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The Clarence E. Ehrich
Professor and Chair

Welcome to a New Decade

"Without change, something sleeps inside us, and seldom awakens. The sleeper must awaken."

– Frank Herbert (1920-1986)

In early December we held a special faculty meeting to reflect on the achievements

of the past year and check our compasses in preparation for the year ahead. We had much to celebrate and identified much more we hope to accomplish in the coming year: patients to help, learners to teach, questions to answer, recruitments to complete, initiatives to launch, and communities to serve.

Because 2010 marks the beginning of a new decade it is tempting to envision how we will grow and change over a longer time horizon. . . imagine you are returning from vacation and are awakening from a surprisingly long night's sleep. You arrive to work, open up your calendar, and it says the year is 2020! As you look around to understand all that has happened while you were "away" what do you see? Here is a glimpse of what I hope we will experience together in 10 short years.

- The IU Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology will be regarded as a peer with the most outstanding academic departments in the United States.
- Indiana's rates of preterm birth, perinatal mortality, tobacco use in pregnancy, and vertical transmission of HIV will be among the lowest in the United States.
- Outreach efforts including

telemedicine sponsored by the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health (COE) will break down access barriers for women in all regions of Indiana. More Hoosier women than ever before will be up-to-date in their screening for breast and cervical cancer, and rates of obesity and cardiovascular disease will be declining rapidly.

- Women's health services in Clarian and the Indiana Clinic will deliver high-quality cost-effective care and compete successfully with other high functioning health systems in the Midwest. Doctors throughout the region will refer patients to IU to receive care for high risk pregnancies, gynecological malignancies, fertility preservation, pelvic floor disorders, and minimally invasive surgery. Our COE practices will create models of multidisciplinary care for common women's health conditions including obesity, cardiovascular disease and polycystic ovarian disease, among others.
- Our faculty will lead efforts to improve quality of women's health care in all our systems and institutions: Wishard and the CHC's, Clarian facilities and affiliates, and the VA.

• IU medical students will learn about women's health in a longitudinal curricular thread that will include early exposure to our specialty, development of critical appraisal skills, and a

core clerkship that performs better than any other. More IU medical students of both genders will pursue careers in Ob/Gyn, including more of the school's highest performing students.

- The IU residency program in Ob/Gyn will be on a short list of top Midwestern programs and attract applicants from the coasts as well. We will be known for innovations in teaching, learning, assessment and feedback and (if possible by then) will be granted permission by the RRC to develop experimental tracks for interested residents with focused interests.
- Our fellowship programs in Gynecologic Oncology, MFM, Urogynecology, MIS, and Pediatric/Adolescent Gynecology will be among the best in the country. MFM fellows will take advantage of our Perinatal Database and selection as an MFM Unit Network site. We will have NIH-sponsored programs to support junior faculty building research careers in women's health (BIRCWH, WRHR).
- Women's health practitioners across Indiana will benefit from the evidence-based practice guidelines we have disseminated through the

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY
School of Medicine

A New Decade

ACOG, the Indiana Perinatal Network, National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, and Clarian Health Partners.

- Our engagement in Kenya will have contributed substantially to the creation of a primary and reproductive health care network and decreased rates of unintended pregnancy, maternal and neonatal mortality, obstetrical fistulas, HIV disease, and cervical cancer. So many students, residents, fellows and faculty will be affected by their experiences in Kenya and other de-

veloping countries that several will dedicate their careers to this work.

- Our department will be characterized by scholarship in each mission area – we will build our projects and initiatives on critically appraised previous work, rigorously evaluate our progress, and disseminate our results locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Our clinical, translational and laboratory research programs will contribute to the advancement of science and IU's national reputation as a research leader.

- The engagement and vitality of our faculty, administrative and clinical support staff, and all of our learners will transform our workplace into a community where we share in the blessings of meaningful work.

I realize this vision is so breathtaking that it may seem far-fetched. Our progress in 2008-2009 tells me we are well on our way. I am confident that we will achieve these goals and others we haven't even imagined yet.

I look forward to celebrating each step we take together!

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY SECTION



We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Dr. Giuseppe Del Priore** as he begins his new position as Director of Gynecologic

Oncology. He is relocating from New York where he has been Associate Professor, Vice President for Research, and Chairman of the IRB at the NYU Downtown Hospital. Dr. Del Priore completed his medical doctorate with distinction in research at SUNY in Brooklyn, Ob/Gyn residency at Northwestern, the MPH in biostatistics and epidemiology at the University of Illinois, and fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the University of Rochester.

