

The Editor's Workshop

A look to the future in Teaching Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology

Once more it is time for the NASPAG Annual Clinical Meeting. This time we transport ourselves to the great city of San Antonio, TX, USA, for the 23rd edition of our meeting. The program is filled with interesting topics from plenary sessions on Adolescent Healthy Choices by Susan Wysocki and Obesity by Dr. Mary Brandt to Gynecologic topics such as ovarian failure by Dr. Lawrence Nelson and Menstruation from a Different Perspective by Dr. Estherann Grace. Workshops and Luncheon sessions will provide the audience with a diverse set of skills and knowledge and engage the audience in their multiple interactive sessions.

This year NASPAG has paired with the *Journal* to provide access to all research abstracts on-line. This will facilitate and expedite their publication, as well as provide a more efficient forum for the reader. This year's submissions are characterized by innovative information including the use of simulations to teach Pediatric and Adolescent gynecology as well as contraceptive and sexually transmitted infection research. Other topics include puberty, adolescent behavior and, of course, a vast number of interesting case reports and series. A complete list of all abstracts and posters is included in the table of contents, while the body of the abstracts may be seen on line at <http://www.jpagonline.org/>. We expected this to be a very interesting meeting, full of innovative and insightful information.

To this issue of the *Journal*, continuing with the view to the future, Dr. Yoram Beyth and colleagues present a mini-review on the use of simulators for education in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. The new requirements in safety and outcomes from the Federal and State programs in Israel requires innovative ways of teaching providers, residents and students in the areas of science that may not occur with sufficient frequency such as Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology cases. The need to develop skills to communicate with adolescent girls requires practice and effort. From Dr. Beyth's perspective there is no better way than using a simulation scenario to develop and master these skills. Also Lisa Goldstein and co-workers evaluate the pediatric and adolescent services provided by Obstetricians and Gynecologists identifying the need for further education of residents, and the provision of essential health care to this population by practitioners proficient in this area.

Also in this issue, Dr. Rao and colleagues discuss the use of pioglitazone in the treatment of hyperinsulinemia and its effects on the menstrual cycle. This information comes at a good time since the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics have released statements regarding the pattern(s) of the menstrual cycle as a vital sign for adolescent girls. Given the adolescent obesity epidemic, early detection and management of disorders affecting the menstrual cycle and insulin homeostasis go hand in hand and need special attention from the practitioner.

Our interesting case reports continue to be reviewed and expedited by publication on line, giving authors and readers more up-to-date access to these unique cases. It is time to look at education in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology and discover new

and innovative ways to pass it along to our audiences. The written word and traditional lectures may not be the only way, but just a segment of the educational model. Simulations and adult learner models need to take precedence in the new world of safety and outcomes as our success will be measured using those tools.

We hope this issue of the *Journal* brings interesting thoughts and discussion to your practice and ignites the flame of research within our readers.

See you in San Antonio!

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