Shoulder Dystocia training and drills, Dr. Grable spearheaded the Obstetric Hemorrhage training to focus on another major risk for our patients.

5. The commitment to quality extends to educational programs and research output. The Division of MFM provides key educational experiences for the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine students and residents, as well as for referring physicians and nursing staff. The MFM professional staff are active educators via student lectures, four weekly educational conferences for students and residents, in addition to supervision of two high-risk obstetric clinics weekly at the Evanston campus. Plans are underway for the division to collaborate with our University of Chicago affiliates in their MFM Fellowship training program.

6. The MFM Division provides educational opportunities for each of the network hospitals under the organization of Myra Sabini, R.N., Perinatal Center nurse coordinator. MFM physicians regularly attend department meetings and provide quarterly morbidity and mortality conferences at each of the hospitals in the network. In addition, our specialists are frequent lecturers at the network hospitals for the benefit of both physicians and nurses.
The CMFH is a very successful model of consolidation of MFM professional services and the Fetal Diagnostic Centers. The CMFH offers the latest technology and expertise and, in the past year, has provided over 30,000 services. Each ultrasonographer maintains certification in first trimester genetic screening - both nuchal translucency and nasal bone. It is one of few centers in the area offering evaluation of nasal bones as a routine component to aneuploidy screening, significantly increasing the detection rate of fetal aneuploidy. As a result, our center is recognized as a leader in first trimester screening for fetal aneuploidy.

Our Division has continued its commitment to clinical and laboratory research and a number of new projects have been developed during this past fiscal year. Mara Dinsmoor, M.D., M.P.H. provides leadership for our research efforts as the Director of Research. Her work focuses extensively on clinical trials sponsored by the National Institute Health’s (NIH) National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)-sponsored Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units (MFMU) Network. As one of only 14 centers nationwide, our participation affords patients enrollment in clinical trials. Recent studies have included use of Vitamins C and E to reduce preeclampsia in first pregnancies, use of omega-3 fatty acids to reduce preterm delivery in singleton pregnancies with prior history of preterm delivery, thyroid replacement therapy for subclinical hypothyroidism to improve fetal brain development and use of progesterone to reduce preterm delivery in patients with shortened cervix on ultrasound evaluation.

The Division currently has over 10 active, Institutional Review Board-approved clinical trials. Larry Thaete, Ph.D. and Mark Neerhof, D.O. are funded, collaborative researchers involved in the basic science of fetal growth restriction by evaluating the role of vasoactive mediators. Likewise, Beth Plunkett, M.D., M.P.H. is also a funded basic science researcher. Her translational research program is dedicated to the investigation of the determinants of fetal growth. She is currently investigating the role of maternal obesity in short- and long-term outcomes for offspring of these women. The NorthShore Perinatal Research Group is composed of professionals from Neonatology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine and has been very productive during the past year. The clinical and laboratory research of the Division has resulted in presentations at leading scientific research meetings and numerous publications in peer-review journals. Finally, our division is now collaborating with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago on approved research trials.

James Perkins, M.D.,
Mark Neerhof, D.O.,
Michele Vo and her baby,
Alanya Grace
urogynecology and reconstructive surgery

Peter Sand, M.D.
Clinical Professor and Division Director

Clinical Mission and Services
The Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Surgery is dedicated to improving the care of women with incontinence, painful bladder syndrome, voiding dysfunction and other pelvic floor abnormalities. The Division is actively involved in the education of residents and medical students and also maintains an American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology-approved three-year fellowship and is recognized nationally as one of the premier centers for clinical care and research in urogynecology.

2009 Achievements
1. 2009 was a very exciting year for growth in the Division of Urogynecology. With new practice sites at the Highland Park and Skokie Hospital campuses, we now have four locations to provide comprehensive patient access throughout our geographical area. Additionally, the assimilation of Skokie Hospital into our health system added numerous respected specialists practicing urogynecology to the NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) professional staff.

