



Midlife Health Center

Helping Women Navigate Menopause While
Maintaining Active and Healthy Lifestyles

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A Message from Dr. Robert Edwards

It is my great pleasure once again to introduce the latest issue of the Ob/Gyn Alumni Newsletter.

In the midst of summer, we are busy saying good bye to our trainees who completed their residency or fellowship and orienting the newcomers to the inner workings of our program.

Each day, our Magee family works tirelessly to educate the next generation and advance women's health. That mission is not limited to those working within Magee itself and our satellite locations. It extends to you, our alumni, who are located across the globe.

I am so thankful that so many talented, caring physicians got their start here at Magee. I know that you carry our commitment to superior healthcare with you each day in your mission, whether you are caring directly for patients, conducting research or leading an academic program.

For our alumni who are now retired, your commitment to women and families over the decades gives us all the inspiration for the the work we do

I hope that you look forward to reading these newsletters as much as I look forward to providing them to you. As you read more about Dr. Stephen Corey in our alumni spotlight, our Midlife Center, our Research Day updates and our list of trainees and graduates, I hope you will join me in celebrating these examples of excellence in patient care. Be sure to share your own updates with our team so that we can celebrate you as well.

As always, a list of upcoming alumni events has been included and in particular, our annual Alumni Day.

If you haven't already, I hope you make plans to attend

Alumni Day because the vibrant conversations that arise when our alumni, current faculty and trainees come together, are truly inspiring.

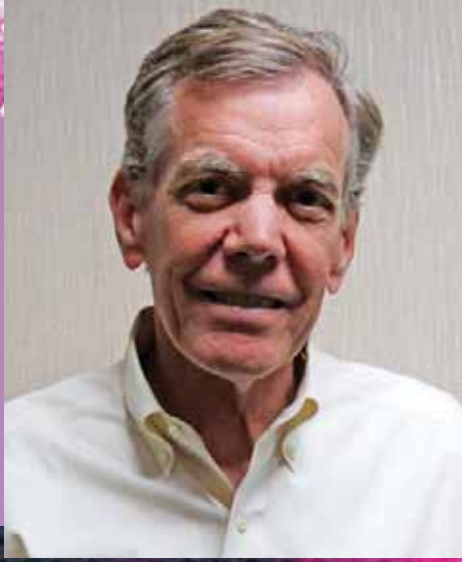
If you can't make it back to Magee, we hope you can join us at one of the alumni events we hold throughout the country.

Robert P. Edwards

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



Magee Residents 2018-2019



Achieving Perfect Balance

A father who was a social worker, a hospital drama on television, and a best-selling book were the early influences that caused Dr. Stephen Corey to pursue a career as a physician.

As a boy growing up in Sacramento, California, Dr. Corey recalls hearing his father complain that he missed having contact with clients when he moved up the ladder from being a caseworker to an administrator. This had an influence on Dr. Corey who surmised that physicians would have contact with patients throughout their entire career. Coupled with the TV show, *Ben Casey*, and the book, *Intern* by Dr. X, being a physician seemed so exciting! Eventually, Dr. Corey realized that some of the excitement turned out to be very stressful, and he often had to remind himself that this was actually the career he wanted.

While attending Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Corey focused on obstetrics and gynecology because there was so much you could do for your patients. From helping women safely deliver babies, to preventing cancer, he felt that it was a happy field.

Dr. Corey's first trip to Pittsburgh was to serve as the best man for his best friend, Michael Swanson (who also became a physician at Magee). Michael was marrying Linn McCarthy, whose father was Dr. John McCarthy—a long-time member of the Magee medical staff. Based on the urging of the Swansons, Dr. Corey applied and was accepted into the residency program at Magee in 1974.

The experience at Magee was everything that Dr. Corey could have hoped for in his residency. He credits the guidance of Dr. McCarthy and his partner, Dr. Donald Mrvos, for being wonderful mentors. Not only were Drs. McCarthy and Mrvos wonderful clinicians and teachers, but Dr. Corey observed that they had balanced lives, where taking time for

family, community activities, and recreation was very important. Dr. Corey admired them for their ability to manage this work-life balance and he knew he wanted that for himself as well.

When he completed his residency at Magee in 1977, he briefly went back to California, but returned to Pittsburgh within months to begin his career in private practice. Over the course of several years, he became acquainted with a pediatrician whose office was next door, and as a result of this relationship, he was asked to be the gynecologist at Allegheny Valley School—a position he held for 10 years.

