



Advanced Treatments for Infertility
A Look at the Division of
Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

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DEPARTMENT OF OB/GYN/RS



Message from Dr. Hogge

I am writing this “Chair’s letter” following an outstanding Research Day and Awards Dinner. Each year it exceeds the previous one in

the quality of the research conducted by our residents and fellows. This is not only a tribute to the academic strength of our trainees, but also to the superb mentoring provided by our faculty. It also is a reflection of the vision and commitment of Jim Roberts and Rick Sweet who, 20 years ago, saw the great potential that Magee and the University of Pittsburgh had to become a research and academic powerhouse.

The Awards Dinner that followed Research Day likewise created a sense of awe in just how far this department has come in such a short period of time in the development of its residency and training programs through the leadership of Bill Crombleholme, Gabey Gosman, and many others.

Our residency program attracts the top medical school candidates nationally, and our residents are chosen for the top fellowships and practice positions. Although this year is unique in that eight of our nine residents are seeking fellowships, it is amazing to me that we can place three residents in gynecologic oncology, three in urogynecology, and two in maternal-fetal medicine – all highly competitive fellowships.

Even more remarkable in reflecting how far our department has come in two decades is the number and diversity of our fellows completing their training. When I arrived in Pittsburgh, Magee had only a MFM fellowship. This year we awarded certificates to 13 fellows who are completing training in family planning, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, reproductive genetics, minimally invasive surgery, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

As you enjoy reading this issue of the department newsletter highlighting the incredible activities of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, take a moment to reflect on those mentors and teachers here at Magee that influenced your career. The history and tradition of the Magee program is a rich one, built by great visionaries in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. We are proud to be carrying on that tradition.

W. Allen Hogge, MD

Milton Lawrence McCall Professor & Chair
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology &
Reproductive Sciences

Research Project Influences Career Path for Magee Alumnus

Growing up in Newell, PA, **John Scaramucci, MD**, always knew he wanted to be a doctor. The first person in his family to go to college, he graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1953. He was accepted to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he graduated in 1957. He had considered psychiatry until the end of his sophomore year, when he was approached by Dr. Frank Dixon. Head of the Department of Pathology at the School of Medicine, Dr. Dixon offered him a grant from the American Tobacco Company for two summers of research on cancer. Dr. Scaramucci accepted the offer and was introduced to Magee.

During the project, he worked primarily with Dr. Henry Fennell, a pathologist at Magee, who was interested in carcinoma in situ of the cervix. After two summers, Dr. Scaramucci had drafted a paper on in situ carcinoma of the cervix for publication. Much to Dr. Scaramucci's surprise, Dr. Fennell and Dr. Joseph Hepp, head of gynecology, insisted that he be the lead author. The article was published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, popularly known as "The Green Journal."

"For two summers, I acted as a pathology resident. This was when pap smears were just starting and I learned a lot. My experience – the research and the camaraderie of the team – is what made me choose OB/GYN as my life's work. Fortunately, I was accepted to do my residency at Magee after my rotating internship at Presby (now UPMC Presbyterian)," says Dr. Scaramucci.

According to Dr. Scaramucci, Magee was the ideal place to learn. It was a general hospital



John Scaramucci, MD, Resident Class of 1961

with large medical and surgical services and an emphasis on OB/GYN. Magee also has a unique history; it was home to the first EKG and the first renal dialysis unit in Pittsburgh, as well as the first hospital in the city to perform obesity surgery. And, in August 1959, Dr. Milton McCall, a master vaginal surgeon, came to Magee and performed vaginal surgeries that no one else was doing at that time.

When Dr. Scaramucci graduated from his residency on June 30, 1961, he entered the U.S.

Air Force as chief of OB/GYN. He served as the only OB/GYN at Chennault Air Force Base, an old World War II Air Force Base in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The base had two brick buildings – the gym and the commissary. The rest of the buildings were Quonset huts. The hospital was made of plywood and Dr. Scaramucci had two delivery rooms, four labor rooms, and 11 postpartum beds. He performed about 44 deliveries a month and provided care for the wives of military personnel. He had minimal support with deliveries from a private practice physician from town. The base closed and Dr. Scaramucci was transferred to Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, where he and another trained OB/GYN did 70 deliveries a month.

"While I was at Lake Charles, I wrote a long letter to Dr. McCall telling him that my training prepared me well and that I wasn't worried that my closest Air Force consult was by phone at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas," he says. "I felt prepared to practice when I left Magee. I support Magee now because I know financial support for resident training is crucial for its success."