Dr. Del Priore brings a track record of excellence in all aspects of our aca-

demic mission. His research interests are broad and include surgical methods of fertility preservation in women with cancer. He is a gifted clinician, an award-winning teacher and a significant contributor to multiple professional societies. His service activities include work with ACOG and other professional organizations as well as outreach trips to El Salvador.

Dr. Del Priore's recruitment marks the beginning of a growth phase for Gynecologic Oncology at Indiana University. In addition to building a strong academic division and fellowship program, Dr. Del Priore will partner with our health systems to improve access and care for women with gynecologic malignancies and with the IU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health to improve cancer prevention in Indiana, now

ranked 45th out of 50 states for cervical cancer screening.

Dr. Del Priore will begin working at IU part-time starting this month and full-time starting in March. His wife, Dr. Men Jean Lee, and their 3 children will move to Indianapolis after the school year ends (this summer). Dr. Lee's recruitment to become our next Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine is currently in negotiation.

Please help make Dr. Del Priore's transition to Indiana easier by offering support and introductions to colleagues whenever the chance presents itself.

Dr. Del Priore can be reached via email at gdelprio@iupui.edu or by phone at 274-2130.

CRAIG BRATER TO CONTINUE HIS ROLE AS DEAN

Chancellor Bantz has announced that Dr. Craig Brater has agreed to continue serving as Dean of the School of Medicine beyond his originally planned retirement date

of November 2010. A timeline for identifying a successor has also been determined.

A search committee will be formed and launched the process in late

spring of 2010, with the goal of a successor joining the School in the third quarter of 2011.

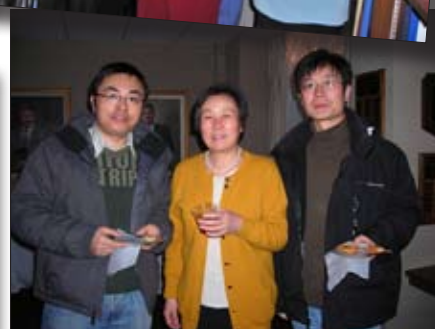
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE 2009

On December 18, 2009, the Department of OB/GYN hosted an open house to celebrate the holiday season.

While enjoying the festivities, guests were treated to seasonal songs being sung by a choir led by our Chair, Dr. Lee Learman.

And, in keeping with the season, non-perishable food items were donated by guests to be given to Gleaners Food Bank.

Faculty, staff and friends of OB/GYN celebrated with food, music and much good cheer.





It is appropriate as we start the New Year, that we both reflect on the past year and set goals for the new one, particularly in the area of patient care. All of us are ultimately here to serve our patients and provide quality care to them. In the past year, the quality area has made some progress in developing a more robust quality program within the department. Highlights have included increasing the quantity and quality of M&M conferences, helping with the implementation of our hospitalist program and the Clarian Clinical Ob Practice Committee as well as actively participating in the Clarian Quality

process. In 2010 we are hoping to continue that progress by actually creating and starting our departmental quality program including the creation of Departmental Peer Review, M&M and Quality Assurance Committees. Another goal is to create a quality measurement database. In an effort to keep everyone informed of our efforts and perhaps to have some fun, **Dr. Deb Kirkpatrick**, Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, has created this monthly "Quality Corner" column for the "Special Delivery." Each month she will have some news about quality as well as information that will help to create our quality culture. Hopefully, there will be a monthly Quality Quiz as well.

So to start off the new year, your first Quality Quiz:

Leapfrog is:

- a. A new Disney movie
- b. A new kids game
- c. A new creation by Dr. Rothenberg
- d. A group of employers who look at quality in healthcare

Answer and information next month!

AIR TRAVEL SAFE FOR MOST PREGNANT WOMEN

As long as pregnant women don't have any obstetric or other medical complications, they can follow the same precautions for air travel as the general population and fly safely, according to a revised Committee Opinion released this fall by The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and published in the October issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

"Since 2001, when ACOG first issued a Committee Opinion on pregnancy and air travel, a number of observational studies have been published confirming that air travel is generally safe during an uncomplicated pregnancy," said William H. Barth, Jr, MD, of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and chair of ACOG's Committee on Obstetric Practice. "These new studies have made our previous recommendations stronger and more detailed." The recent studies noted by Dr. Barth have shown no increase in adverse pregnancy outcomes among occasional air travelers.

