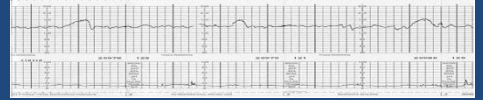


THE MONITOR



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Historical Highlight

IRONY AND THE “SAVIOR OF MOTHERS”

Ignaz Philipp Semelweis (born July 1, 1818 – died August 13, 1865) was a Hungarian physician who, through careful observation, discovered that hand washing, or lack thereof, in the care of obstetrical patients was linked to puerperal fever (sepsis). Childbed fever, as it was known at the time, was a major cause of maternal mortality.

Semelweis was appointed assistant to the Professor Johann Klein (modern equivalent of Chief Resident) of the *First Obstetrical Clinic* at the Vienna General Hospital in Austria in 1846. The hospital had two such clinics, one for training doctors and one for training midwives. He quickly noted a drastic difference in the rates of maternal death between the two wards, with the midwife clinic having significantly better outcomes. Semelweis was severely troubled by the differences in maternal death and meticulously began eliminating the possibilities for the disparity.

His breakthrough came in 1847 following the death of a close friend after being injured with a scalpel by a medical student while performing an autopsy. The postmortem examination on his male colleague revealed similar pathology to those women dying from puerperal sepsis. He immediately concluded that doctors were carrying “cadaverous material” on their hands from the autopsy room to the obstetrical unit. Midwives did not perform postmortem examinations and therefore had lower rates of sepsis and death.

Semelweis introduced hand washing with chlorinated lime solutions for doctors and immediately reduced the incidence of fatal puerperal fever from about 10 percent to about 1–2 percent. His hypothesis that cleanliness

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was critical on medical wards was extreme for the time period. Semelweis was largely ignored, rejected or ridiculed. He was dismissed from the hospital, harassed by the medical community in Vienna, and eventually forced to move to Budapest.

Semelweis was outraged by the indifference of the medical profession and began writing open and increasingly angry letters to prominent European obstetricians, at times denouncing them as irresponsible murderers and ignoramuses. His contemporaries, including his wife, believed he was losing his mind and committed him to a mental institution in 1865. Ironically, Semelweis died from septicemia only 14 days later, possibly from a gangrenous wound following a beating by the guards.

Semelweis’ practice only earned widespread acceptance years after his death, when Louis Pasteur developed the germ theory of disease. Pasteur offered a theoretical explanation for Semmelweis’ findings, previously felt to lack scientific merit. Semmelweis is often called the “savior of mothers.” The so-called Semmelweis Reflex is a metaphor for the reflex-like tendency to reject new knowledge because it contradicts established norms, beliefs, or paradigms.

In 2008, Semelweis was honored on an Austrian gold coin. (€50)



HONORING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

On June 14, 2012, the Faculty Senate and Medical College of Georgia honored a few select faculty for their achievements in academia and their commitment to the institution in an Investiture Ceremony. The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology was proud to have both Dr. Lawrence Devoe and Dr. Lawrence Layman honored in a wonderful program of gratitude and support. These role models, called for success are remarkable individuals in both their professional and personal lives. Doctor Devoe, Emeritus Professor, served as chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology for over a decade. He is a pioneer in the field of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and continues his work as an international authority on fetal monitoring. Doctor Layman, Professor and Greenblatt Chair of



Lawrence Devoe, MD



Lawrence Layman, MD

Endocrinology, is the Division Chief for Reproductive Medicine, Infertility, and Genetics. He has maintained NIH funding for over 15 years in areas affecting puberty, fertility, and human development.

FAREWELL TO DR. VIRGINIA ZACHERT

Virginia Zachert was born in Jacksonville, Alabama March 1, 1920 to the Rev. R. E. & Cora Masee Zachert. She spent her early life in southwest Georgia. She received undergraduate education from both Norman College (1937) and Georgia State Women's College, now Valdosta State University (1940). She earned a Masters in Psychology from Emory University in 1947, followed by her Doctorate from Purdue University in 1949. Dr. Zachert served in the United States Navy as an Atmospheric Scientist during WWII. After receiving her doctorate in Psychology, she served in the United States Air Force as an aviation psychologist until 1954.

Following her military service, Dr. Zachert worked as a research psychologist in academia and private industry. She joined the staff of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Medical College of Georgia in 1963. Dr. Zachert remained with MCG until her retirement in 1984 as a Professor Emeritus. In 1971, she was appointed to the President's Council for the Aging.

Dr. Zachert was a colorful individual, insightful and humorous. She will be dearly missed by everyone she touched over a lifetime of service to others. She died May 3, 2012 at the age of 92.



The Virginia Zachert, Ph.D. Intern of the Year Award is given annually in her honor.

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

Every June is bittersweet, marking a joyous time of celebration and a brief period of emptiness as we send our graduating chiefs out into practice. This year's class of graduates is a remarkable group of friends. The faculty recognized this group as a "gold standard" class of unique individuals that balanced professional education and practice with meaningful personal fulfillment. This class provided leadership for the coming generations and developed others as clinicians in the same manner as they developed themselves. The Department is very proud of Doctors Bush, Eady, Gibbs, and Newman and wishes them well in all future endeavors.