Continued on page 7

Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

The physicians and researchers of Magee’s Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) draw national recognition in a number of areas of reproductive health as they advance medicine to help couples conceive.

Magee’s Fertility Preservation Program is one of the most comprehensive in the country, with referral of males and females, including pre-pubertal patients for gonad cryopreservation, from across the country.

The program is committed to:

- educating patients and physicians about the reproductive consequences of chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer or other conditions
- developing pioneering reproductive technologies to preserve fertility and rapidly translating these state-of-the-art technologies to improve patient outcomes
- training the next generation of clinicians and researchers in the rapidly evolving discipline of fertility preservation

One key to Magee’s success is its ability to rapidly assess ovarian reserve. By measuring Serum Anti-mullerian hormone levels – extremely sensitive markers of ovarian reserve – Magee specialists can assess ovarian reserve independent of the phase of the woman’s cycle and time of day to assist patients/couples conceive their own genetic child.

Rapid assessment of ovarian reserve helps guide decisions that will preserve fertility in a number of circumstances. For example, a woman recently diagnosed with cancer might choose to fast track in vitro fertilization or oocyte cryopreservation before initiation of radiation, chemotherapy, or other egg-destroying treatment. A single woman with low ovarian reserve or a woman who desires children later in life might elect to freeze her eggs, thereby increasing her chances of having her own genetic child. Before the oocyte vitrification process was developed, oocyte cryopreservation was unreliable; however, today, this process is an effective method to assure gamete availability for future fertility.

Fertility Preservation services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week at Magee and other UPMC facilities, including the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, to best meet the needs of patients. The Division of REI also has regional offices throughout western Pennsylvania and as far north as Erie and Youngstown, Ohio.

Success Rates Surpass National Averages

The In Vitro Fertilization Program at Magee has enjoyed increasing success in achieving live births from embryo transfers, surpassing national statistics in every category – especially in women over the age of 38.

Embryo transfers resulting in live births		
Age	National %	Magee %*
<35	47.1	57
35-37	37.9	43.1
38-40	28.5	47.6
41-42	16.3	33.3
>42	6.1	28.6
* Magee’s most current results, not yet submitted to the Centers for Disease Control data bank		

Collaboration with the Division of Genetics has allowed REI to provide whole exome and genome sequencing for individuals with genetic causes of infertility, such as premature ovarian insufficiency and male infertility related problems including azoospermia. Through this collaboration, Magee is developing single cell assays to assist in identification of the most viable embryos for implantation to further “take home baby rates.”

Advancing Medicine Through Research

In addition to clinical success, REI scientists at Magee are advancing medicine through cutting edge research to:

- develop stem cell therapies to treat male infertility
- identify agents that protect the ovaries from the toxic effects of chemotherapy
- determine the role hypomethylation of HIST1H2BE plays in the genetic alteration of cells
- better understand the endocrine regulation of pubertal development
- investigate the regulation of spermatogenesis and oogenesis in fertile and infertile individuals

Advancing Medicine Through Education

The Division of REI faculty is committed to training the next generation of clinicians and researchers. Fellows are trained in all aspects of the subspecialty with particular emphasis given to the surgical training including laparoscopy, hysteroscopy, and robotic surgery.

This, combined with a strong focus on the management of a wide array of reproductive endocrinology issues and training in assisted reproductive technology, prepares our fellows for a successful career.

For more information about the Division or to make a referral, call 412-641-1600.

"Results of division related research will have a very significant effect on clinical practice as translational studies are completed; for example oocyte cryopreservation in the past was deemed a research entity and is now a most significant non-research means of fertility preservation."

*– Joseph S. Sanfilippo,
MD, MBA*

Division Faculty:

Joseph S. Sanfilippo, MD, MBA
Robert Collins, MD
Gabriella Gosman, MD
Scott Kauma, MD
Marie Menke, MD, MPH
Kyle Orwig, PhD
Shweta Nayak, MD
Tony Plant, PhD
Anthony Wakim, MD
Tony Zeleznik, PhD

Research Day Presentation and Awards

On May 30, Magee-Womens Research Day showcased the newest data from Magee's faculty researchers as well as selected presentations by clinical fellows, residents, and graduate trainees in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences and postdoctoral fellows at Magee-Womens Research Institute.



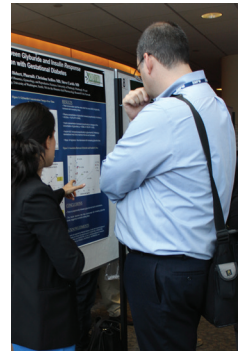
Dr. Jim Roberts celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Research Institute.

