

Preface



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Guest Editor

Pediatric and adolescent gynecology (PAG) is a unique subspecialty of gynecology that encompasses reproductive healthcare of young women under the age of 22. The spectrum of conditions that a gynecologist may see present in young women between the newborn period and adolescence is wide and varied. Many conditions are an overlap between the fields of gynecology and pediatrics, pediatric endocrinology, hematology, urology, pediatric surgery, dermatology, psychiatry, public health medicine and genetics.

As past president of the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG), I have had the opportunity to interact with PAG experts across the United States and Canada. This issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics* provides a collection of PAG topics presented by some of those physicians who have been recognized as experts in each chosen area. These authors have been hand-selected based on their expertise, their history, and their ability to make a complex topic understandable by all health care providers.

I am pleased to begin this issue with a written summary of one of my favorite lectures given at NASPAG: *My PAG Photo Album* by Dr. Mary Anne Jamieson. In this article, Dr. Jamieson provides a wonderful visual overview of PAG cases with nuances and clinical “pearls” to assist the reader in providing the best treatment for the presenting condition. This should stir the readers’ interest and enhance the reading of the rest of the issue.

In this issue, PAG issues addressed range from disorders of sexual development, including müllerian anomalies, to those of genital trauma and urologic conditions that may present to the gynecologist. A helpful and practical article, “The Adolescent Sexual Health Visit,” begins the latter half of this issue, and like the articles on updates of polycystic ovarian syndrome and contraception in the adolescent, it has an overlap with public health issues facing teens and our society today. The issue closes with a look at hematologic conditions (both thrombophilias and bleeding disorders) that present to the gynecologist, and dysmenorrhea and endometriosis in the adolescent. Each author, as mentioned, was selected because of their expertise in their topic, and by reading their articles, you should glean practical information for those young women whom you encounter who have PAG conditions.

Let me close with a thank you to Drs. Jamieson, Allen, Breech, Laufer, Yerkes, Merritt, Shafi, Burstein, Lara-Torre, Pfeifer, Kives, James, Dietrich, Yee, and Templeman for their timely adherence to a tight deadline to facilitate publication in time for the 2009 Annual Clinical Meeting of NASPAG in San Antonio, Texas, and for the 2009 Annual Clinical Meeting of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

I would also like to acknowledge the noteworthy assistance of Carla Holloway whose kind persistence and patient but firm demeanor has kept us on track. She is a credit to her field. Thank you.

For those readers with further interest in PAG, please consider membership to the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG) or attendance at one of NASPAG's annual meetings. The mission of NASPAG is to provide a forum for education, research, and communication among healthcare professionals who provide gynecologic care to children and adolescents. NASPAG is a small society of approximately 400 to 500 members making it a very collegial and interactive group. Membership includes a subscription to the *Journal for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* and access to a list serve to assist you with the ability to ask experts for advice in the care of PAG patients.

I hope that you find this issue not only enjoyable, but helpful as you care for this unique type of gynecologic patient. We have a unique role as healthcare providers to this special population as their interaction with us is often their introduction to gynecology. A proper diagnosis, management, and positive interaction with us can empower these young women to take charge of their own healthcare and best care for themselves.

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