The 29th Annual Resident Research Symposium featured presentations by each resident from the second-, third-, and fourth-year class on either their completed work or an ongoing project. Each resident has a faculty mentor. The recipient of the 2012 Paul McDonough Resident Research Award was Dr. Bonnie Eady for her project titled, "Inter- and Intra-

Observer Variability in Analysis of Fetal Heart Rate Tracings Using the Three-tiered Fetal Heart Rate Tracing Interpretation System," mentored by Dr. Devoe.

Dr. Devoe also presented the keynote address at the symposium. His address titled, "The Future of Intrapartum Care: Navigating Through the Perfect Storm – an Obstetricians Odyssey" highlighted observations from a four decade career in obstetrics and gave insight into the future of our profession. Dr. Michael Macfee, Interim Chair, gave the "State of the Department Address."

The graduation ceremony took place on June 15, 2012 at Westlake Country Club. Following dinner with departmental members, community faculty, residents, and invited guests, an awards ceremony highlighted resident, faculty, and administrative achievement in the past year. Graduates were recognized for their individual accomplishments and teamwork as role models for future residents.



Congratulations to the Class of 2012: (pictured left to right) Dr. Stephen Bush, Dr. Bonnie Eady, Dr. Laura Gibbs, and Dr. Tondra Newman.

- **Dr. Bush** will remain in Augusta, Georgia at GHSU for a fellowship in Pelvic Surgery before entering a Gynecologic Oncology fellowship in 2013.
- **Dr. Eady** will enter private practice in San Antonio, Texas.
- **Dr. Gibbs** will enter private practice in Atlanta, Georgia at DeKalb Medical Center.
- **Dr. Newman** will enter a Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship in Cincinnati, Ohio.

WARM WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY AND INTERNS

In the 2011 – 2012 academic year, the additions of Dr. Brent Parnell (Division Chief, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery), Dr. Tiffany Goldsmith (General Obstetrics & Gynecology), and Dr. Paul Browne (Division Chief, Maternal-Fetal Medicine) have strengthened the educational and clinical opportunities offered within the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, especially in sub-specialty women's healthcare. We continue to build on our success and welcome the following new faculty in the coming months:

BUNJA RUNGRUANG, MD – Assistant Professor, Division of Gynecologic Oncology; Fellowship in Gynecologic Oncology from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

BARBARA ROBINSON, MD – Assistant Professor, Division of Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (Urogynecology); Fellowship in Urogynecology at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2016

[Pictured from left to right]: Dr. Sutton Boyd (Medical University of South Carolina), Dr. Robyn Keown (University of South Carolina), Dr. Julia Samaddar (Medical College of Georgia), and Dr. Nicole Wellbaum (University of South Carolina)

GHSU – UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL Educational Partnership

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at GHSU is delighted to once again partner with University Hospital in the education of our residents. We want to extend a warm welcome to our clinical faculty and offer gratitude for investing in the future of our residents, our community, and our profession. Beginning in July 2012, two senior level residents will participate fully in clinical activities at University Hospital under the supervision of nearly two dozen private faculty.

CLERKSHIP CORNER

As the new academic year approaches, residents and faculty are busy preparing for the arrival of a new class of medical students on the wards and in our offices. Each year, our residents and faculty enjoy seeing intelligent and motivated students, hungry for learning with contagious enthusiasm for a career in medicine. The OB-GYN clerkship relies on a number of full-time faculty, volunteer clinical faculty, and housestaff to run smoothly. We appreciate everyone's support and contribution to the education of our excellent medical students. We currently have 17 clinical teaching sites across the state of Georgia. Within these sites, we are blessed with the opportunity to work with outstanding physicians and their staff as partners in education.

This year brings with it two major changes, both brought about by the LCME's goal of aligning medical student education with the ACGME core competencies for resident education. First, the OB-GYN Clerkship Goals and Objectives have been revised in alignment with both the ACGME core competencies and the APGO Medical Student Educational Objectives. Second, the student evaluation forms have been revised, also in alignment with the ACGME core competencies. Both of these changes will begin July 1, 2012. There will be ongoing communication and faculty development in the next month regarding both of these changes. Now is the time to polish up those lectures, come up with fun and creative ways to teach, and remember our medical school training as we try to emulate those individuals critical to our own success.

Our Educational Partners

Community Teaching Sites

Augusta – Dr. Charity Uhunmwangho
Canton – Cherokee Women's Health
Demorest – Habersham OB/GYN
Douglasville – Wellstar North Douglas OB/GYN
Waynesboro – Dr. Mark Gresham

Athens Campus

Gainesville – The Longstreet Clinic

Southeast Campus

Brunswick – Southeastern OB/GYN
Fort Stewart – Winn Army Hospital
Savannah – Memorial University Medical Center
Savannah – All Women's Health
Statesboro – Southern OB/GYN Specialists
Statesboro – East GA Women's Center
St. Mary's – Dr. Robert Mixson

Southwest Campus

Albany – The Veranda
Albany – Mirian Worthy Women's Health Clinic
Lagrange – Lagrange Women's Health
Tifton – The Women's Center
Tifton – GA Physicians for Women

Fast Fact: The Medical College of Georgia is the sixth largest medical school in the United States based on class size with 230 students per year (and still growing with a goal of 300 per class in the future).

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY AT GEORGIA HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
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Michael S. Macfee, MD – Interim Chair and Professor, Gynecologic Oncology
 Chadburn B. Ray, MD – Residency Program Director and Editor
 Erin Z. Latif, MD – Director of Medical Student Education