



International Team Awarded the Inaugural \$1 Million Magee Prize

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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

A Message from Dr. Robert Edwards

I would like to once again celebrate the accomplishments of the Department since the last Alumni Newsletter. Changes are always occurring at Magee, and recent ones include the reorganization of the residency, alignment of the fellowship with ACGME and our specialty expanded presence in our community centers.

We congratulate those moving into new roles listed in the newsletter and we are sad to say goodbye to our recent retirements including Helen Fries, one of our longstanding department stalwarts dating back to the early 1990s. Helen has done a fantastic job organizing many of our community practice offices working with local leadership at each of these hospitals and office systems. We congratulate Helen on a tremendous career. In addition, Dr. Joseph Kelley has announced his impending retirement after a long and illustrious career. After completing his residency in 1989 and fellowship at MD Anderson in 1991, Joe returned to practice Gynecological Oncology at Magee. Since 1991 he has made many contributions to our program. In 2003 Joe became the division director of Gynecologic Oncology. He successfully expanded the fellowship program, as well as maintained the active breast training which is so important to the experience of the Ob/Gyn residents.

In this issue, you will notice a new look for the newsletter. It is part of Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation's rebranding. While the mission and vision of the organization remains the same, the new brand will help us all to speak in a unified voice and encourage more people to join us as we work together to build a healthier world for women, children, families, and communities.

Beyond the new brand for MWRIF, new additions to the faculty and new programs we're developing include expansion of our opioid addicted maternal-child health program and realignment of our physician obstetric workforce at Magee and initiating an international health program for which we recruited Jennifer Makin to lead. Dr. Richard Beigi, who got his start at Magee with a fellowship in reproductive infectious diseases, has been named the new president of UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, and we congratulate him and highlight him in our alumni spotlight. We also congratulate Dr. Gabriella Gosman, who has been named Vice President, Medical Affairs of UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

I would also like to note the passing of three members of the Magee family and acknowledge the profound impact they have had on so many throughout their lives and careers. Dr. Donald George Birrell, Dr. Antonio Jose Amortegui,

and Dr. John A. Malinowski touched the lives of their patients, colleagues, and communities. We deeply appreciate and acknowledge these individuals. They will all be greatly missed.

We hope you, as alumni, will continue to stay in touch with your Magee family and we hope to see you at upcoming regional or national meetings. Please mark your calendars for Alumni Day, happening September 19 & 20 this year. We would love to see you.

Best regards,

Robert P. Edwards

Former Fellow and Pittsburgh Native Takes on New Role: President of Magee-Womens Hospital

Though he's a Pittsburgh native, Dr. Richard Beigi wasn't always sure he'd come back to his hometown.

Dr. Beigi earned his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee and his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. After he completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Case Western Reserve's MacDonald Women's Hospital in Cleveland, he was looking to follow his interests and passions where ever they would lead him. "What drew me to the medical field was the science behind it combined with the personal interactions between patients and doctors; the blend of the social and the science it requires," says Dr. Beigi.

He was specifically interested in a pursuing a fellowship in Reproductive Infectious Diseases, and one of the only places that offered one just happened to be UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital, where Dr. Richard L. Sweet, an expert in the field of Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics & Gynecology, was head of the department. It also offered him the chance to pursue clinical and academic development opportunities in a way few other programs can match. The unique environment at Magee allowed him to find support and mentorship to pursue those opportunities in clinical, academic, and leadership realms. "I have been very fortunate to be able to work with top-notch mentors and colleagues, including Drs. Sweet, Hogge, Wiesenfeld, Kaminski, and Hillier, as well as Leslie Davis and many others," Dr. Beigi said.

His family has also brought him full circle back to his hometown. Though he and his wife, Luisa, met at Vanderbilt, she is also from Pittsburgh. They have four daughters, ages nine through 18, and enjoy hiking, skiing, and cooking together.

