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## Section Reports

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### Alberta

Martine Roy, MD, FACOG, FRCSC, Alberta Section Chair and Angelina Lukwinski, MD, FACOG, FRCSC, Alberta Section Vice Chair

Another bust!

Alberta relies on a resource-based economy and is directly affected by the fluctuations in oil prices. There is again a drop in government revenue because of low oil prices. The government has tabled a budget that states long-term stable plans will help to even out the booms and busts. This will lead to some restraints for the health care system. A 2015 election seems to be looming.

With regard to physicians, the agreement in place as of last spring is now being implemented. There were three major areas of focus for change, the most active of which is the Physician Compensation Committee (PCC). It is charged with finding ways to remunerate physicians more equitably while being budget neutral. The current focus is on a selection of fees that are felt to be out of balance in relative value and of a large enough volume to have an impact on the global budget. No fee codes in women's health are targeted here. No danger of being overpaid. However, after-hours payments are also being reviewed; a decrease would disproportionately affect obstetrics and anesthesia. Our section sent a strong statement to the PCC. We are awaiting this committee's report to see how this will impact physicians and the viability of providing access to care for women, particularly in communities where the burden of after-hours work is heavier.

Another change in the climate for obstetrics has been the increase in the CMPA fees for 2015 for obstetrics work. It is now more than \$50,000 per year, up from \$35,000 last year. Most provinces have a reimbursement program paid from their medical services agreement, usually a percentage of the fee. Those disciplines with higher fees still paid a higher amount without necessarily increased compensation in the service fee to reflect the higher risk of the service provided. The Alberta section fought hard some years ago to change the 85% reimbursement to a flat deductible amount of \$1,000 to share the burden. It is unclear whether this will remain unchanged if the fees continue to increase.

The Alberta section held its Annual Meeting on March 27, 2015, in Banff, Alberta, at the Rimrock Resort Hotel in conjunction with the SOGC West/Central CME. We are seeking nominations for the next ACOG representatives as the 2016–2019 term approaches. Interested members should contact Martine Roy at [mnroy@shaw.ca](mailto:mnroy@shaw.ca).

The SOGC will hold its Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference on June 9–12, 2015, in Quebec City, Canada. Come and visit one of the oldest cities in North America (also my favorite). FIGO will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, (my second favorite city) on October 4–9, 2015. It's not usually winter yet in Vancouver at that time!



### Arizona

Ilana Addis, MD, FACOG, Arizona Section Chair

Arizona section has been very busy. With the help of ACOG National and our contract lobbyists, we found legislative support for the introduction of the Health Professionals Standard of Care Act. This bill would prohibit the state from requiring a health professional from providing information that is not medically accurate, non-evidence-based information,

and practices that are inconsistent with the recognized standard of care for any health profession.

In advocating for this bill, we have built a coalition of other state specialty organizations and have strong support from the Arizona Medical Association. We have also visited key legislators on both sides of the aisle. Representative Eric Meyer introduced this bill on February 9.

February 9 was also Women's Health Day at the capitol. Approximately 25 medical students and ob-gyns stormed the capitol in Phoenix, wearing their white coats with speculums in their holsters. We were educated in the legislative process and the issues for the day. Afterward, we had a roundtable discussion with Representative Meyer. We then met with our legislators to use all of our newfound knowledge. Finally, we were introduced on the floor of the House and the Senate.

All of this legislative work was an amazing feat accomplished through the teamwork of our dedicated section leadership.

We have been working hard to serve our membership in several other ways. In October 2014, our section sponsored the very first statewide mock oral boards, which had six participants. Planning is underway for the second annual mock oral boards in the fall.

We are pleased to have sponsored nine Junior Fellows and Fellows to the Congressional Leadership Conference this past March and one medical student to the Annual Meeting this month. We are also honored to have nominated an Arizona resident to be a resident reporter for District VIII at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, an enthusiastic medical student is working with our section to become a resource on the topic of immediate postpartum LARC. We hope to see AHCCCS cover this procedure in the near future.