2. We were fortunate to have attracted a fourth senior faculty member, Janet Tomeszsko, M.D., to join us at NorthShore. Dr. Tomeszsko completed her fellowship training in our Division 12 years ago, is an excellent clinician and surgeon, and will be a great asset to NorthShore physicians and patients. She is developing her practice at the Lincoln Park Continence Center with Sylvia Botros, M.D. and Peter Sand, M.D., on the Evanston campus, and in our new Skokie Hospital campus clinic.

3. The Center for Pelvic Health in the Ambulatory Care Center on the Highland Park Hospital campus, gained traction with full staffing this year from the Division of Urogynecology, as well as, Gynecological Pain and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Gastroenterology, Alternative Medicine, Physical Therapy, and Nutrition. This is a multidisciplinary center where women with pelvic floor dysfunction may be seen by experts in several different fields and benefit from their combined expertise. This unique center offers the finest comprehensive care for our patients and is becoming the model for how women with pelvic floor disorders will be cared for in the future.

Highlights
The academic achievements of the Division of Urogynecology were especially noteworthy in 2009. Dr. Sand was elected as the President of the International Urogynecological Association (IUA) and Dr. Botros was elected as Chairman of the Fellows Research Committee of the IUA. Meanwhile, Roger Goldberg, M.D. was elected as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the American Urogynecologic Association.

The Division continued to excel academically with 48 scientific presentations at national and international meetings and the members of the Division published 31 peer-reviewed scientific articles, and added eight funded research trials during the fiscal year.

The Division of Urogynecology was clinically productive with 1294 new patient visits (See graph "Urogynecological New Patient Consults 2009") and over 5300 visits at all office sites.
Special Program Reports
Nancy Eschbach, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
Program Director

Clinical Mission and Services
The Perinatal Family Support Center (PFSC) provides a wide array of social and referral services to women and their families experiencing challenges related to pregnancy, birth, prematurity, or perinatal loss.

2009 Achievements
1. While the PFSC has become a highly-utilized and valuable resource over the years at the Evanston Hospital obstetrical and pediatric units, the Program expanded to standardize care across our health system. It now includes the obstetrical and pediatric units at Highland Park Hospital, as well as for the gynecologic patients at the Evanston Women's Hospital. Within the first three months, more than 100 patients and their families benefited from services at the Highland Park campus with unanimous support from patients, attending physicians and administrative leadership.

2. The PFSC launched the new Perinatal Comfort Care Program for families experiencing a pregnancy in which the baby has been diagnosed with a life-limiting condition.

3. Clinical services were provided to 1468 patients and/or their families, in addition to 70 teens who attended prenatal and parenting education classes, 275 children participating in Sibling Tours in anticipation of the birth of a new sibling and distribution of more than 3400 books through the Child and Adolescent Clinic to promote literacy as part of the Reach Out and Read program in 2009.

4. The NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Associate Board established the Emergency Family Fund providing concrete assistance to families in need.

5. PFSC social worker, Jane Richman, L.C.S.W. gave multiple presentations throughout NorthShore and the community on Cultural Diversity in healthcare.

6. PFSC social worker, Nancy Goldin, L.C.S.W., presented talks to the extended Perinatal Network participants related to clinical services available to perinatal loss patients.

Highlights
The PFSC again in 2009 is recognized for the unique relationship-based care model that is offered to all patients. The same social worker provides clinical social work services throughout the pregnancy and postpartum period.

PFSC staff has made a significant leadership contribution within the community serving in numerous organizations. Ms. Eschbach is a member of the Perinatal Advisory Committee of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Vermont Oxford Network Multidisciplinary Committee. Mayra Soto, L.C.S.W., serves on the Evanston Head Start Advisory Board and the Leadership Consortium for Pregnant and Parenting Teens.
Women are at greatly increased risk for clinical depression and its potentially devastating outcomes during the perinatal period. The Perinatal Depression Program (PDP) provides proactive universal screening for depression in both the pre- and post-natal periods using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS). The program also provides an immediate, live telephone response to at-risk women by a trained and licensed professional 24/7/365 for information, advice or referral to an appropriate mental health provider.