Following his time at the school, he was asked to fill a vacancy at Magee's Center for Women with Disabilities, a position he held until he retired in December 2018. He is passionate about this work because adult women with disabilities face many barriers to getting gynecological care. He has worked to improve access to knowledgeable physicians locally, and to increase the number of clinics across the nation, using Magee as a model, so that more women can receive the care they need.

Together with his wife of 41 years, Christianne, Dr. Corey achieved the work-life balanced that he desired. They have two daughters (one of whom is a labor and delivery nurse at Magee) and a grandson.

Dr. Corey also has many hobbies, including watching his grandson two days each week, running (participating in Pittsburgh's Great Race just as Dr. Mrvos had done in his 70s), triathlons, biking, fishing, playing tennis, skiing, spending time at their cabin on Indian Lake, and pretty much anything outdoors. Dr. Corey is most proud of the job he did overall, and feels that it was very rewarding despite the difficulties and stress. "Retirement is so nice because there is no more stress, but the satisfaction remains," says Dr. Corey.

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Midlife Health Center: Addressing the Unique Health Care Concerns of Women Over 35



The Women's Midlife Health Center at Magee offers specialized care for women in perimenopause and menopause.

Under the direction of Dr. Mary Beth Peterson, the Midlife Health Center at Magee provides comprehensive care to women approaching or within the menopausal transition.

Dr. Peterson and her associates Drs. Katherine Scruggs, Amy Imro, and Judith Volkar have expertise in the management of menopausal symptoms including vasomotor symptoms, insomnia, vaginal dryness, dyspareunia, pelvic floor issues and bone health. Several members of the team are actively involved in research, including Dr. Scruggs who is focusing on aging and weight control in midlife.

Dr. Rebecca Thurston is the Center's psychologist. Dr. Thurston, who sees patients in the Magee office, helps women deal with the emotional, relationship, and mental health issues that may occur at the time of the menopause transition. Dr. Thurston is the incoming president of the North American Menopause Society. She is an active researcher including work on hot flashes,

midlife women's cardiovascular and neurocognitive health, sleep, and weight loss.

Through advanced diagnostic and treatment options, the team can address everything from irregular bleeding to hormone imbalance to vitamin deficiency, sex life issues, and premature menopause/premature ovarian insufficiency.

All of the Center's physicians are Certified Menopause Practitioners. (Certified by the North American Menopause Society). This is unique in the Pittsburgh region.

The ongoing education needed to gain the NAMS credential provides patients and other providers with the knowledge that this staff has a special interest in this area of clinical practice and that it is up to date scientifically on new treatment options.

The Midlife Health Center at Magee was formed in 2006 by Dr. Mary Ann Portman to address the changing gynecologic needs of women as they age, and to help them stay active and healthy overall.

The need for these services is on the rise. In the United States, the lifespan of American women has increased

more than 65 percent over the last 100 years. In Allegheny County, more than 13 percent of women are over the age of 70.

To serve this increasing population, the Midlife Health Center offers two types of services. The first is consultative - working with a woman's primary gynecologist and/or PCP to help manage symptoms of menopause or hormone therapy.

The Midlife specialty consultation can be used to fill the gaps when a woman's own gynecologist or PCP is unable or unwilling to discuss and/or prescribe newer treatments. Magee's specialists are able to offer more extensive counseling and therapy options than most primary physicians as our office visits are a bit longer than a typical gynecological visit.

"With an extra five or ten minutes, we can talk about a lot more issues that may be affecting the patient," says Dr. Peterson. "The extra time also allows the patient to ask more

questions about changes that are happening all over her body.”

The second type of care that is offered is serving as a woman’s primary gynecologist – giving her more treatment options than a typical gynecologist or PCP would have the expertise to provide. Approximately 4,000-5,000 women a year are seen at offices in Oakland, Cranberry, Blawnox/Fox Chapel, and Monroeville.

The Center provides not only well-woman gynecologic care for midlife women who have menopausal symptoms and are healthy, but also serves women who have more complex medical needs.

The Midlife Health Center at Magee has established relationships with specialists to coordinate a wide range of diagnostic, treatment, and counseling services, such as:

- Behavioral health
- Bladder and pelvic floor disorders
- Bone health (including DXA scan)
- Breast health (including mammography)
- Cancer
- Core diagnostic services (including blood work)
- Digestive disorders (including colonoscopy)
- Endocrinology (thyroid, osteoporosis, and diabetes)
- Genetic disorders (from pregnancy into adulthood)
- Heart health
- Perimenopausal polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)
- Sexual health

All of the members of the Midlife Health Center team, including the receptionist, office manager, medical assistants, nurses, and doctors, help women navigate their health conditions and their health choices to obtain the best outcomes. Many patients express their gratitude because the center has helped them find treatment alternatives that make them “feel normal again.”