Section leadership is brainstorming other possibilities for member outreach. We hope to begin regular legislative updates to our membership and a monthly or bimonthly newsletter. We would like to reach out to our rural physicians and are considering adapting ACOG education modules to present at rural hospitals.

We welcome your suggestions and comments to help the Arizona section serve its members even better. Please reach out to me by email: [ibaddis@gmail.com](mailto:ibaddis@gmail.com)

## Central America

Eduardo Cordova M., MD, FACOG, Central America Section Chair,

The Interim District Meeting was recently held in Panama. In addition to the district's administrative activities, we had the chance to visit two hospitals:

- Complejo Hospitalario Arnulfo Arias Madrid de la Caja Panameña de Seguridad Social (Social Security Hospital)
- Hospital Santo Tomas

In both places, the attendants shared experiences and opinions with authorities, colleagues, residents, nurses, and patients. We were able to see the services provided and the working areas. It was an informative and gratifying experience.

In our report at the meeting, we explained to district members the differences between the health systems among and within countries throughout Central America. We also heard how the health system is organized in Panama, specifically gynecology-obstetrics, through lectures by Dr. Sara Campana and Dr. Alfredo Beitia.

Social gatherings with Panamanian colleagues strengthened ties for greater cooperation, friendship, and team building.

We believe that we can have a greater impact on U.S. and Central American colleagues if these hospital visits are organized as a sort of "brotherhood of hospitals." This is a project that we will be presenting in the near future.

The board meeting for the Central American section will be held this June in San Salvador, El Salvador. We will cover the administrative aspects, and each board member will present progress reports on recruiting new Fellows and Junior Fellows in each country.

During this meeting, we will also discuss the section's participation as ACOG during the FECASOG Meeting (Central American Federation and Gynecology-Obstetrics Associations), February 29 to March 4, 2016, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. During this meeting, we will review the section bylaws and update them to the current situation.

This will be the end of the period for Junior Fellow Chair Dr. Bethania Rosales from El Salvador. Vice Chair Dr. Sophia Hernández from Costa Rica will take over that post.



## Colorado

Kim Warner, MD, FACOG, Colorado Section Chair

The Colorado section of ACOG held its annual Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Conference as a half-day symposium in October 2014. We had seven spectacular cases, plus a panel for evaluation and discussion. Physicians, nurses, and nurse midwives attended the conference, which was a great way to foster relationships between those who care for the women in our state.

### ACOG Day at the Capitol

On March 16, approximately 20 residents from training programs in Colorado participated in the day at the capitol. They heard from a few legislators and had an opportunity to lobby around the LARC bill.

### Maternal Mortality Reporting

We have been drafting legislation to bring statutory recognition to the reporting of maternal deaths to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The program has been active for about 20 years, but without a specific statute to define and guide it. It has been operated under a very general grant of authority to the CDPHE to conduct studies on public health issues.

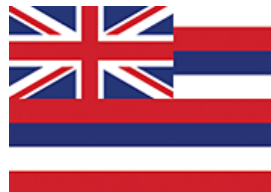
A critical issue for the program's success is clarification that the data provided is not subject to discovery in civil litigation and that the person or entity that provides the required information is not liable for having done so. Maternal death is defined as having occurred during pregnancy or one year following birth. There is some indication that the leading cause of death for such women is drug related; whether that distinguishes between legal prescription or illicit drug use is unknown. The second leading cause of death is motor vehicle accidents, and the third leading cause seems to be suicide, although we don't know if that is distinguished from drug-related deaths.

### LARC

This program has been operated under a startup grant from the private sector, but that grant is set to expire. CDPHE has asked that the state budget provide continued funding. The program has been successful, and the data clearly shows that it is valuable. We have been working with diverse interest groups to create a factual presentation on LARC and hope to convince the majority of the Senate that continuation of the funding is a solid public policy decision.