**2009 Achievements**

1. A record number of women (4813) were screened in 2009 resulting in identification of 472 women at-risk. Likewise the calls to the 866-364-MOMS hotline reached a new level of 497. (See graphs "Mood Screen Volumes" and "Hotline Call Volumes")

2. The EPDS was fully incorporated into the Epic electronic medical record. For the first time, attending physicians had immediate and ubiquitous access to depression screening scores for their patients promoting efficiency and enhancing continuity of care for women in the perinatal period.

3. Longitudinal research revealed that women who experience the PDP screening and services report increased overall satisfaction with their obstetric care as compared with patients not provided with screening.

4. 969 women received psychological support at no cost and 543 of these women accepted community mental health referrals.

5. Outreach to screen women for perinatal depression extended to Pediatrics. This pilot program enables increased identification of at-risk women beyond the six-week obstetrical follow up and promises to be an important component of the program.

**Highlights**

The PDP hotline (supported in part by the State of Illinois) gained sufficient maturity to have warranted redesign of the mental health professional staffing model and clinical processes in 2009. The program now boasts 12 additional licensed mental health professionals along with fully-developed recruiting, hiring, orienting and performance management tools to standardize the process of care.

Jo Kim, Ph.D., was awarded the NorthShore Research Institute’s Pilot Grant Award and she presented her research work on barriers to depression treatment at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Hawaii.
obstetrics coverage program

Richard Adis, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Program Director and Vice Chair – Highland Park Hospital

Loren Hutter, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor and Program Director – Evanston Hospital

Clinical Mission and Services
The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's unwavering commitment to safe and adequate on-site physician coverage for obstetrical patients was demonstrated again in 2009. The Obstetrics Coverage Program at both of the NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) campuses with Labor and Delivery units has robust schedules to ensure that physicians are available for patients regardless of their ability to pay for care and to simultaneously provide outstanding oversight and teaching for our medical trainees.

2009 Achievements
1. The 2009 economic downturn with its resulting high unemployment rates were felt throughout the country and particularly in the NorthShore Obstetrics Coverage Program. More women presented requiring obstetrical care and with financial need than in prior years. The program met this strong community need and is poised to continue these service levels.

2. More than 40 NorthShore physicians provided time and services to the program and fully supported the transition to our new academic affiliate, the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago. Our attending physicians were important participants in welcoming, orienting and training the residents and students new to our campus.

3. The Obstetrics Coverage Program participants at Evanston Hospital were instrumental team members in redesigning our comprehensive coverage plan to incorporate mid-level providers including Certified Nurse Midwives, Physician Assistants, and Associate Resource Physicians. They demonstrated leadership and team building with the newcomers and the nursing staff in Labor and Delivery.

4. In 2009 the Evanston Hospital program moved toward 360 degree feedback for the Program participating physicians. Residents and nurses were provided the opportunity to anonymously evaluate the attending physicians for their availability/accessibility, teaching and support/helpfulness. The results indicated a very cohesive and supportive multi-disciplinary team. Feedback was tabulated in aggregate and also provided to each physician with his or her ranking relative to the peer group. Physicians were able to use these data to identify areas for improvement and the supporting staff satisfaction improved as a consequence of the ability to share their perspectives.
NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology finished the 2008-9 academic year with excellent results and made an outstanding transition to our new academic affiliate – University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine. NorthShore, University of Chicago and the physicians of tomorrow agree that we have a strong start and measurable results.

H. Jacob Saleh, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor and Site Director

Clinical Mission and Services
In collaboration with our Pritzker colleagues, we facilitated six rotations of four to six students for four weeks each. Additionally, we were able to provide fourth year elective training rotations in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Obstetrics.

The NorthShore clerkship experience is divided among daytime obstetric service, night call, gynecology and individual mentoring with faculty. Each of our sub-specialties provides breadth and depth to the educational experience that gives students hands-on knowledge necessary for a decision to concentrate on a specific area of study.