During his tenure in Pittsburgh, which began with the fellowship in Reproductive Infectious Diseases from 2001- 2003, Dr. Beigi has held increasingly responsible positions at Magee and the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine. Before being named President, he was the Chief Medical Officer and Vice President of Medical Affairs. Dr. Beigi also served as Vice Chairman for Clinical Operations in the Department of Obstetrics/ Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and was the Medical Director of UPMC/Allegheny County General Ob-Gyn Practices. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to the academic mission, publishing hundreds of peer-reviewed articles and collaborative studies as well as teaching tomorrow's doctors as a Professor of Reproductive Sciences, Department of Obstetrics/ Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Dr. Beigi is the first physician to lead a UPMC hospital, appropriately at Magee, since it is unique in the region both from a clinical and a research perspective, and a world-renowned specialty hospital. He's excited to continue to foster the unique environment that makes Magee such a special place to work. Said Dr. Beigi, "I'm looking forward to building further upon Magee's rich tradition of mentorship, clinical excellence, and academic leadership, and focusing on how we can continue to deliver and even improve our stellar patient care."

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers In Women's Health



To tackle the biggest challenges in the field of women's health, excellent clinical and research work done individually is not enough. It is also essential to attract, retain, develop and mentor current and future leaders in the field. Magee-Womens has led the way with two programs dedicated to fostering mentorship and career development: The Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH, pronounced "BIRCH") Program and the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program, both funded through the NIH.

The goal of BIRCWH is to train, nurture, and support talented University of Pittsburgh faculty scholars in personalized prevention, diagnostics, and therapeutics for girls and women. The program is built on an unparalleled strength in reproductive sciences and women's health research, led by Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI). "Being awarded the BIRCWH as a brand new faculty was huge for me", said Dr. Janet Catov. "It gave me protected time and support for my research, and it validated my early ideas. It also gave me access to leadership within the Department and the University that has proven invaluable in my career. It exposed me to national leaders in women's health research, and highlights from those talks and meetings remain with me to this day."

MWRI's BIRCWH program was established in 2002 by MWRI's founder, Dr. James Roberts, and transitioned to Dr. Sadovsky's leadership in 2010, with current funding through 2022. Twenty-one scholars have participated in the program, eight of them from the Department of OBGYN-RS: Dr. Judy Chang; Dr. Arun Jeyabalan; Dr. Sharon Achilles; Dr. Janet Catov; Dr. Chiara Ghetti (now at Washington University in St. Louis); Dr. Beth Prairie (now at Allegheny Health); Dr. Catherine Chappell; and Dr. Francesca Facco.

Because each of the scholars that enter the program have diverse academic backgrounds and investigative skills, career development plans of 2-5 years are crafted for each of them, individually tailored to each scholar's training and expertise. A team of mentors with diverse yet complementary skills is assembled, based on the scholar's background and needs, and works with each scholar to achieve her/his goals. Each scholar is guided by an interdisciplinary group of three mentors and overseen by an Advisory Committee comprised of researchers with heterogeneous scientific backgrounds. Resources garnered through the program are shared with other reproductive sciences trainees at MWRI and across Pitt's Health Sciences. Together, BIRCWH emphasizes imaginative thinking, cross-fertilization, and collaboration that bridges basic

sciences and clinical medicine, and serves to propel each scholar to successful careers in women's health and the dissemination of knowledge to the wider academic community.

While the BIRCWH program is interdisciplinary and accepts MDs or PhDs from across all Schools of Health Sciences, the Women's Reproductive Health Research (WRHR) Career Development Program, a sister program to BIRCWH, is strictly for OBGYN-RS faculty scholars. The goal of the program is to prepare outstanding junior faculty in the field of obstetrics and gynecology for a productive and exciting investigative career in reproductive biology and biomedical research. It likewise has a strong mentorship and development component and positions participants to continue their development as leaders in their fields. The program is run by Dr. Janet Catov, and coordinated by Margie Seskey, with many alumni of the OBGYN participating in the program, including: Dr. Katherine Himes, Dr. Jacob Larkin, Dr. Marcia Klein-Patel and current participants Dr. John Harris and Dr. Mary Ackenbom.

These two programs are helping to develop the next leaders in women's health research and to invest in the doctors that will help to move the entire field forward to a healthier, better future.