Kathryn Moore and the staff of ACOG National have given us great support. We will have prepared a general background paper on LARC that can be used with the legislature and media and a one-page "Frequently Asked Questions About LARC."

Our Annual Summer Meeting will be held in Vail on June 20–21, 2015. Please join us.



### Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa)

Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section Chair

#### Save the date!

The 28th Hawaii Section Ob-Gyn Update Meeting will be held November 13–15, 2015, at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua, Maui (pending ACOG National approval of contract). We are looking forward to another great educational meeting. All are welcome! This year, we are not using an event planner, and we have gained many new Hawaii ACOG members. The featured speaker will be Mark Wakabayashi, MD, MPH, from City of Hope in Los Angeles. Hope to see you there!

Planning is underway for our annual Hawaii ACOG Dinner Meeting in May 2015 at the Oahu Country Club in Honolulu. This meeting is free to all Hawaii ACOG Fellows. Stay tuned for further information.

Hawaii ACOG 3rd Annual Women's Health Legislative Day will be on the morning of February 12, 2016.

The **27th Annual Hawaii ACOG Ob-Gyn Update Meeting** was held November 8–10, 2014. We held a successful CME meeting at the St. Regis Princeville (Kauai) Resort. The meeting was financially solvent and highly rated by our 70 attendees.



Pictured below, from top left: Bruce Kessel, Peter Bryant-Greenwood, Richard and Jinhee Oh, John Lee and family (Un Sil and Jeremy Lee), Lori Kamemoto, Jennifer Lum, Keri Brown, Angel Willey, Uncle George Shimomura, Cheryl Leialoha, Jay Gomes (administrative assistant) Jon and Lisa Morikawa, Kelly Kim, Nate and Ruth Fujita, Cynthia Goto, and Janice Hansen.

**Hawaii ACOG Section Advisory Council (SAC)** meetings traditionally have been held monthly on Wednesdays from 1 to 2 pm, and attended only by those living on Oahu. Evening meetings were reduced to every other month to accommodate busy members' clinic hours and allow neighbor island members to join our SAC. Our first evening meeting was held in January and went well. Neighbor island SAC members will attend via conference call, and Hawaii ACOG will support one round-trip flight to attend one in-person meeting per year. Welcome to all of our new SAC members: Eric Helms (Big Island), Colleen Inouye (Maui), Angel Willey, Susan Chapman, Laurie Asato, Bliss Kaneshiro, and Hong Ru Chen. If you are interested in becoming more involved with Hawaii ACOG, please let us know.

**Hawaii ACOG's 2nd Annual Women's Health Legislative Day** was held on February 13, 2015, at the state capitol. Mahalo to Greigh Hirata (legislative chair) and Ronnie Teixeira (Legislative Day Planning Committee chair), who ran this successful meeting, and to Greigh, Ronnie, and Cindy Goto for leading our legislative visit teams!



From left: Greigh Hirata, Lori Kamemoto, Lauren Zirbel (lobbyist), Ronnie Texeira, Chrystie Fujimoto, Cynthia Goto, Jennifer Salcedo, Simon Chang, Tracee Suestsugu, Holly Bullock, Autumn Broady, Lehua de Silva, Nicole Scogin, Missy Kuwahara, Cori Hirai, Michelle Tsai, and Stephen Sung.



Ready to Lobby: Our Women's Health Warriors

Our Maternal Mortality Review Panel bill (SB 304) was introduced for the third time this session. For the past two years, the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has been unsupportive; however, the new DOH administration is supportive of our efforts. Thank you to those who have submitted testimony, emailed, and met with legislators. With your support, this bill will can become law this year.

Home Birth Safety: We decided not to resubmit legislation this year. Instead, we will work on attempting to collect data from our hospitals on admissions for failed home births and reaching out to certified professional midwives (Midwives Alliance of North America) to work toward future legislation, perhaps next year.