2009 Achievements
1. Unaffected by a transition to University of Chicago, senior students selected NorthShore to complete fourth-year electives in addition to students from top medical schools in the U.S. and Europe who completed month-long elective rotations/observerships in our Department.

2. Our faculty has embraced the opportunities with University of Chicago and has built upon our long tradition of academic excellence. The lecture topics and lecturer roster has grown and now includes several new members. The students highly value their experience with the daytime attending coverage program physicians under the leadership of Loren Hutter, M.D.

3. The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics honored Dr. Hani Saleh with the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award for his outstanding work with medical students.

4. The Holden K. Farrar Jr., M.D. Teacher of the Year and Lecturer of the Year Awards went to Dr. Hani Saleh and Jeremy Miller, M.D., respectively.

5. Reported student satisfaction with the overall experience at Pritzker School of Medicine and NorthShore has improved significantly since our affiliation. Formal student evaluations demonstrate a 13% improvement – one of the most dramatic improvements since the evaluation process began 13 years ago.
graduate medical education

Beth Plunkett, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Assistant Professor and Site Director
Sangeeta Senapati, M.D., M.S.
Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Site Director

Clinical Mission and Services
In collaboration with our academic affiliates, we hosted ten cohorts of seven to ten residents. In addition to Pritzker School of Medicine, we are able to work with St. Francis Hospital’s Obstetrics and Gynecology residency training program with at least one resident on site year round. The NorthShore experience provides clinical experience, as well as academic, didactic and research opportunities.

2009 Achievements
1. The University of Chicago residents report a rich training environment at NorthShore including low-risk and high-risk obstetrics. We continue to provide excellent opportunities in amniocentesis, operative vaginal delivery and breech delivery. Their gynecologic training includes a robust surgical case mix with many opportunities for complex, non-routine cases. Minimally invasive cases are abundant including robotic assisted myomectomy and hysterectomy.

2. Our Outpatient Department continues to play a critical educational role in the outpatient environment, providing all of the University of Chicago residents with their "Continuity Clinic" experience. NorthShore’s continued dedication to this underserved population accomplishes the dual goals of meeting the medical needs of these patients while supporting the ambulatory education of our residents.
Staff
The Department realized unprecedented growth in new members in 2009. Each is playing a critical role in realizing our goals of outstanding clinical care, leading academics, and recognized research.

Varkha Agrawal, Ph.D., M.Sc., completed her graduate training and her research fellowship at Jiwaji University, Gwalior, India. She is a Post Doctoral Research Fellow in preterm labor studies.

Anna Maria Bonadonna, M.D., received her medical degree from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Loyola University Foster G. McGaw Hospital. She practices general gynecology at NorthShore Medical Group at Skokie Hospital.

Anne Borkowski, M.D., received her medical degree from Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine. She completed her residency at St. Francis Hospital and her fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. She is in private practice with Susan Davies, M.D.

Kristen Buttelmann, P.A., received her Master's of Medical Science from Midwestern University. She serves as a physician assistant for the Department at Evanston Hospital.

Catherine Eppes, M.D., received her medical degree from University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She completed her residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and is currently training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She serves as an OB Coverage physician at Evanston Hospital.

Tracy Wandtke Herrmann, C.N.M., received her Master's of Science in Nursing from Marquette University. She serves as a certified nurse midwife for the Department at Evanston Hospital's Labor and Delivery unit.

Amanda Horton, M.D., received her medical degree from University of Miami School of Medicine. She completed her residency and her fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at University of North Carolina Hospitals. She practices in the NorthShore Medical Group, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine with Drs. Mara Dinsmoor, Loraine Endres, Ian Grable, Scott MacGregor, Mark Neerhof, David Ouyang, Beth Plunkett, and Richard Silver.