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- Dr. Janet Catov



The Urogynecology trainees and alumni met up at AUGS 2018 in Chicago, IL



Beth Frankman, Resident, 2007 and Fellow 2010,
Linda Burkett, Fellow 2021, Abby Stork, Resident, 2021,
Amy Park, Resident, 2006, Pam Moalli, Resident, 1998



Katarzyna Bochenska, Resident, 2015
Halina Zyczynski, Resident, 1989

AAGL 2018



Mallory Stuparich, Fellow, 2017,
Ted Lee, Ann Peters, Resident, 2017



Former residents, fellows and MIG faculty gathered at the annual AAGL conference in Las Vegas in November 2018

43rd Annual Alumni Day brought back reunion classes, memories and former colleagues met new trainees



Susan Capelle, Resident, 1995
Levi Downs, Resident, 1998,
Inaugural Kunschner lecturer
Chandra Hollier, Resident, 1998



Steve Hasley, Resident, 1988,
OB Legacy Lecturer was joined
by classmate Anthony DelConte



Courtney Schreiber, Fellow 2005
Hy Simhan



Richard Guido, Resident, 1982
Robert Aepli, Resident, 1978,
celebrating his 40th reunion



Class of 1988 - 30th reunion
L to R - John Fisch, Steve Hasley,
Lydia Sims, Anthony DelConte,
Luis Vacarello, John Fong



Amanda Ecker, Resident, 2013, Fellow, 2015,
Katz Lecturer
Michele Ecker
David Katz, Resident, 1965



Class of 2013 - 5th reunion
Karyn Hansen
Paula Duncan
Michelle Boisen
Amanda Ecker
Serena Chan



Richard Guido, Resident, 1982
Richard Mann, Resident, 1955
Bob Edwards, Resident, 1989



Class of 2008 - 10th Reunion
Stephanie Owens
Gina Mantia-Smaldone
Susan Lareau
Kathleen Carroll



International Team Awarded the Inaugural \$1 Million Magee Prize, Led by Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences

Yaacov Barak, PhD, an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and a team of scientists were awarded the \$1 million Magee Prize to fund their research to understand how defects in the placenta during gestation could lead to heart defects in the developing fetus. The team was chosen from three finalists, and the Prize was awarded during the inaugural Magee-Womens Research Summit last October. The Magee Prize, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, recognizes breakthrough research being conducted by top scientists from around the world who are focused exclusively on women's health. The winners of the prize were selected based on which team had the potential to have the most significant contribution to women's health research, based on innovative and collaborative research in disciplines including personalized medicine, early human development, and gender-based biology.

"I want to pinch myself," said Dr. Barak. "I have been working on this project and idea for 20 years. It is gratifying to know that persistence pays and yesterday's wild ideas may become today's reality."

Barak noticed two decades ago that mouse embryos with a particular mutated gene – expressed only in the placenta – suffered fatal defects in both the placenta and the heart. To his surprise, fixing the gene just in the placenta corrected the heart defect.



Barak largely shelved the project until recently, when the field started to take notice of a similar trend among human babies. Those with a congenital heart defect were more likely to have had a defective placenta during gestation. This finding is significant because heart defects occur in approximately one in 150 live births, but in most cases, what causes the heart to form improperly is not known. Barak's previous work led him to suspect the placenta.

To investigate this theory, Barak has assembled what he refers to as a "dream team," including placenta expert Myriam Hemberger, Ph.D., of the University of Calgary, and heart expert Henry Sucov, Ph.D., of the University of Southern California. The team plans to develop a diverse collection of mouse models, which they will use to both solidify the placenta-heart connection and analyze its underpinnings. That information may usher in earlier detection, and potentially, prevention and treatment strategies.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we recognize the recent passing of three dedicated members of the Magee family.



Donald George Birrell, MD, residency graduate of 1955, died peacefully on December 6, 2018. He earned a degree in Chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College and a Doctor of Medicine from Jefferson Medical College in 1948. After an internship at Lancaster General Hospital, he completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and became board certified in that specialty. Don was an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army having served both in World War II and the Korean Conflict-including two years' service overseas. Don was an enormously hard working and dedicated physician, family man and community member. He held many positions in which he made very significant contributions. He served as the President of the Medical Staff and was a clinical Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.