In honor of the Research Institute's 20th anniversary, there was a special presentation – *Science and MRWI: Past, Present and Future* – by MWRI's founding director, Jim Roberts, MD. In addition, Magee was honored to host two internationally renowned visiting professors this year. Patricia Hunt, PhD, Meyer Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biosciences at Washington State University, delivered the **Margaret Prine Joy Lecture in Reproductive Sciences**, titled *Human Pregnancy Loss: Hawaii to Pittsburgh and Beyond*. Sarah Richardson, PhD, assistant professor, Departments of the History of Science and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Harvard University, delivered the **Celebration of Life: A Lecture Honoring Mothers**, titled *Gender and Epigenetics: Control, Intervention and Agency at the Maternal-Fetal Nexus*.

Research Day Awardees

- **Marvin Rulin Award (Best Resident Oral Presentation):** **Michelle Louie, MD**
Threshold for Endometrial Biopsy in Postmenopausal Patients without Vaginal Bleeding
Research Advisors: Suketu Mansuria, MD and Timothy Canavan, MD

- **Best Resident Poster Presentation:**
Roxanna Twedt, MD
Sleep Duration and Fasting Blood Glucose in Gestational Diabetics
Research Advisor: Francesca Facco, MD
- **Best Fellow/Graduate Trainee Oral Presentation:**
Guojing Chang, BSc
Unprecedented Communication of MicroRNAs at the Feto-Maternal Interface
Research Advisor: Yoel Sadovsky, MD
- **Best Fellow/Graduate Trainee Poster Presentation:**
Yanille Scott, BS
Topical Application of Broadly Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies Reduces Sexual Transmission of HIV in Pre-Clinical Evaluations
Research Advisor: Charlene Dezzutti, PhD
- **Amy Roberts Health Promotion Research Award:**
Grace Ferguson, MD
Mentor: Judy Chang, MD, MPH
- **Paul Rike Fellowship Award:** **Michelle Wood, PhD**
Research Advisor: Aleksandar Rajkovic, MD, PhD



Members of the Magee community review poster presentations at this year's Research Day.



Dr. Yoel Sadovsky and Dr. W. Allen Hogge with guest lecturers, Dr. Patricia Hunt and Dr. Sarah Richardson.

Research Project Influences Career Path...(cont. from page 2)

After his two years in the Air Force ended in July 1963, Dr. Scaramucci flew to Honolulu, Hawaii to be with his soon-to-be wife, Mary Katherine (Kay), a U.S. Air Force nurse he met in Lake Charles. They were married at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. His wife had time left on her enlistment. While they waited to see if she would be able to be discharged because she was married to a civilian, Dr. Scaramucci went to all of the hospitals in Honolulu doing OB and tried to get a job to no avail. The only job he was offered was a locum tenens physician on a pineapple plantation, filling in when the regular physician was on vacation.

“Since I knew nothing about the diseases of pineapple workers, I didn’t take it. Instead, I would drive Kay to work and then head back to the pool for the rest of the day. It took 12 weeks for her discharge to come through,” he says.

Dr. Scaramucci returned to Pittsburgh and opened offices in Oakland and Brentwood, while Mrs. Scaramucci joined the nursing staff at Children’s Hospital. The couple had two sons, Carl and Brian, both born at Magee. Dr. Scaramucci recalls that when Brian was born, he thought he might have to deliver him in the Squirrel Hill tunnels on the way to the hospital.

“I left to pick-up Carl’s babysitter and my wife took a shower and her water broke in the shower and she was in good active labor when I got back,” he says. “I could tell from the sounds that things were close. And, I knew

if I had to stop and deliver her, I would never live it down.” Dr. Scaramucci dropped Mrs. Scaramucci off at the emergency room and went to park the car. By the time he got to the delivery room, Brian, who is now a commander in the U.S. Navy and a helicopter pilot, was born.

During his career, Dr. Scaramucci delivered approximately 7500 babies. He was in solo practice for his entire career and retired in 1996. While he misses his patients, the thing he misses the most is the fellowship and camaraderie of his colleagues.

“You spend a lot of time getting to know people – talking about politics, sports, anything and everything. I miss that. When I was first retired, I was still going to the OR lounge daily for coffee and chatter. Finally, I decided I had to cut-the-cord and stop going every day. Now, I try to stay involved reading about Magee and going to Alumni Day and Dr. Hogge’s emeritus staff lunches.”