Kim Johnson, M.D., received her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine. She began her residency at Providence Hospital in Southfield, Michigan and completed it at Brigham and Women's Hospital of Massachusetts General Hospital. She is in private practice with Drs. Gail Goldberg, Pamela Goodwin, and H. Jacob Saleh.

Inbar Kirson, M.D., received her medical degree from Rush Medical College. She completed her residency at Lutheran General Hospital. She is in private practice with Dr. Michael Benson.

Sigal Klipstein, M.D., received her medical degree from University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. She began her residency at Northwestern University Medical Center and completed it at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She completed fellowships in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School. She is in private practice.
Lisa Lewis, P.A.-C, received her Master’s of Physician Assistant Studies from University of Nebraska Medical Center. She completed her OB/GYN residency at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. She serves as a physician assistant for the Department at Evanston Hospital.

Irene Moy, M.D., received her medical degree from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine. She completed her residency and is currently training in Reproductive Biology at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. She serves as an OB Coverage physician at Evanston Hospital.

Michael Noone, M.D., received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center and his fellowship in Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery and Urogynecology at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. He is in private practice.

Mary Ellen Pavone, M.D., received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital and is currently training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Northwestern University. She serves as an OB Coverage physician at Evanston Hospital.

Sameena Rahman, M.D., received her medical degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed her residency at University of Massachusetts. She practices general obstetrics and gynecology at NorthShore Medical Group with Dr. Jeffrey Lerch.

Olga Ramm, M.D., received her medical degree from University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Northwestern University’s McGaw Medical Center and is currently training in Urogynecology at Loyola University Medical Center. She serves as an OB Coverage physician at Evanston Hospital.

Noreen Stewart, B.S., received her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University. She is serving as Research Assistant in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Janet Tomezsko, M.D., received her medical degree from Hahnemann University School of Medicine. She completed her residency at Lehigh Valley Hospital and her fellowship in Urogynecology, Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery at Northwestern University’s Evanston Continence Center. She practices in the NorthShore Medical Group, Division of Urogynecology with Drs. Sylvia Botros, Roger Goldberg, and Peter Sand.

Howard Topel, M.D., received his medical degree from Loyola Medical School. He completed his residency at Michael Reese Hospital. He practices in the NorthShore Medical Group, Division of Gynecologic Pain and Minimally Invasive Surgery with Drs. Sangeeta Senapati and Frank Tu.

Brett Vassallo, M.D., received his medical degree from University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed his residency at University of Chicago Hospitals and his fellowship in Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. He is in private practice.
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Kenneth Nelson, M.D.
Chimene Pellar, M.D.
Beth Plunkett, M.D., M.P.H.
John Rinehart, M.D., J.D., Ph.D.
Gustavo Rodriguez, M.D.
H. Jacob Saleh, M.D.
Peter Sand, M.D.
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\(^4\) Pathology
\(^5\) Risk Management
\(^6\) Preventive Medicine
\(^7\) Pharmacy
\(^8\) Research
\(^9\) Family Medicine
\(^10\) Pathology
\(^11\) Infection Control
\(^12\) Research
### Obstetricians/Gynecologists, Certified Nurse Midwives and Sub-Specialists of NorthShore University HealthSystem

#### GYNECOLOGICAL PAIN AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

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#### GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

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#### MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

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#### OBSTETRICS/ GYNECOLOGY

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#### Gynecology

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Site PI: **Mara Dinsmoor, M.D., M.P.H.** National Institute of Child Health and Human Development #HD040512-06 Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network (PI Alan Peaceman Northwestern University), Randomized clinical trials of antioxidants to prevent preeclampsia, treatment for mild gestational diabetes, thyroid replacement for mothers with subclinical hypothyroidism or hypothyroxinemia and 17 alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate for prevention of preterm birth in nulliparous women with a short cervix; 2006 – present

PI: **Emmet Hirsch, M.D.** March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Prematurity Research Initiative Program Grant (#21-FY06-573), Prevention of toll-like receptor-dependent preterm birth; 2007 - 2010

