



Developing the Medicine of Tomorrow

*A Look at the Division of
Reproductive Genetics*

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE**

Resident Alumni Spotlight

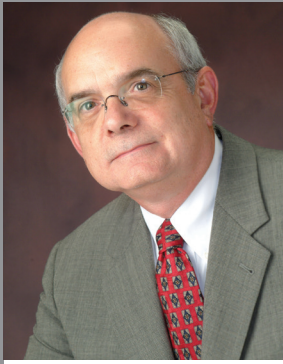
Division Spotlight

A Look at Dr. Hogge's Career

Events/Happenings

SPRING 2014

DEPARTMENT OF OB/GYN/RS



Message from Dr. Hogge

This issue of the Department's newsletter is a very special one for me because it focuses on the Division of Reproductive Genetics, the division I was recruited to direct 20 years ago. It is now ably led by Aleks Rajkovic who has built it into a nationally recognized clinical and research program. The ever-increasing focus on personalized medicine means that genetics is becoming a significant part of all aspects of OB/GYN.

As some of you know, I have announced my intention to retire at the end of December, 2014. A search committee has been named and is meeting to develop a list of candidates to review. If you know of good candidates, please contact me and I will forward them to the committee. In preparation for the committee's work, I have prepared a brief summary of the Department and will share a few of the key aspects of that document that reflect this remarkable Department.

- There are 153 clinical faculty, 40 full-time investigators, and 15 nurse midwives
- We train 40 residents, 30 clinical fellows, and 15 PhD postdoctoral fellows each year
- Approximately 700 staff support our clinical, education, and research missions
- 40 percent of our incoming residency class is AOA, with a mean step 2 score of 254
- We have clinical fellowships in nine different subspecialties
- Our faculty publishes approximately 200 manuscripts annually
- We receive nearly \$40 million in NIH funding each year – more than any other Department of our kind
- Our faculty provides clinical care in approximately 100 office sites in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio
- The annual budget for clinical, educational, and research activities is \$160 million

When I came to Magee in 1992, I joined a faculty of 14 dedicated individuals whose vision was to develop the Department into a nationally recognized leader in women's health.

As I wrote the executive summary, it was clear that the vision of Rick Sweet, Jim Roberts, Bill Crombleholme, and the other department faculty of 1992 has come to fruition. However, achieving that vision was only possible because of the incredible foundation set by Drs. McCall, Hutchinson, Hayashi, and Rulin.

Whether you finished your residency 50 years ago or 5 years ago, you too played a role in the remarkable growth and success of this world-class Department.

W. Allen Hogge, MD

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

Division Directors

- Suzanne Shores, CNM– Midwifery
- Lyndon Hill, MD - Ultrasound
- Robert Kaminski, MD – Obstetrical Services
- Joseph Kelley, MD – Gynecologic Oncology
- Aleksandar Rajkovic, MD, PhD – Reproductive Genetics
- Joseph Sanfilippo, MD – Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
- Hygriv Simhan, MD – Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Harold Wiesenfeld, MD – Gynecologic Specialties
- Halina Zyczynski, MD – Urogynecology & Pelvic Reconstruction

Vice Chairs

- Robert Edwards, MD – Gynecologic Services
- Dennis English, MD – Clinical Operations
- Sharon Hillier, PhD – Faculty Development
- Yoel Sadovsky, MD – Research
- Edward Sandy, MD – Community Practices
- Hygriv Simhan, MD – Obstetrical Services
- Isabelle Wilkins, MD – Clinical Affairs

Magee Residency Program - the Standard by Which Other Programs Are Judged

In his 43 years of practice, **Dr. Richard Mann** delivered close to 8,000 babies and witnessed significant changes in the practice of obstetrics.

“When I first began my practice, fetal monitoring wasn’t even in use,” Dr. Mann says, “we just had a stethoscope.”

Growing up in Etna, PA, as the son of a general practitioner, Mann’s interest in medicine was piqued early. Both he and his younger brother chose to follow in their father’s footsteps.

But it was Dr. Paul Titus, chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the former St. Margaret Memorial Hospital where Mann completed his internship, who influenced the young doctor to choose obstetrics and gynecology as his specialty.