Left to right: Drs. Amy Imro, Rebecca Thurston, Mary Beth Peterson, Judy Volkar, and Kathy Scruggs



“Midlife is a time of great change for women – hormonally and physically. It is a time for them to focus on achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle as they enter the next phase of their life. The goal of the Midlife Health Center is to help women do just that.”

– Dr. Mary Beth Peterson

Midlife Health Center Team

Mary Beth Peterson, MD, NCMP

Amy Imro, MD, NCMP

Kathy Scruggs, MD, NCMP

Rebecca Thurston, PhD

Judy Volkar, MD, MBA, NCMP

Crystal Depp

Ann Kovac

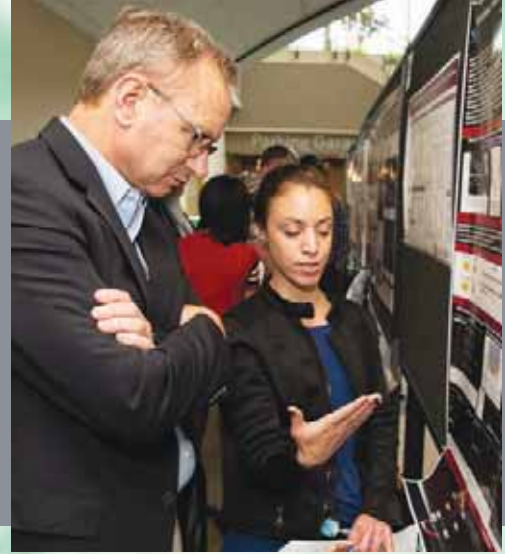
Karen Johnson

Twila Lindsey

Jamillah Porter

Dionne White

Celebrating Research Achievements



Dr. Bob Edwards listens to Marilina Raices, PhD, a fellow from Buenos Aires.

Our Annual Research Day was split into two separate events this year. MWRI Research Day focused on the fellows and faculty research projects, and took place on May 17. The Resident Research Day, on May 29, allowed for many more residents to present their work.

MWRI Research Day

The Margaret Prine Joy Lecture in Reproductive Sciences:

“Modeling the intergenerational impact of female opioid use”

Elizabeth M. Byrnes, PhD, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Neuroscience, Section Head of Neuroscience and Reproductive Biology, Tufts University

The Celebration of Life: A Lecture Honoring Mothers:

“Translational research in perinatal addiction”

Dace S. Svikis, PhD, Deputy Director, Institute for Women’s Health, Director, AWHARE (Addiction & Women’s Health: Advancing Research and Evaluation), Virginia Commonwealth University

Research Day 2019 Awardees

Dr. Paul M. Rike Fellowship Award

Ofer Beharier, MD PhD;
Mentor: Yoel Sadovsky, MD
Project: “The role of ferroptotic death in placental dysfunction”

Amy Roberts Award

Swati Rajprohat, MPH;
Mentor: Judy Chang, MD MPH
Project: “Developing a social and behavioral communication strategy to improve nutritional status of women of reproductive age in rural North India”

Fellow and Graduate Student Oral Presentation Winners

Amanda Artsen, MD;
Mentor: Pamela Moalli, MD, PhD
Project: “T regulatory cells: a key predictor of the host response in mesh complications”

Fellow and Graduate Student Poster Presentation Winners

Lauren Skvarca, MD PhD;
Mentor: Carl Hubel, PhD
Project: “Using digital pathology to evaluate podocalyxin (PODXL) as a novel biomarker of placental vascular changes in preeclampsia”

Clinical Research Trainee Award

Linda Burkett, MD, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Fellow;
Mentor: Pamela Moalli, MD PhD
Project: “Protecting Pelvic Floor Injury by Induction of Labor”

Christina Megli, MD, Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellow;
Mentor: Carolyn Coyne, PhD
Project: “Characterization of the microphage transcriptional response to the mid-gestation placenta”

Julia Tasset, MD, OB/GYN/RS Resident;
Mentor: Beatrice Chen, MD MPH
Project: “Internet users’ ability to identify and assess information about safe and effective self-managed abortion methods”

Resident Research Day

Resident Research Day included a special guest lecture by Dr. Brenna Hughes, resident graduate, 2003, and joint fellowship graduate in MFM/Genetics and Infectious Diseases, 2006.

Dr. Hughes spoke about the “Trials and Tribulations of a Career in Clinical Trials.” She is Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellowship Director, Chair, Departmental Quality, Safety, Peer Review, Duke University Medical Center.