The updated Committee Opinion also

addresses concerns about exposure to cosmic radiation during air travel. Even the longest intercontinental flights will expose passengers to no more than 15% of the recommended limit of cosmic radiation exposure set by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and the International Commission on Radiological Protection. However, it is possible that flight crew or frequent flyers may exceed the recommended exposure limit. The Federal Aviation Administration provides a website tool at jag.cami.jccbi.gov/cariprofile.asp <<http://www.acog.org/cgi-shl/leaving.pl?http://jag.cami.jccbi.gov/cariprofile.asp>> to help estimate exposure to cosmic radiation from specific flights.

"Questions from our patients about air travel during pregnancy are some of the most common during obstetric visits," Dr. Barth said. "When a patient with an uncomplicated pregnancy asks about occasional flying, we should feel comfortable saying, 'It's safe.'"

All airline passengers, including pregnant women, can help minimize the risk of blood clots, especially on long flights, by wearing support stockings, moving their legs periodically, avoiding restrictive clothing, getting out of their seat and walking for a few minutes, and staying hydrated. Pregnant women should use their seatbelts continuously while seated to prevent the potential risk of trauma to the body in the event of sudden severe air turbulence. ACOG also says pregnant women may want to avoid gas-producing foods or drinks (such as carbonated soda) before a flight because gas trapped in the stomach expands as altitude increases, which can cause discomfort. Pregnant women who are experiencing pregnancy-related nausea may want to take a preventive anti-nausea medication before boarding the airplane.

According to ACOG, pregnant women who have medical or obstetric conditions that may be worsened by air

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Air Travel

travel or that could require emergency care should not fly at any time during their pregnancy. Women should check with their airline for specific requirements regarding pregnant women. Most commercial airlines allow pregnant women to fly up to 36 weeks of gestation, but restrictions may vary with each carrier.

Committee Opinion #443, "Air Travel During Pregnancy," is published in the October 2009 issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*



Indiana ACOG

The Indiana Section ACOG Meeting
January 20, 2010
Ritz Charles, Carmel, Indiana

"Updates in the Management of Abnormal
Pap Smears and REI Topics"

Registration: 7:30 - 8:00 am
Welcome and Announcements: 8:00 - 8:05 am
Dr. Mark Gentry, Indiana Section Vice Chair

THIS AND THAT

This month's Spotlight shines on **Holli Smith**, Executive Secretary for Dr. Learman, Chair of OB/GYN.



Holli is a native of Michigan, born and raised in Bay City. She and her husband of 18 years, Steve, have 2 children, a son Evan age 15 and a

daughter Kiley, age 10. Another important member of the family is Polar Bear, an English Bulldog.

In her spare time Holli enjoys exercising, shopping and baking. She also enjoys spending time with her family and is a Colts fan hoping for a Superbowl victory!

Thank you Holli for a job well done!

On December 21, 2009, **Dr. Julie Tillman** and her husband welcomed their 2nd child, Jack Henry. Jack weighed in at 7 lbs., 2 oz and



was 20 3/4 inches long. Little Jack joins big sister Grace who has not taken to "sharing" Mommy quite yet!
Congratulations!

The H1N1 injectable vaccine is now available to any IUPUI student, faculty and staff that is interested.

IUPUI Health Services will hold Flu Clinics open to all IUPUI students, faculty and staff during January 2010. Both H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines will be available free of charge. An IUPUI ID is required in order to receive a free vaccine.

In addition, spouses and domestic partners of staff/faculty/students may also receive the H1N1 vaccine free of charge. If the employee/student cannot accompany the spouse, the clinic requests the spouse to bring the student/employee's IUPUI ID and an official photo ID for the person

receiving the vaccine. The vaccine is **not** available for the children of employees or students.

Clinic dates, locations and times are:

January 11, 2010: Ball Residence Hall (Main Lobby) from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

January 12, 2010: Park Place Student Apartments (Main Lounge) from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

January 13, 2010: Campus Apartments on the Riverwalk (Orvis 160) from 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.

January 14, 2010: Campus Center, Room 450 (Multipurpose Room) from 10a.m. – 2:00p.m.

January 15, 2010: Campus Center, Room 450 (Multipurpose Room) from 10a.m. – 2:00p.m.

For updated information on flu clinics, please visit the IUPUI Health Services Web site at: <http://health.iupui.edu/>.



Total Deliveries December 2009

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|-----------|-----|
| IU | 62 |
| Wishard | 260 |
| Methodist | 234 |

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