Antonio Jose Amortegui, MD, died December 20, 2018 with his immediate family at his side. Antonio graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 1958 in Bogota, Colombia with his medical degree; he then continued to Maracaibo, Venezuela to begin his journey in medicine. He, his wife and oldest daughter arrived in the United States in 1963 to begin a distinguished medical career. He completed post-graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, and residencies in New Jersey and Ohio. In 1968, the family arrived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Antonio began an illustrious career of over 40 years with the University of Pittsburgh. Antonio was a Professor of Pathology at Magee. He specialized in Infectious Diseases and was a pioneer in the research of Chlamydia and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). In addition to his responsibility of supervising the Microbiology lab at Magee, Antonio established a Virology lab. He was published and cited hundreds of times throughout his career and even after retirement. He spoke at numerous conferences both in the United States and abroad. As an academic physician, he was responsible for educating medical students, residents, and fellows.



John A. Malinowski, MD, residency graduate of 1965, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on January 1, 2019. John was a graduate of St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ where he was a member of the basketball team. He went on to earn his medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and took his internship at Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital in Johnstown, PA. Following his schooling, he served in the US Navy for two years as a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps. After completing his military service, he joined Magee as a resident. Following residency, John went into practice with Dr. Bob Waylonis in Pittsburgh



Dr. Gabriella Gosman Named the New Vice President, Medical Affairs (VMPA)

Dr. Gabriella Gosman, MD, has been named Vice President, Medical Affairs of UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. Gabey has been at Magee-Womens for 20 years and brings this experience along with many strong clinical, administrative, education, and leadership skills to the position. She will continue her Residency, Vice-Chair of Education, and Graduate Medical Education roles.

Dr. Gosman did her undergraduate work at Harvard University, attended Yale University for medical school, and then performed residency and fellowship training at the University of Pennsylvania. While at Magee she has worked extensively at the intersection of education and clinical care. Dr. Gosman is a respected leader in the department, hospital, and UPMC Health System. She currently serves as Vice Chair for Education and Residency Program Director for Ob/Gyn as well as the Associate Designated Institutional Official for UPMC Graduate Medical Education. Her expertise includes harnessing graduate medical education for quality and safety initiatives; developing interprofessional teamwork to optimize patient care; forging effective working relationships with leaders in multiple disciplines within the Magee community; convening stakeholders to solve complex problems; and developing others' knowledge and skills via structured education, coaching, and mentorship.



Dr. Laura Riley Appointed Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine and Obstetrician

Dr. Laura Riley, a renowned obstetrician who specializes in obstetric infectious disease, has been appointed chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine and obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Riley will oversee one of New York City's busiest labor and delivery units, which currently delivers approximately 5,000 babies a year.

Dr. Riley's research focuses on infection and the causes of fever during labor, as well as the utilization of the influenza vaccine in pregnant women. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Harvard University in 1981 and her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 1985. Dr. Riley remained at the University of Pittsburgh for her residency in obstetrics and gynecology from 1986 to 1989 before completing a fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston in 1991.



Dr. Ted Lee Appointed to the Board of AAGL

Dr. Ted Teh Min Lee has been appointed to the executive board of AAGL, starting as secretary treasurer 2019, VP and scientific program chair 2020, President 2021, and immediate past president in 2022. Dr. Lee is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and the Director of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital.

Upcoming Alumni Events

SMFM

Thursday, February 14
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Carmine's in the Forum Shops
Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, NV

CREOG/APOG

Wednesday, February 27
8:00 to 9:30 p.m.
Gordan Biersch, 200 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA

SGO

Friday, March 15
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Brilliant Ox,
1450 Ala Moana Blvd #3230
Honolulu, HI

ACOG

May 3-6
TBD
Nashville, TN

Research Day

Friday, May 17
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

44th Annual Magee Alumni Day

September 19 & 20
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital
Classes having reunions include
1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2009, 2014

A block of rooms are being held at Residence Inn Pittsburgh Oakland/University Place, directly across from the hospital on Forbes Avenue. Call 412.621.5600 to reserve your room.

Please email **Colleen Gaughan** at cgaughan@magee.edu or call at **412-641-8978** for more information regarding these and other upcoming Alumni events.

www.mageewomens.org



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Stay up to date on the great things happening at Magee. It's easy!
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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-Womens Research Institute, contact Colleen Gaughan at cgaughan@magee.edu



Three Ways to Give. So Many Lives to Touch.

1 REQUEST

You can remember Magee-Womens Research Institute through your will.

2 IRA

Name Magee-Womens Research Institute 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-Womens Research Institute.