Additional Hawaii ACOG testimony on bills that are important to women's health and obstetrics and gynecology:

- Pain management contract requirement: Asked for an amendment exempting acute care situations, such as immediately following surgery.
- Insurance company recoupment: Strongly support limiting recoupment to 12 months. Currently, insurance companies have unlimited time to recoup/adjust claims already paid.
- Pesticides, toxic substances: Testimony included ACOG Committee Opinion 575, *Toxic Environmental Agents*, for information only.
- Require offering Down's syndrome screening during pregnancy: Submitted testimony against because standards already exist, making this unnecessary legislation of medical care.
- HPV vaccine and other vaccine education/information to parents of sixth graders: Support.
- Testimony in strong support of the appointment of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the new DOH director.

The **Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC)**, was held in Washington, DC, March 8–10, 2015. Attendees were Lori Kamemoto, Greigh Hirata, Jennifer Salcedo, Holly Bullock (JF), and Sara Harris (JF). They met with Senator Hirono and her staff, Senator Shatz's staff, Representative Gabbard's staff, Representative Takai's staff, and American Samoa's staff. The group also did a drop-off with the Guam staff to discuss the following issues: GME funding, maternal access/maternity care shortage designation areas/NHS, repeal of IPAB (Independent Payment Advisory Board), and continuing federal funding of the Medicaid bump to include ob-gyn and allied health professionals. Our congressional leadership was supportive of all of our issues but appeared to be neutral on the IPAB repeal.

Lori presented a CLC breakout session entitled "Medicaid to Medicare Parity for States" on March 9.

We hope more members will attend in the future and return invigorated to work on our Hawaii legislative and advocacy issues.

**State of Hawaii Medicaid Bump Extension:** Since June 2013, when we first heard about the exclusion of obstetrician-gynecologists from the federal Medicaid bump program (increase Medicaid reimbursement to closer to Medicare rates), Hawaii ACOG has urged Hawaii Medicaid to include women's health to improve access to care. The federal Medicaid bump has now expired, but states have the option to continue it on their own. At our Practice Subcommittee meeting with Hawaii Medicaid in January 2015, Hawaii Medicaid reported that it submitted inclusion of ob-gyns as part of the governor's budget request. Unfortunately, the governor's final budget included only the Medicaid bump extension as-is (ptnerists, family practitioners, pediatricians). We are still working on this important issue of access to care for women and have asked for a meeting with the new DHS director.

Insurance companies continue to encroach on practices. Discussions were held on new insurance company contracts, which included clauses that forbade PCP providers from limiting their Medicaid patient panels (which they do to keep their business afloat with such low Medicaid reimbursements), required notification of HMSA when providers change their business practices or join a group, etc. In general, insurance companies are requiring that the provider comply with more rules seemingly designed to control provider practices. The Hawaii Medical Association has been working closely with insurance companies toward a compromise, and HMA has been a close working partner with Hawaii ACOG.

#### International Service Award: Thomas Shieh, MD, Guam Representative

Tom led several medical missions to Hurricane Haiyan-ravaged areas of the Philippines and will be awarded ACOG National's International Service Award at the ACSM meeting in San Francisco on May 2, 2015, at 11:15 am at the business meeting. If you are attending the ACSM, please congratulate Tom and attend the ceremony. We are very proud of his accomplishments.

#### In Memoriam: Thomas Teruya, MD, FACOG

Sadly, we report on the passing of a longtime and beloved Hawaii ACOG member, colleague, teacher, and friend, Dr. Thomas Teruya, MD, FACOG, who passed away on January 21,



2015. Dr. Teruya trained and inspired hundreds of residents and medical students and cared for many thousands of grateful patients during his almost 50-year career in Hawaii. He chose obstetrics because he took pride in bringing new life into the world and was dedicated to his patients. Dr. Teruya taught us about not only obstetrics and gynecology but also the values of honesty, kindness, and doing the right thing. Mahalo nui loa, Dr. Teruya, A hui hou kakou malama pono.