According to Dr. Scaramucci, one thing that will be an unforgettable memory is when a few nurses and doctors planned a retirement dinner for him at the Top of the Triangle in the U.S. Steel Tower. “I was blown away when 150 people – doctors and wives, nurses, and administrators showed up. That made my time and hard work at Magee all worthwhile,” he says. “And today, Magee is still a great place for good training.”

Distinguished Alumnus Passes

The Magee community is saddened by the sudden loss of Dr. Morris Turner (class of ‘76) who passed away on Monday, June 30.

During his career, Dr. Turner served as medical director for the Magee-Womens outreach sites at Wilksburg and Monroeville; medical director for Adagio Health; and chief of service for obstetrics and gynecology at McKeesport Hospital.

Please look for more information about Dr. Turner’s impact on the community and women’s health in the next issue of the newsletter.

Incoming and Outgoing Trainees

Incoming Fellows

Gynecologic Oncology

- Jill Gadzinski, MD – Loyola University Medical Center
- Brian Orr, MD – University of South Florida

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

- Julia Bregand-White, MD – University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center
- Emily Bunce, MD – Brigham and Women's Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital
- John Mission, MD – Oregon Health & Sciences University

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

- Noah Rindos, MD – Boston University Medical Center

Family Planning

- Marta Kolthoff, MD – faculty member in the department

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

- Fabiola Balmir, MD – Stony Brook University Hospital
- Sunita Katari, MD – UPMC faculty

Medical Genetics

- Bimal Chaudhari, MD – UPMC

Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

- Mary Ackenbom, MD – Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- Erin Seifert Lavelle, MD – UPMC

Incoming Residents

- Nancy Aguwa, MD – University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio
- Rachel Beverley, MD – Temple University School of Medicine
- Daniel Chan, MD, PhD – Sanford School of Medicine, The University of South Dakota
- Chelsea Chandler, MD – Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Regents University
- Max Horowitz, MD – University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Kelly Johnson, MD – University of Iowa College of Medicine
- Neggin Mokhtari, MD – University of Maryland School of Medicine
- Kavita Vani, MD – Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Carly Werner, MD – University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- Tiffany Zehner, MD – Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

Graduating Fellows

- Christy Boraas, MD – associate medical director, Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- Dina Chamsy, MD – faculty, American University of Beirut
- Karen Florio, DO – faculty, Obstetrix Medical Group in Kansas City and adjunct clinical professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Kelly Kantartzis, MD – faculty, Women's Center for Advanced Pelvic Surgery in Mesa, Arizona
- Cara Robinson King, DO – assistant professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
- Robin Laskey, MD – faculty, Summa Health Akron City Hospital

- Melanie Leu, MD – UPMC, REACH Program (Research Education in Advancing Investigative Careers for Housestaff and Fellows)
- Jeff Lin, MD, – private practice, Bay Area Gynecologic Oncology
- Shruti Malik, MD – faculty position, Shady Grove Fertility, Los Gatos, California
- Henry Joel Mrczokowski, MD – Medical Biochemical Genetics fellowship with the National PKU Alliance (NPKUA scholarship at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh)
- Devon Ramaeker, MD – Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Magee-Womens Hospital
- Sara Sakamoto, MD – Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Magee-Womens Hospital
- Rebecca Shaffer, MD, – assistant professor, Contenance Center, University of Vermont

Graduating Residents

- Megan Bradley, MD – Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery, Duke University
- Rosemary Froehlich, MD – Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Brown University
- Hilary Hinshaw, MD – Gynecologic Oncology, Indiana University
- Jennifer Lanzer, MD – Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery, Emory University
- Erin Seifert Lavelle, MD – Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery, UPMC
- Michelle Rowland, MD, PhD, MPH – Gynecologic Oncology, University of Oklahoma
- Katherine Cook Sampene, MD – Generalist practice, Maryland
- Eirwen Scott, MD – Gynecologic Oncology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Swati Shree, MD – Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University of Washington



Congratulations to the resident class of 2014.

News and Upcoming Events

Thank You!

Thank you to **Dr. Rudy Sabbagha, class of '68**, for sponsoring the Magee Alumni Reception and Dinner in conjunction with the ACOG meeting on April 28 in Chicago. More than 30 former residents, former fellows, former faculty, and current faculty attended.