The morning also featured a Career Panel discussion with Dr. Hughes, and Drs. Mary Ackenbom, Madeleine Courtney-Brooks and Elizabeth Krans.

Residents presentations included:

Emily Redman, MD

“Clinical Course, Predictors and Long-Term Blood Pressure Profile of Delayed Onset Postpartum Preeclampsia”

Kathleen Pombier, MD

“Super-Utilization of Health Care Resources Among Gynecologic Oncology Patients”

Kristen Venuti, MD

“Does menopausal status affect uropathogens and antimicrobial resistance patterns in women?”

Francis Hacker, MD

“Impact of Implementing an Obstetric Hemorrhage Consensus Bundle in a Large Health System”

Alayna Butcher, MD

“Laparoscopic Hysterectomy: Improving Cost-Effectiveness of Surgical Trays”

Alexandra Melnyk, MD, M.Ed.

“Comparison of Laparoscopic Hysterectomy in Patients with Endometriosis with and without an Obliterated Cul-De-Sac”

Kelsey Dressen, MD

“Prophylactic antibiotics for obstetric anal sphincter injuries”

Katie Turgeon, MD

“Inter-pregnancy weight change and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy”

Joanna Evans, MD

“Outcomes Following Immediate Postpartum Nexplanon Insertion: A Retrospective Chart Review”

Kristie Charek, MD

“Routine Assisted Hatching for Blastocyst Frozen Embryo Transfers: The Effect on Clinical Outcome in a Single Academic Center”

Anna Romanova, MD

“30-Day Unanticipated Healthcare Encounters after Major Prolapse Surgery: Does Day of Discharge Matter?”

James Ross, MD

“Assessing the Performance of the De Novo Postoperative Stress Urinary Incontinence Calculator”

Alison Garrett, MD

“Percutaneous Exposure Incidents in Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents”



Guest Lecturers, Dace Svikis, PhD, and Elizabeth Byrnes, PhD flank Yoel Sadovskiy, MD at MWRI Research Day.



Third and fourth year residents at Resident Research Day.



Drs. Gabey Gosman and Bob Edwards with guest lecturer and alumnae, Dr. Brenna Hughes at Resident Research Day.

ACOG 2019 Nashville, TN



Dr. Joe Sanfilippo with 3rd year REI fellow, Emily Barnard, MD, and resident, Jennifer Anhut de Groot, MD



Drs. Anne Shaheen, LeeAnn Swanson, Debbie Whiteside, Misha Pangasa



**Front row: Drs. Kelly Ferroni, Misha Pangasa, Nicole Falls
Back row: Drs. Jourdan Schmitz, Jennifer Anhut de Groot, Negin Mokhtari and Jessica Lee**



There was a great turnout for the Magee event at ACOG in the wine making room of the City Winery in Nashville.



**Front row: Drs. Annie Shaheen, Debbie Whiteside, LeeAnn Swanson, Amy Raven
Back row : Drs. Halina Zyczynski, Joe Ciocca, Mitch Creinin**

SMFM 2019 Las Vegas, NV



Drs. Hy Simhan, Arun Jeyabalan and Steve Caritis greet guests at the Magee reception.

CREOG/APGO 2019 New Orleans, LA



Magee Alumni gathering

Upcoming Alumni Events

44th Annual Alumni Day

Friday, September 20, 2019
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

Make plans to attend our annual Alumni Day. Lectures will be given by alumni and special guest lecture, Dr. Sherman Silber. All former trainees – residents and fellows – as well as former faculty are invited back to meet and mingle with current trainees and faculty. We will honor the classes having reunions - 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2009 and 2014.

To see the full agenda and register, visit:
<https://ccehs.upmc.com>

Alumni Reception

Thursday, September 19, 2019
Pittsburgh Golf Club
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

To register, please contact Colleen Gaughan at 412-641-8978 or cgaughan@magee.edu.

Hotel Reservations

A block of rooms have been reserved at the new Residence Inn across from Magee. Please call before August 22 to reserve your room.

Residence Inn Pittsburgh Oakland/
University Place
(412) 621-5600

AUGS – Magee Alumni Reception

September 25, 2019
Nashville, TN
7-9 p.m.

Co-hosted by Magee-Womens Foundation and UPMC Marketing at Barlines Restaurant, Omni Nashville Hotel

AAGL – Magee Alumni Reception

November 12, 2019
Vancouver, BC
7-9 p.m.