#### Hawaii ACOG Team

- Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG—Chair
- Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG—Vice Chair and Legislative Chair
- John Lee, MD, FACOG—Treasurer
- Irwin Lee, MD, FACOG—Practice Subcommittee Chair
- Ronnie Texeira, MD, FACOG—Legislative Day Chair

Mahalo to the many other volunteers on our Hawaii ACOG committees, without whom we would not be able to continue our work to benefit patients and Fellows!



## Idaho

Steve Robison, MD, FACOG, Idaho Section Chair and Cynthia R. Hayes, MD, FACOG, Idaho Section Vice Chair

Greetings from your ACOG Idaho section leaders! In an effort to have better communication between ACOG Fellows and Junior Fellows throughout the state, in October 2014 we initiated a semiannual newsletter to inform them of important news and events.

#### Section Meeting

We held our first Idaho/Montana combined ACOG section meeting at Montana's beautiful Big Sky Resort, January 29–31, 2015. A variety and women's health topics were addressed with CME available. Cyndi Hayes and Shaun J. Gillis put on a great conference. We intend to continue the annual tradition of having a section meeting in years to come.

#### Congressional Leadership Conference

We were represented at the CLC in Washington, DC, in March 2015. We met with Senators Risch and Crapo, as well as legislative assistants for Representatives Simpson and Labrador. We lobbied for the repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board, an increase in residency slots in the country, and the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act.



## Montana

Tyler Bradford, MD, FACOG, Montana Section Chair

#### Legislative Updates

Montana officially joined other states that have a mandate under risk of financial penalty against elective deliveries prior to 39 weeks. I don't have a good grasp of the review process yet, but I am sure I will hear about it in due time.

The Montana Legislature involves very little drama for ob-gyns, with only one bill that has potential impact: SB 133, which allows full prescriptive authority for naturopathic physicians. These physicians also want to be included in the definition of "Medical Practitioner," which requires state licensure.

#### Section Events and Education

The first state Maternity Mortality Workshop took place October 23, 2014, and was attended by obstetrics Dr. Bill Peters and Dr. Peter D'Ascoli, reviewing data from 2008 to 2013 combined. It was noted that motor vehicle deaths were the most common etiology. Montana ranks as the third-highest state in the nation for crash fatalities.

Vice Chair Dr. Shaun Gillis organized another Montana section meeting at Big Sky with the teamwork of our Idaho neighbors. This was our first attempt at a combined meeting. Future meetings, however, may not be possible due to ACOG's new fee schedule for section meetings. We are exploring the possibility of non-CME meetings or other partnerships with either Billings Clinic or the University of Washington.



## Nevada

Keith Brill, MD, FACOG, Nevada Section Chair

With the announcement that Senator Harry Reid, the minority leader, will be retiring, Nevada's stature in the Senate will be drastically different in less than two years. We are hoping to take full advantage of our strong relationship with Senator Reid and his health policy staff while he is still in office.

We are in the middle of our biannual legislative session. ACOG has submitted testimony opposing the Nevada Protection of Religious Freedoms Act, which would allow a person's religious beliefs to interfere in a woman's right to health care and in the provider-patient relationship. For example, a pharmacist could refuse to fill a contraception prescription due to his or her religious beliefs. A health care provider could refuse to treat a patient with an ectopic pregnancy or incomplete abortion, again due to religious beliefs. Similar bills are being passed around the nation. We are hoping this bill will never be voted out of committee.

Nevada attendees at this year's CLC.  
We just had to include the umbrellas,



because we definitely were not in the desert!



From left: Dr. Jeff Wrightson, Dr. Patty Kennel (PGY-1), Dr. Tim McFarren, Dr. Sandy Koch, Dr. Staci McHale, Dr. Jim Breeden, Dr. Keith Brill, and Dr. John Martin.