PI: **Emmet Hirsch , M.D.** March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Prematurity Research Initiative Program Grant (#21-FY07-610), Defining the essential roles of maternal and fetal apolipoprotein-E and interleukin-1 in parturition; 2008 - 2011


PI: **Emmet Hirsch, M.D.** National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, (1R01 HD056118) Toll-like receptor signaling in the pathogenesis and prevention of prematurity; 2008 - 2013


PI: **Jo Kim Ph.D.** NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute Pilot Grant, 2009

Co-I: **David W. Ouyang, M.D.,** Preeclampsia Foundation (Co-I Francesca Facco, M.D.) Sleep-disordered Breathing During Pregnancy: Relationship with Preeclampsia, a Cohort Study

PI: **Beth Plunkett, M.D., M.P.H.** NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute Research Career Development Award, Maternal Adiposity as a Regulator of Fetal Growth and in Utero Programming of Fetal Adipocytes; 2009 - 2012

PI: **Beth Plunkett, M.D., M.P.H.** NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute Pilot Grant Award, Maternal Adiposity and Circulating Adipokines as Regulators of Fetal Growth and in Utero Programming of Fetal Adipocytes; 2009 - 2010

PI: **Gus Rodriguez, M.D.** Department of Defense, Development of Vitamin D and Progestin for the Chemoprevention of Ovarian and Endometrial Cancer; 2009 - 2014

PI: **Gus Rodriguez, M.D.** NorthShore University HealthSystem-University of Chicago Collaborative Pilot Award (Co-investigator), Metformin and Norethindrone for the Chemoprophylaxis of Ovarian Cancer; 2009 - 2010

PI: **Gus Rodriguez, M.D.** NorthShore University HealthSystem Pilot Award, Psychosocial Functioning and Patient Report Surgical Outcomes in Women with Endometrial Cancer; 2009 - 2010
PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Contura, A Single-Masked, Randomized, Multi-Center, 2-Arm Parallel Study Comparing the Safety and Effectiveness of Bulkamid and Contigen as bulking agents for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence in females

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Bioform, Post Approval Study of Coaptite in the Treatment of Female Urinary Incontinence

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Allergan, Efficacy and Safety and Duration of Action of Detrusor Muscle Injections of Botulinum Toxin Type A (BOTOX) in Subjects with Refractory Idiopathic Overactive Bladder (IOAB) Symptoms and Incontinence

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Watson, A MultiCenter Randomized Double Blind Parallel Group Evaluation of the Effectiveness and Safety of Uracyst (sodium chondroitin sulfate) Compared to Inactive Vehicle Control in Subjects with Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Antaeres, A Double-Blind, Randomized, Parallel, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Study Evaluating the Effect of Treatment with Topically Administered Oxybutynin Gel in Patients with Urinary Frequency, and Urge and Mixed Urinary Incontinence with a Predominance of Urge Incontinence Episodes with an open Label Extension

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Pfizer, A 12-Week, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Parallel-Group, Multicenter Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Fesoterodine Flexible Dose Regimen in Vulnerable Elderly Patients with Symptoms of Overactive Bladder

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Boston Scientific, Prospective Trial to Evaluate Mesh Augmented Sacrospinous Hysteropexy for Uterovaginal Prolapse

PI: Peter Sand, M.D.  Boston Scientific, Prospective Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing Single Incision and Transobturator Midurethral Sling for Female Stress Urinary Incontinence

PI: Larry Thaete, Ph.D.  NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute Career Development Award; 2009 – 2010

PI: Frank Tu, M.D.  NorthShore University HealthSystem Clinical Collaborative Research Program

Co-I: Frank Tu, M.D.  NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute/Medical Group Pilot Grant Award Program

Co-I: Frank Tu, M.D.  National Institutes of Health, U01 (DK82342-01) Multidisciplinary Approach to Chronic Pelvic Pain; 2008 - 2013

PI: Frank Tu, M.D.  National Institutes of Health K23 (HD05645-01) Career Development Award; 2008 - 2013
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Ouyang DW and Norwitz ER. 2009. Management of pregnant women with leiomyomas. In: UpToDate, Rose BD (Ed), Waltham, MA.