Coast Restaurant, 1054 Alberni St.
Vancouver, BC V6E 1A3

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Resident Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Corey supports Magee because it is such a wonderful institution. He says, “You need three things in order to give the best care to your patients and to enjoy being an obstetrician. The first thing is perfect health because it is a grind. The second thing you need are perfect partners because you work so intimately with them. And the third thing you need is a perfect hospital, and that’s what Magee is...because it can deliver the best care, not just to the routine patients, but to those in complicated, even life threatening situations that occur once in a while.”

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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 Colleen Gaughan at cgaughan@magee.edu.

Residency Program Update

Graduating Fellows

Family Planning

- Grace Ferguson, MD - Faculty at West Penn Hospital, Division of Family Planning

Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery

- Lauren Giugale, MD - Faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Gynecologic Oncology

- Erin Hartnett, MD - Faculty at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Hartford, Connecticut
- Malcolm Ross, MD - Faculty at Novant Gynecology Oncology, Charlotte, North Carolina

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

- Jennifer Braverman, MD - Faculty at the University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado
- Alisse Hauspurg, MD - Faculty at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, Division of MFM
- Roxanna Twedt, MD - Faculty at High-Risk Pregnancy Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

- Ann Peters, MD - Faculty at Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

- Stephanie Rothenberg, MD - Pacific Northwest Fertility & IVF Specialists, Seattle, Washington

Incoming Fellows

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

- Jacqueline Atlass, MD
- Francis Hacker, MD
- Jaclyn Phillips, MD

Gynecologic Oncology

- Michael Cohen, MD
- Alyssa Wield, MD

Infectious Diseases

- Yasaswi Paruchuri, MD

Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

- Stephanie Clark, MD

Family Planning

- Samantha Deans, MD

Minimally Invasive Surgery

- Shana Miles, MD

Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

- Priyanka Ghosh, MD

Graduating Residents

- Jacqueline Atlass, MD - MFM Fellowship, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
- Mary Burriss, MD - Gyn Onc Fellowship Program, Medical College of Georgia
- Alayna Butcher, MD - Washington Health System Ob/Gyn Care, Washington, PA
- Kelsey Dressen, MD - UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
- Joanna Evans, MD - WakeMed North Hospital, Raleigh, NC
- Francis Hacker, MD - MFM Fellowship, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
- Yasaswi Paruchuri, MD - ID Fellowship, UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
- Kathryn Peticca, MD - East Suburban Ob/Gyn Associates, Monroeville, PA
- Elizabeth Pronesti, MD - St. Clair Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
- Jason Ricciuti, MD - University at Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY

Incoming Residents

- Emily R. Carbaugh, MD - SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine
- Rachel N. Dang, MD - University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio
- Kymberly C. Forsyth, MD - Ohio State University College of Medicine
- Emily C. MacArthur, MD - Chicago Medical School at Rosalind, Franklin University School of Medicine & Science
- Christine E. McGough, MD - McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston
- Nicole Meckes, MD - Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

- Praveen Ramesh, MD - University of California, Davis, School of Medicine
- Kristin M. Romutis, MD - Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine
- Selma M. Su, MD - Drexel University College of Medicine
- Taylor Rives, MD - (Second Year Resident) Medical College of Georgia

Department Awards

The Margaret Searce Compassionate Care Award

- Latima Collins, MD

SGO - Annual Residency Award

- Susan Lang, MD

Ryan Program Resident Award for Excellence in Family Planning

- Kathryn Peticca, MD

Magee-Womens Hospital Junior Resident Award for Excellence in Family Planning

- Julia Tasset, MD, MPH

AAGL - Special Excellence in Endoscopic Procedures

- Alexandra Melnyk, MD, MEd

SLS - Outstanding Laparoendoscopic Resident

- Elizabeth Pronesti, MD

AUGS - Award for Excellence in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

- Kristie Charek, MD

NASPAG - Outstanding Resident Award

- Nina Ragunathan, MD

Dr. Morris Turner Procedural Teaching/Guidance Award

- Alayna Butcher, MD

SASGOG Resident Award

- Kristen Venuti, MD

Best General OB Skills by an Intern

- Alexandra Buffie, MD

SMFM - Resident Award for Excellence in Obstetrics

- Nina Ragunathan, MD



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WOMENS**
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
& FOUNDATION

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Three ways to give.
So many lives to touch.

1. Bequest - You can remember Magee through your will.
2. IRA - Name Magee as a beneficiary on a retirement account.
3. Charitable Remainder Trust - Create an income stream for your life while also making a gift to Magee.

There are many other gift options to choose from including life insurance, gifts of real estate, and gifts of stock. For more information about making a meaningful gift to Magee, contact Colleen Gaughan at cgaughan@magee.edu or 412-641-8978.