We testified to improve the language that patients receive from mammogram facilities regarding statements of breast density on mammogram reports. We are hoping to reduce the fear that the current letter sent to patients often causes, as patients are unclear about what their next steps should be, especially when the language says that breast cancer risks are increased when higher breast density is seen on mammograms.

We are also involved with the Nevada Teen Health Coalition, which is advocating for many worthy causes, such as medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education in our schools and campaigns promoting vaccination, including the HPV vaccination. We are actively involved in the NSMA's weekly legislative update meetings and tracking bills related to telehealth, network adequacy, tort reform, and many others.

We had our largest participation yet at this year's Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) in Washington, DC, with three Fellows from Carson City, five Fellows from Las Vegas/Henderson, and one ob-gyn resident from UNSOM.

The small size of our fellowship in Nevada, along with the large geographic diversity of our state, has made it difficult to host section meetings or CME events. I am pleased to announce that, in conjunction with the Hawaii section of ACOG, we will be inviting Nevada section members to attend the Annual Hawaii ACOG Ob-Gyn Update Meeting. This will be held November 13–15 at the Ritz-Carlton Kapalua on the beautiful island of Maui. We will hold a Nevada section business meeting at this conference, assuming we have a reasonable number of Nevadans in attendance. Often considered the "ninth island," Las Vegas is a top mainland destination for Hawaiians. In the future, this experimental collaboration between Nevada and Hawaii may lead to holding the Hawaii annual meeting here in Nevada. I thank Hawaii Section Chair Dr. Lori Kamemoto for her support in allowing this experiment to get to the phase one trial level.



## New Mexico

Sharon Phelan, MD, FACOG, New Mexico Section Chair

Hello from the Land of Enchantment and the host of the 2016 District VIII IDM!

We have been busy in New Mexico. Much of our activity has been legislative. The state legislative session was a long one this year—two months—and was very interesting due to a change in power structure. The House and Senate have experienced a Democratic majority for decades. This year, Republicans controlled the House along with a Republican

governor.

ACOG Lobby Day New Mexico was a smashing success: More than 20 Fellows, Junior Fellows, residents, medical students, and advanced practice clinicians attended both the Lobby Day training and Lobby Day. Our section priorities were to promote a bill funding our New Mexico perinatal collaborative, requiring a state maternal mortality review, and opposing several abortion restrictions. Our group gave testimony at hearings and engaged in a press conference. Ultimately, due to a lack of new monies, the perinatal collaborative did not receive funding. The maternal mortality bill had a good first hearing; we will revise and bring it back next year. We were fortunate that our lobbyists and coalitions helped to successfully oppose abortion restrictions that interfere with the doctor-patient relationship.



At a national level, New Mexico was well represented at the Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) with two medical students, two JF residents, a JF family planning fellow, and Fellows Suzanne Burlone (District VIII JF legislative chair), Tony Ogburn (District VIII legislative chair), Mike Flax, and Eve Espey. Tony and Suzanne organized and facilitated the District VIII legislative meeting, held Sunday morning before the main conference started. Tony and his wife, Jane, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary, along with the students, residents, and Fellows from New Mexico, on Monday night at the Ob-Gyn PAC event. (Congratulations!) Tony and Eve did a lively breakout session on reproductive health issues as part of the main program.

In acknowledgement of last year's advocacy efforts that ultimately led to Medicaid coverage of immediately postpartum IUD insertions, the New Mexico section received an Honorable Mention in the Accomplishment Award from the ACOG Committee on Government Affairs.

Michael Ruma (section vice chair) and Sharon Phelan (section chair) represented New Mexico at the interim district meeting in February, where we promoted the concept of a maternal mortality review that encompasses most or all of District VIII. If it is possible to get de-identified data looking at critical issues, this aggregate information may give us a better idea of the challenges and problems for the rural states that are in our district. The idea was favorably received but will need more work to identify a process that is compatible with the regulations within each state.