Like so many young men of his age, Mann interrupted his college education to serve his country during WWII. Enlisting in the Navy, Mann was soon called to Midshipman’s School (officer training) at Cornell University before being assigned to a destroyer mine sweeper in the South Pacific for three years. Upon discharge, Mann returned to Penn State to complete his degree before being accepted into the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, Class of 1951.

Following his transitional year internship at St. Margaret, Mann entered residency at Magee. “I think the internship year was a good thing,” Mann says, “because it gave you a little knowledge about all areas of medicine before you began your practice; I decided to go into obstetrics and gynecology before completing the internship.”



Dr. Richard Mann

Dr. Mann graduated from Magee’s residency program in 1955 and believes it prepared him well for the busy practice he would have.

“When I was in residency, there were not many paid faculty. Most of the teaching was done by the clinical practitioners. Working with them gave you a world of experience that I believe was invaluable,” Mann recalls.

Despite long hours in clinical practice during residency, Mann still found time for some fun.

“I played saxophone with Pops Cravotta and his Halket Street Five Band,” Mann says. The jazz band played at many hospital and university functions and was led by Dr. Charles A. Cravotta, a senior obstetrics and gynecology physician at Magee.

After residency, Dr. Mann joined a Miami, Florida based partnership for five years before returning to the Pittsburgh area to practice in McKeesport, seeing patients at both Magee-Womens Hospital and McKeesport Hospital.

“I had a very busy practice,” Dr. Mann says. “In addition to my own patients, I supervised a very active midwifery program up until the time McKeesport Hospital discontinued obstetrics.”

As the midwifery program supervisor, Dr. Mann was consulted anytime a pregnancy was not proceeding normally and was on call to attend a birth if complications arose.

Always interested in advancing care for his patients, Dr. Mann spent a great deal of time working with Dr. Rudy Sabbagha at Magee

Continued on page 5.

Division of Reproductive Genetics

Magee has a rich history as a leader in women’s health. An example of this innovation, cutting-edge research, and exceptional clinical capabilities is the Division of Reproductive Genetics, directed by Aleksandar Rajkovic, MD, PhD. The Division provides genetic counseling and clinical evaluation to patients who are concerned about their genetic background and the possible effect it may have on their health and/or reproductive future. It also serves as a premier educational destination for the geneticists and genetic counselors of tomorrow.

The Division coordinates the efforts of various specialties, including genetics, ultrasound, maternal-fetal medicine, neonatology, and pediatric specialty services to evaluate and manage pregnancies identified with birth abnormalities.

To more effectively address needs, the Division separated the Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment Center into two unique centers – the Center for Advanced Fetal Diagnostics, which offers cutting-edge testing and result interpretation and the Center for Advanced Fetal Intervention, which provides state-of-the-art *in utero* procedures from ultrasound-guided fetal interventions, including intrauterine transfusion, fetoscopic procedures, such as laser photocoagulation for twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, and open fetal surgery for repair of the myelomeningocele.

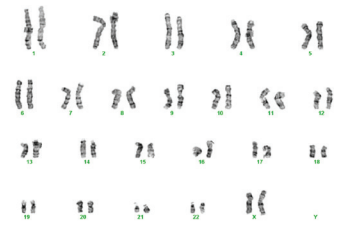
Advancing the Field

In April, the Division will open the doors to a new state-of-the-art genomics lab that will enable non-invasive screening for chromosomal abnormalities in pregnancy. “The goal is to reduce invasive procedures – and ultimately replace amniocentesis – to detect any genetic abnormality, big or small,” says Dr. Rajkovic. The lab will employ genetic counselors who will interpret the results and work with the laboratory director and patient’s physician to develop a recommended treatment plan.

Because the study of genomics can be applied across all aspects of women’s health – pregnancy, gynecology, and many other issues

plaguing women’s health – it is a natural fit for Magee.

And, according to Dr. Rajkovic, Magee is leading the country in advancing the field. “This type of non-invasive testing is available commercially, but we’ll be the first to provide it in the hospital setting. Personalized medicine is beginning here – with this lab and at Magee.