(Citations represent publications during calendar year 2009 along with prior publications not previously included in 2008 Annual Report.)


Botros S. 2009. The Impact of Incontinence on Sexual Function, presented at Advances in Urogynecology & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois.


Coulam CB, 2009. Diagnostic tools and immunomodulation in reproductive disorders. Presented at the 7th European Congress on Reproductive Immunology, Marathon, Greece.


Hirsch E, 2009. The case for the evidence: Lessons learned from the glorious and ignominious history of innovation in women’s health. Presented at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Indiana Section Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana.


Hirsch E, 2009. Inflammation and the pathophysiology of preterm birth: diverse origins, common outcomes? Presented at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Branch, Dallas, Texas.


Hurteau J, 2009. Panel discussant at the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation Survivors course-Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois.


Richman J, 2008-2009. Cultural Diversity in Health Care, multiple presentations to multiple audiences throughout NorthShore University HealthSystem.


Sand PK, 2009. Clinical Evaluation of the Female, presented at the 13th Annual Update in Gynecologic Urology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Aruba.

Sand PK, 2009. Effects of Labor & Delivery on the Lower Urinary Tract & Pelvic Floor, presented at the 13th Annual Update in Gynecologic Urology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Aruba.

Sand PK, 2009. Surgical Treatment of Anterior Compartment Defects, presented at the 13th Annual Update in Gynecologic Urology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Aruba.

Sand PK, 2009. Leak Point Pressure is not a Better Test for ISD, presented at the 13th Annual Update in Gynecologic Urology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Aruba.

Sand PK, 2009. Transobturator Midurethral Slings, presented at the 13th Annual Update in Gynecologic Urology, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine, Aruba.

Sand PK, 2009. Vaginal Approaches to Apical Prolapse, presented at the 9th Annual Female Pelvic Disorders Symposium, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Sand PK, 2009. Botox in Urogynecology, presented at the 9th Annual Female Pelvic Disorders Symposium, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.


Sand PK, 2009. Biological Adjuvant Grafts in the Anterior Compartment, presented at the 9th Annual Female Pelvic Disorders Symposium, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Sand PK, 2009. Transobturator Midurethral Slings for Mixed Incontinence, presented at the 9th Annual Female Pelvic Disorders Symposium, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.


Zinner N, Dmochowski RR, Staskin DR, Sand PK. 2008. Trospium Chloride Once Daily Extended-Release 60 mg Provides Effective, Long-Term Relief From Symptoms of OAB Syndrome, presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Section of the American Urologic Association, Monterey, California.


Hanno PM, Sand PK, Dmochowski R. 2009. Oxybutynin Chloride Topical Gel (OTG) on Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) in Adults with Overactive Bladder (OAB): A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study, presented at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the North Central Section of the American Urological Association, Scottsdale, Arizona.


Senapati S. 2009. Paper presented at Practice Patterns Post AAGL/SRS Fellowship in Gynecologic Endoscopy, AAGL.

Edelmann C, Roybal A, Senapati S, Pozolo K, Tu F. 2009. Is visceral pain a helpful construct in characterizing pelvic pain patients? Presented at the 1st Annual Joint Institutional Symposium at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago, IL.

Senapati S. 2009. The role of robot assisted laparoscopy in endometriosis surgery. ASRM Post graduate course, Atlanta, Georgia.


Thaete LG, Khan S, Neerhof MG, 2009. Endothelin receptor A antagonism prevents placental pathology caused by uterine ischemia/reperfusion-induced oxidative stress in the rat. Oral presentation at the 11th International Conference on Endothelin, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.


(Citations represent presentations and abstracts during calendar year 2009 along with prior presentations and abstracts not previously included in 2008 Annual Report.)
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