Finally, the jointly sponsored ACOG/ACNM/UNM Women's Health Seminar was a success. There were 16 fellows at the section meeting's March 14 luncheon. We are waiting for the evaluation results, but it appears that practitioners enjoyed the half-day Friday/all-day Saturday schedule.



## Oregon

Marguerite P. Cohen, MD, FACOG, Oregon Section Chair

By the time you read this, we will have had our 23rd Annual Oregon Section Meeting in Portland, titled "Updates and Controversies in Ob-Gyn." Lecture topics included an evaluation of the ACA compared to IOM gold standard for universal insurance coverage; ways to streamline patient flow in the office and increase satisfaction; evidence-based medicine's impact on ob-gyn; whether breastmilk is a "miracle substance" or overrated; an

update on the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative; the implications of legalized marijuana; how to help our patients with opioid addiction; the morcellation debate; and a modern history of the endometrium.

The District VIII Interim Meeting was held in Panama and gave us an opportunity to see what our Central American colleagues are doing. We spent three half-days doing the business of the district and spent some time exploring Panama and meeting our Panamanian colleagues.

In the United States, we exert a lot of effort to avoid political interference in our exam rooms, fending off laws that try to dictate what we must or must not say or do relative to abortion. More than 40 years after the Supreme Court found a right to privacy in the Constitution with *Roe v. Wade*, we still have to struggle against laws that make abortion care harder to access, especially for poor women. Today, even our most effective forms of contraception are at risk with the Hobby Lobby decision.

It is interesting to look at Panama, where abortion is illegal, and a woman can be imprisoned for two years for having an abortion, and a doctor may go to prison for four to six years for performing one. We did not have the opportunity to fully explore the implications of these laws for the women of Panama. But consider this: Misoprostol is not licensed for use in Panama because it can be used as an abortifacient. They have oxytocin and methergine. Think of what it would be like to practice without misoprostol. A very different world indeed. As an ob-gyn hospitalist, I probably use it during every shift.

I have just started reading two books about abortion in America: *Every Third Woman in America: How Legal Abortion Transformed Our Nation* by David Grimes, MD, and *Pro: Reclaiming Abortion Rights* by Katha Pollitt. Both books consider the public health benefits that have come from the legalization of abortion. As we watch more restrictions being placed on access to abortion, state by state, let us remember that the moral high ground may actually be with our brave colleagues who provide abortions. In the past year, we lost two of our colleagues who devoted their careers to ensuring that the women of our state had access to the care they needed: Drs. Richard Kearl and Lee Belknap. We mourn their passing and pledge to continue their work to keep abortion safe and legal in our state.



## Utah

W. Lawrence Warner, MD, FACOG, Utah Section Chair

Since the Annual District Meeting in September 2014 in Napa, California, the Utah section has put into action the third arm of our outreach initiative. We have established a contact system with all of the Utah rural hospitals that do not have an ACOG Fellow on staff. We also have an email contact system to periodically contact all section Fellows. We have made contact with the obstetrics department chairs at each of the nonrural hospitals and

obtained their permission to send them the same emails so they have the opportunity to discuss our delivered information at their department meetings.

Our most recent email included a summary of the recent ACOG Practice Bulletin on antepartum fetal surveillance and a summary of a recent article on amniotic fluid volume assessment and management.

Our Utah section secretary-treasurer recently moved out of state. We have replaced Dr. Stephanie Wilder with a great new addition to our team, Dr. Scott Jacob, who practices in Provo, Utah. He joins us with an excellent background in medical leadership.

Dr. Larry Warner and Dr. Christopher Hutchison attended the District VIII Interim District Meeting in Panama City, Panama, February 26–28. Included in the meeting was a visit to a local hospital, hosted by members of the Central America section.

Utah was well represented at the recent ACOG Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) in Washington, DC, March 8–10, 2015. In attendance was Section Chair Larry Warner, Secretary-Treasurer Scott Jacob, Legislative Chair Matthew Wilson, Junior Fellow Vice Chair Annie Jenkins, and Junior Fellow Legislative Chair Anne Ladenburger. We spent the first morning with all of the District VIII representatives, and then the CLC began with all 50 states represented. We visited the offices of both of our senators and each of our four representatives during the final day.

