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*Only all of us will
define our future*

Committees and special initiatives

The Society has always tried to address the educational concerns of all physicians interested in the care of women. Over the years initiatives were created such as the STD Committee, which was created in 1985, to keep members abreast of the latest information concerning STD's. More recently, committees were formed to address issues of relevance to the practicing physician including medical liability insurance, reimbursement, and the closing of maternity services in Philadelphia.

The Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia should be seen as a conduit to stay in touch with our colleagues, and for the exchange of ideas to resolve crisis unique to our area. this include declining reimbursement rates, burgeoning medical liability costs, and the shortage of qualified obstetricians in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania.



*The mission, vision, goals and plans
of our profession depends on you.*



PLEASE JOIN US AND SEND YOUR
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO:

THERESA B. WISELEY, CMM
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA
308 ROLLING CREEK ROAD
SWARTHMORE, PA 19081
TEL: 484-343-819
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THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF
Philadelphia



Professional Development
Collegial Relationships
Advocacy and Leadership



*Commitment for
a better future*



Our Mission

The Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia is an educational organization for "town and gown" obstetricians and gynecologists, residents in training, medical students and all practitioners with an interest in women's health. Members of the Society represent three states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Members include faculty from nine different medical schools. Membership is open to all physicians who have an interest in "diseases and problems peculiar to women".

History of the Soistory of the Society



The Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia has a rich history and tradition. The first obstetrical society in Philadelphia was an informal organization started by Dr. Joseph Warrington in the 1840s. It disappeared with his death, leaving a professional void which was filled when when nine men came together on a June afternoon in 1868 in the office of Albert Holmes Smith, a young and remarkable Quaker physician who had been trained by Dr. Warrington. The Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia was officially incorporated in 1877.

The first president, Francis Gurney Smith was a medical generalist who founded the first physiology laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine. The most academically prominent of the original founders of the Society was William Goodell, the first Clinical Professor of Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. As astute and beloved as Dr. William Goodell was, he did not tolerate women physicians; he felt that the presence of women would stifle discussion. Dr. Albert Holmes Smith, on the other hand, was their champion. The pioneering medical work of the female professors at the Women's Medical College was read before the Society, and then pushed to publication by Dr. Albert Holmes Smith. Long after he died women physicians were finally admitted to Society membership. Dr. Marie K. Formad was the first female member of the Society. Originally the Society met monthly at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and was composed of men interested in the diseases and problems "peculiar to women". Women physicians were not allowed to become members. The 9:00 p.m. black tie affairs featured case presentations and coroner's autopsy specimens, followed by arguments and discussion. This format gradually gave way to special symposia, conferences, and lectures, which were attended by members in less formal attire.

Library and Archives



The Obstetrical Society maintains a library and archives dating back to the inception of the the Society. When Dr. Lewis P. Sheffey was president of the Society, all of the archival material in his possession was placed in the historical collection of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Current minutes, ephemera and memorabilia are held by the archivist historian of the Society prior to adding it to the College holdings. Oufamous Parry Library is on

Education

The mission of the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia has always the education of its members, residents, medical students and all individuals devoted to the care of women.

Monthly dinner meetings



The format of the dinner meetings is designed to facilitate education and exchange of ideas among colleagues. It is also a good way to connect with old and meet new ones. The meetings are typically held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, October through May. The evening begins with "cocktails" starting at 5:30 PM followed by a buffet dinner. The lecture usually begins at about 7 PM. The speakers are always leaders in their fields and represent a diverse array of expertise. Recent speakers include Philip Samuels, M.D., Neil Silverman, M.D., Vivian Dickerson, M.D., Steven Gabbe, M.D., and Keith Isaacson, M.D. In addition, the meetings also includes clinical updates and case highlights. CME credit is provided.

In order to facilitate the sharing of ideas, the Society hosts several meetings jointly with other specialty societies in the Philadelphia area. This has included joint meetings with the Philadelphia Area Endocrine Society, the Philadelphia Perinatal Society, the Interventional Radiology Society and the Philadelphia Colposcopic Society.

Residents education



The Society has always been committed to the education of residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology with several programs designed solely for this purpose.

Residents lecture series

Initially titled "Resident Basic Science Course (RBSC)," this was, as the title implies, a series of lectures developed for the residents in the tri-state area on topics relating to the basic sciences. The lectures were traditionally given in the afternoon prior to the evening meeting. As resident education changed, so did the format of the RBSC. The topics were no longer restricted to basic science and the timing of the lectures has been changing to maximize resident participation in the era of the 80-hour-work-week.

Residents education day



Resident Education Day, which is an entire day of lectures and workshops devoted to the education of residents from the tri state area, was introduced in 1967. A recent Resident Education Day featured a mock medical liability trial with a mock jury. Other themes for recent Resident Education Day included, "Minimally Invasive Surgery," which featured hands-on training and "Career Development for Ob/Gyn Residents: Filling in the Gaps."

A resident competition, "The OB/GYN Resident Bowl" was introduced to liven the proceedings in 1977. This became one of the high points of the day. Residents from all the area programs compete by taking a written quiz in the morning of Resident Education Day with only six residents competing in the finals, which takes place at the end of the day and has a quiz bowl format. The winner has her/his name and training institution inscribed on the bowl and receives a financial award. This is an exciting, unique and eagerly looked forward to event.

The Leon Israel award



This award was created to honor the distinguished former Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Pennsylvania Hospital, Dr. S. Leon Israel. Residents from the tri state area submit manuscripts of their research for blinded review. The Society selects the best of these submissions. The winner gives a 10 minute oral presentation at Resident Education day. There is also a financial prize associated with the S. Leon Israel Award.

Obstetrical society newsletter



The Obstetrical Society has a newsletter that has been published regularly eight times per year. It was started as an informal type-written sheet but over the years expanded to a several page informational document which includes summaries of the prior lecture, information about upcoming Society events, editorial commentary, reviews of controversial topics and a classified section. Archived newsletters are available on the website (www.obphila.org).