We’re going to be the first to look at molecular underpinnings to arrive at and implement the best treatment plan, individualized for the patient. It might take a while for the medical community – and even insurance plans – to catch up to us, but we believe strongly that we need to forge ahead and set the pace,” he says.

Developing non-invasive methods for fetal genomic diagnosis is just one of the ways the Division is working to change the genetics landscape. Its robust research portfolio, focuses on a wide array of initiatives, including:

- development of algorithms for whole genome analyses
- mechanisms of cancer predisposition
- the etiology of recurrent pregnancy loss and aneuploidies
- genetics for premature ovarian failure, menopause, male infertility and leiomyomas
- utility and design of chromosomal microarrays for use on constitutional diagnosis and cancer genetics

Magee also is home to the only clinic in the region that specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of genetics conditions in adults. “We aid primary care physicians in the diagnosis of illnesses that have an unknown diagnosis or are difficult to treat. If we find a genetic origin, we can work with them to treat it,” says Dr. Rajkovic. “Some of the types of conditions we see in the clinic are connective tissue disease, heart problems, intellectual disabilities, and skin conditions.”

A Leader in Education

At the center of the advanced clinical offerings and vigorous research program, is a prestigious education program that trains medical students, residents, and various subspecialty fellows, including obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, family medicine, and internal medicine. The program also has been expanded to include medical students from inside and outside of the UPMC system and students studying to be genetic counselors at the University of

Pittsburgh's School of Public Health.

"We have a truly integrated education program," says Dr. Rajkovic. "As the field is evolving, so is our program. Genetics used to be a pediatric discipline, but now there is a need for other physicians to understand genetics. With the diverse patient population at Magee and Children's Hospital, we have an incredibly rich program," he says.

"Personalized medicine is beginning here - with this lab and at Magee. We're going to be the first to look at molecular underpinnings to arrive at and implement the best treatment plan, individualized for the patient."

Division Faculty:

Aleksandar Rajkovic, MD, PhD,
Director
W. Allen Hogge, MD
Devereux N. Saller, Jr. MD
David Peters, PhD
Jie Hu, MD, PhD
Marta Kolthoff, MD
Judy Yanowitz, PhD
Alexander Yatsenko, MD, PhD
Svetlana Yatsenko, MD, PhD
Tianjiao Chu, PhD

Magee Residency Program

(Continued)

learning about a new innovation – ultrasound. Recognizing the tremendous benefit this new technology would bring to his patients, Dr. Mann started the first ultrasound program at McKeesport Hospital.

Mann also introduced laparoscopy at McKeesport Hospital where he served as chief of Obstetrics from 1972-1991 and as president of the Pittsburgh OBGYN Society in the 1980's before retiring in 1998.

Dr. Mann lives with his wife, Karen, in White Oak, PA. He has two grown children. Reflecting on his residency at Magee, Dr. Mann says, "I am proud of the Magee residency program. It is an excellent program - the standard by which other programs are judged."

Did You Know?

Magee-Womens Hospital and the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences offer a library of free online CME courses featuring our experts. Find out more at UPMCPhysicianResources.com/Gynecology.

Visionary Paves the Path to Success

In late 2013, Dr. W. Allen Hogge announced his plans to retire in late 2014. The following article is a portion of an article about Dr. Hogge's career that will be published in the Spring issue of MAGEE magazine.

When Dr. W. Allen Hogge decided to leave private practice in Virginia in 1982 to pursue the field of reproductive genetics, his partners questioned his decision. At that time there wasn't much of a focus on the field. Over the course of the next decade, that changed dramatically and today, genetics is a leading part of all medicine and most research. As he prepares for retirement, the Magee-Womens Foundation looks back at Dr. Hogge's career the way his vision shaped the success of the Department.

When Dr. Hogge moved to California to pursue a fellowship in reproductive genetics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), he was fascinated by the work being done there. "It was a time of very early treatment of diseases in the fetus, and San Francisco was one of the locations that was leading the way," he says. He was excited by the prospects that new techniques like ultrasound and amniocentesis were advancing health care and became involved in research on early prenatal diagnosis of genetic diseases.