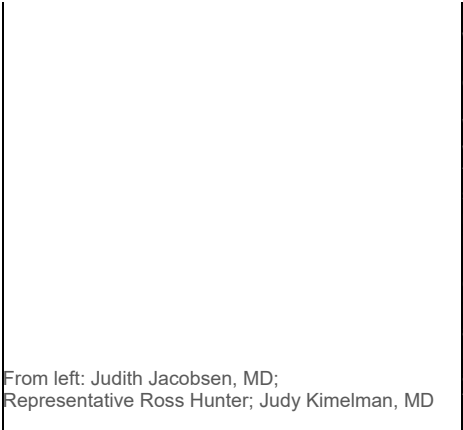
Our next upcoming Utah section meeting will be in Salt Lake City on April 23, 2015. We hold this meeting in partnership with the University of Utah Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. We hope to see you there.

## Washington

Judy Jacobsen, MD, FACOG, Washington Section Chair

Last fall, Washington ACOG awarded two of our legislators with Legislative Champion Awards: Representative Ross Hunter for his time and effort contributing to our Lobbying 101 educational video, and Representative Eileen Cody for her constant support of and sponsoring bills for women's issues. Both were presented with a letter and plaque.

We held a successful Legislative Day in Olympia. This was our first year completely funding and putting on the event on our own. It was



more work, more costly, and more stressful, but we did well, and it was well attended. We opposed a bill that required parental notification 48 hours before a minor could obtain an abortion. This bill also criminalized doctors who did not adhere to the rule.

We were proud to support a bill called the Reproductive Health Act, which addressed multiple ways to support and protect women's access to contraception without a copay, approved and supported a year's supply of birth control to be issued at one time, and supported the reproductive parity concept that requires payment for abortion to be included in all insurance plans that cover maternity services.

One additional bill that addresses patient-provider protection is in its infancy. It is designed to support the appropriate and completely accurate informed consent about all options, even in the face of restrictive rules set by Catholic institutions. This was brought to the attention of our legislators as we held our meetings. We anticipate this to be a major legislative priority throughout the year.

Our section has an active statewide Perinatal Advisory Committee that works in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Washington State Hospital Association. ACOG stays involved with the activities of Fellows working on the "Safe Deliveries Road Map Quality Improvement Initiative." Future goals are to include a formal and supported Maternal Mortality Subcommittee. I encourage Fellows who are interested to get involved with this process at your hospital.

We supported a successful Washington OB Association Annual Meeting and held our annual business meeting during that time. Our new Policies and Procedures were formally passed, which are now available for future officers and Washington section Fellows to refer to and use.

Our nominee, ACOG Fellow Dr. Anne Anholm, was selected as a district nominee for the International Service Award. Fingers are crossed for her to win this well-deserved honor. Planning for next year's Legislative Day has already begun. I hope you can attend.

Our team just returned from a robust Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) in Washington, DC. We lobbied on issues surrounding increasing Graduate Medical Education slots, offering maternity services to the underserved, and repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board from the Affordable Care Act to protect access for our Medicare patients. Consider being a part of our CLC team next year. We need someone from each district.

Resources & Publications	Practice Management	Education & Events	Advocacy	For Patients	About ACOG
Committee Opinions Practice Bulletins Patient Education Green Journal	Coding Health Info Technology Professional Liability Managing Your Practice Patient Safety & Quality	Annual Meeting CME Overview CREOG Meetings Calendar Congressional Leadership Conference	Legislative Priorities GR & Outreach State Advocacy Underserved Women	Patient FAQs Spanish Pamphlets Teen Health	Leadership & Governance ACOG Departments Careers at ACOG Newsroom Membership

For Journalists	For Junior Fellows	For Medical Students	For Patients
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