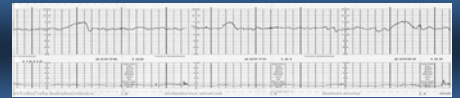


# THE MONITOR



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Historical Highlight	1
Faculty Spotlight	2
April Calendar	3
APGO/CREOG	4
News & Notes	4



*The Flexner Award, the AAMC's most prestigious honor, is granted annually to an individual for extraordinary contributions to the medical education community.*

## Historical Highlight

## OUR DEBT TO FLEXNER

The "Flexner Report," published in 1910, reformed medical education in the U.S.

Arguably, most physicians have never heard of Abraham Flexner. Although not a doctor, Flexner played a pivotal role in restructuring the way American physicians are trained today. Born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1866, Flexner demonstrated an early interest in educational endeavors. He graduated from Johns Hopkins at the age of 19 with a bachelor's degree in two years. He returned to Louisville and taught Greek and Latin for four years. In 1890, he opened his own progressive college preparatory school, earning him a reputation of educational success. He closed his school in 1904 and proceeded to Harvard for further study, only to leave one year later in disappointment with his educational experience.

Following the publication of his first book in 1908, Flexner was given the opportunity that launched his legacy. *The American College: A Criticism* was a collection of personal experiences that received little notice, except from Dr. Henry Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement. Dr. Pritchett tasked Flexner, a lay educator, to survey and report on medical education in the U.S. Over 18 months, Flexner visited all 155 medical schools, examining five principle areas, entrance requirements, size and training of the faculty, size of the endowment and tuition, quality of laboratories, and availability of teaching hospitals supporting the mission.

His observations were published in a monumental survey, *Medical Education in the United States and Canada* (1910), which noted a heterogeneous system of apprenticeships, proprietary schools, and university systems without standardized curricula, experiences, or philosophies. He noted that while the best American physicians rivaled those anywhere, "there is no other country in the world in which there is so great a distance and so fatal a difference between the best, the average, and worst." Flexner viewed medical education as a public health matter and the physician as a "social instrument." The Flexner Report led to increased admissions standards, closure of inferior medical schools, and standardization of curricula to integrate basic science and clinical practice. Abraham Flexner died in 1959. The Carnegie Foundation continues the mission of advancing the quality of medical education in the U.S. and honors Flexner's life-long work.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Christie Palladino, MD, MSc joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 2010. Dr. Palladino received her undergraduate degree from Davidson College before attending medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Following graduation from MUSC in 2003 with honors, she completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. During residency, she struggled with the reality that there was a lack of structured education in the recognition and management of perinatal depression. She made this realization her passion and began building a career in educational research.

Following residency, Dr. Palladino entered the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Clinical Scholars program at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. This highly respected fellowship program, recruits, trains, and advances physicians in all specialties to become leaders in research and policy. For the past 30 years, RWJF Clinical Scholars have gone on to be national leaders in health and health care policy. The program stresses training in quantitative and qualitative research methods in a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration.

At GHSU, Dr. Palladino has an appointment in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and serves as an educational researcher in the Education Innovation Institute. In addition to conducting her own research in perinatal depression, she provides consultation for MCG faculty on study design, data collection, and statistical analysis. Despite an excellent background and training in clinical practice, Dr. Palladino is following her passion as a full-time researcher. She has quickly become a national leader in perinatal depression. She has been named an Associate Editor of MedEdPORTAL, an online publication service of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that promotes educational collaboration. Also, Dr. Palladino is an abstract reviewer for the AAMC's Research in Medical Education Section and Group on Educational Affairs and a member of its Graduate Medical Education Section. She also is an abstract reviewer for the Southern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting. She is a manuscript reviewer for *Women and Health* and *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. She is a member of the National Network of Depression Centers' Women's Mood Disorders Task Force.



Dr. Christie Palladino is addressing a critical need in residency training. "There was no system-level support for providers," she says. "They felt as if they were making decisions out on an island."

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### PLEASE WELCOME DR. PAUL BROWNE!

Paul Browne, MD joins the GHSU faculty as an Associate Professor and Section Chief, Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Dr. Browne comes to GHSU from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine where he was on the faculty since April 2009. Before joining the faculty at USC, he served as the director of research and education for the Atlanta Maternal-Fetal Medicine Obstetrix Medical Group of Georgia.

## APRIL CALENDAR



- **April 2 – 8, 2012** – *Masters Week* - No Grand Rounds
- **April 11, 2012** – OB/Gyn Quality Assurance & Improvement Conference (7:30 AM in 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Surgical Amphitheater) – Departmental Staff and Invited Guests Only
- **April 18, 2012** – MFM-NICU Conference (7:30 AM 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Surgical Amphitheater)
- **April 25, 2012** – Grand Rounds (7:30 AM 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Surgical Amphitheater) – Mickie DeGennaro, CPC-OB/GYN, Professional Billing Coordinator
- **May 1, 2012** — August OB/Gyn Society Meeting (5:45 PM at the Augusta Country Club, Wallace House) – “TBD”

## 2012 AGPO/CREOG Annual Meeting

### Embracing Traditions in Healthcare: Educating for Tomorrow, Today!

Held in Orlando, FL, this year's APGO/CREOG meeting was an excellent experience for faculty, coordinators, and residents alike. The meeting is always informational, especially regarding updates from the ACGME, ACOG, and ABOG. However, this year was seemingly more robust in the context of material available and opportunities for networking.

The ACGME/RRC outlined the new accreditation system for residency training. The new system will be data driven and rely heavily on housestaff input from the annual resident survey. Instead of variable cycle lengths for site visits, the ACGME will get semi-annual reports from each program and perform site visits perhaps every decade in the same format as the Joint Commission, with teams of surveyors instead of a single individual.

GHSU was well represented at this year's meeting. Dr. Christie Palladino and Dr. James Gohar presented a workshop with a step-by-step framework for mentoring medical students. This session was very popular as they presented to a packed conference room. Also, Dr. Gohar presented his resident research project in the form of a poster. His research poster titled, "A Qualitative Study to Understand Learning Perspectives in Perinatal Depression Care" was well done.

## Challenges in Global Health Education

On a recent global health elective, Dr. Jennifer Tomlinson, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year resident, got more than she bargained for south of the border. On March 20, 2012, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake was centered in the Oaxaca region of Mexico, her very location for work and study. Thankfully, she and her peers were unharmed. This highlights one of many challenges as the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology develops a global health program.

## SAVE THE DATE



Dr. Daron G. Ferris, Professor of Family Medicine & Obstetrics and Gynecology, will be presenting an update on the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection relating to Women's Health at noon on April 10, 2012 in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor OB/Gyn classroom for residents and faculty.

Congratulations to Dr. Danielah Gautier on being selected as the 2012-2013 Administrative Chief Resident.