In 1992, Dr. Richard Sweet became the chair of Magee's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences and recruited Dr. Hogge. "What was attractive to me was that Magee was a leader in developing genetics within the hospital, which was almost unheard of in 1992. The only place that was similar was UCSF, where I had trained. Dr. Sweet gave me the opportunity to run Magee's genetics department. It was a job I couldn't turn down," says Dr. Hogge.

Developing a strong genetics program that would become a leader in prenatal diagnosis and fetal treatment across the country was Dr. Hogge's primary goal when he accepted the position at Magee. To do so, he began to recruit researchers who were interested in prenatal diagnosis and screening for genetic diseases in

pregnancies. "Part of the attraction to come and remain at Magee has been the ability to develop a program that is unlike any OB/GYN department in the country, in terms of the number of people who are OB/GYNs and geneticists, and the number of people who do research specifically in those areas," he says.

Amazing Accomplishments

For the next 11 years, Dr. Hogge served as director of reproductive genetics and medical director of the Department of Genetics at Magee. In 2003, he assumed the role of chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences. In this time, the program has grown from treating 1,000 patients a year to 10,000, specifically in the area of reproductive genetics.

"When I took the job as chair at Magee, I wanted us to be seen as something more than just a big hospital that delivered babies. I wanted us to be recognized for all the other things we do. I'm most proud of the fact that we're now the number one OB/GYN department in terms of NIH funding. And, we've raised our reputation as the best hospital for gynecology from 29 to 4 over the last 10 years. I'm really proud of how well this department has grown and established national recognition," says Dr. Hogge.

Dr. Hogge's current days are filled coordinating a faculty of 250 people. A job he is clearly passionate about. "The best thing I learned in my career is that I'm not a good investigator," he says. "I'm a much better administrator. And program building is my strength. It took a few years to figure that out. My career is not going to be looked at as my success in research, but hopefully as my success in putting together teams of people that can do things I wasn't able to do successfully."

Clearly, Dr. Hogge has had a great impact on many lives. And he's reminded of that constantly by the many patients who send him pictures of their children. "Every year at the holidays, I get updated pictures. They believe I had some role in the success of that pregnancy. I have a number of patients who have 30-year old

Events and Happenings

children, and I'm now getting pictures of grandkids of the kids I was involved with. That's been the delight of my career."

As he prepares for retirement, Dr. Hogge believes that the future of genetics and the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences is bright. And, if you ask his colleagues – those that were fortunate enough to work alongside him and learn from him – the continued success in the Department and the advancement of women's health through research, education, and clinical care, are a direct result of his leadership and his passion.

"To say Dr. Hogge is leaving a legacy is an understatement," says Michele Clemens, MS, Genetic Counselor, Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. "I believe I speak on behalf of anyone who worked with him – we all have a tremendous admiration for him and so greatly appreciate the opportunity to benefit from his knowledge."

ACOG Magee Reception and Dinner

April 28, 2014

Chicago, Illinois

If you are planning to attend ACOG, please let us know. Magee will be hosting an invite-only reception and dinner on Monday evening.

Research Day in Reproductive Biology and Women's Health

May 30, 2014/All day

Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC
Auditorium, zero level

Presentations will include:

- Margaret Prine Joy Lecture in Reproductive Sciences: Patricia Hunt, PhD, professor of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University
- Celebration of Life – A Lecture Honoring Mothers: Sarah S. Richardson, PhD, assistant professor of the History of Science and of Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard University

Department of OB/GYN/RS Awards Ceremony

May 30, 2014/By invitation only

Alumni Reception

Oct. 2, 2014

Pittsburgh Golf Club

39th Annual Alumni Day

Oct. 3, 2014

Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC

*For more information about happenings,
please contact cgaughan@magee.edu
or 412-641-8978.*





MAGEE-WOMENS
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Magee is ranked #2 in the Pittsburgh Metro area and #7 in Pennsylvania among ALL hospitals.

- Magee is also regionally ranked as high-performing in cancer, gastroenterology and GI surgery, and urology
 - Diabetes and Endocrinology – 46nd
 - Orthopaedics – 35th
 - Gynecology – 4th
- Magee-Womens Hospital National Rankings**

Magee Rises Again in National Rankings



Chairman, Department Of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences
 University of Pittsburgh

AN UPDATE FROM W. ALLEN HOGGE, MD