Thank you to **Dr. Mary Ann Portman, class of '79**, for hosting a dinner in Naples, Florida for Magee supporters and friends. Dr. Robert Edwards, director of Gynecologic Oncology at Magee, and Leslie C. Davis, president of Magee, shared an update on research and patient care programs.

Join Our Email List!

Help us keep you informed! Please join our email list to stay up-to-date on the great things happening at Magee. It's easy. Just email Yvette Yescas at yescasy@mwri.magee.edu with the subject line "Add me."

New Faculty Hires for the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences

Faculty

Katherine Scruggs, MD	2-1-14
Stephanie Ehland, CNM	5-1-14
Mary Olson, MD	6-1-14
Francis Bassani, DO	7-1-14
Nicole Carlson, MD	7-1-14
William Dundore, MD	7-1-14
Rand Himes, DO	7-1-14

Upcoming Events

9th Annual Savor Pittsburgh

Thursday, Aug. 21

Stage AE (next to Heinz Field)

VIP Party: 5:30 p.m.

VIP Ticket: \$125

General Admission: 6:30 p.m.

GA Ticket: \$75

Proceeds benefit Magee's fight to end prematurity.



3rd Annual Fly Fishing Classic

Thursday, Sept. 11 and Friday, Sept. 12

Homewaters Club,

Spruce Creek, PA

Proceeds benefit the Women's Cancer Research and Education Program at Magee.



On the Right Course to Cure Women's Cancer

Saturday, Sept. 27 and Sunday, Sept. 28

Laurel Valley Golf Club, Ligonier, PA

Proceeds benefit the Women's Cancer Research and Education Program at Magee.

Alumni Reception

Thursday, Oct. 23

Mansions on Fifth, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

All former residents and former faculty, as well as current residents, fellows, and faculty are invited to attend.

39th Annual Alumni Day

Friday, Oct. 24

Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

See agenda to right; look for brochure in the mail later this summer.

For more information about any of these events, call Colleen Gaughan at 412-641-8978.



Alumni Day – Friday, Oct. 24, 2014

Morning Program

Registration begins at 7 a.m.

Welcome

Daniel Edelstone, MD

Vaginal breech delivery – what to do when you have to do one

Daniel Edelstone, MD

Drs. Mortimer and Harold Cohen Lecture

Early pregnancy failures – what is new in diagnosis and treatment

Mitchell Creinin, MD

Dr. Milton McCall Lecture

Prenatal diagnosis – 30 years later

W. Allen Hogge, MD

OB/GYN Legacy Lecture

Selection of the dominant follicle – stories of people and opportunities during my 35 years at Magee

Anthony Zeleznik, MD

Dr. David Katz Minimally Invasive Lecture

Stress, Obesity, and Reproduction

Sarah Berga, MD

Afternoon Program

Lunch, guided tours of Magee–Womens Hospital and Magee–Womens Research Institute, alumni reception from 1 to 3 p.m.

To register or see more details, visit
<https://ccehs.upmc.com/liveFormalCourses.jsf>.
Program schedule is subject to change.

Residency Program Education Update

Department education-focused faculty and residents presented their work in multiple local, regional, and national venues. This work is a testament to our team's hard work, mentorship, creativity, and commitment to the growth of knowledge.

2014 Annual Graduate Medical Education Leadership Conference

Regional conference, target audience: program directors and chief residents/fellows in the 170+ UPMC residency and fellowship programs

- Department education faculty and trainees presented one oral abstract, two poster abstracts, facilitated one of the sessions, and served as co-course director

2014 Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) and American Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Annual Meeting

Regional conference, target audience: OB/GYN resident and medical student education faculty, residents, and administrators

- Department education faculty, administrators, and trainees presented two posters (including a prize-winning poster by Sara Sakamoto, MD), led a round table, and facilitated an education session.
- Kristiina Parviainen, MD, associate residency program director, graduated from the APGO Scholars and Leaders Program, which is a faculty development program for educators in OB/GYN

In addition:

- 2014 Department Research Day: residents presented seven oral abstracts, including two surgical videos and four poster abstracts
- Residents published 13 peer review manuscripts and three non-peer review manuscripts in 2013–2014, with faculty mentorship
- Residents presented eight posters, four oral abstracts, and two surgical videos at national meetings, with faculty mentorship



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See inside for more information.

Alumni Day Reception
 Thursday, Oct. 23
Alumni Day
 Friday, Oct. 24



MARK YOUR CALENDAR – 2014 ALUMNI DAY

Chairman, Department Of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences
 University of Pittsburgh

AN UPDATE FROM W. ALLEN HOGGE, MD

