



North Carolina Obstetrical & Gynecological Society

Newsletter, January 30, 2015

Renew Your NCOGS Membership ♥ RSVP for White Coat Wednesday

Ob/Gyn Physician to Head Duke Health System

A. Eugene Washington, MD, will succeed Dr. Victor Dzau as chancellor of health affairs at Duke University and CEO of the Duke University Health System, Duke Health System President Richard H. Brodhead announced on Jan. 13, 2015. Dr. Washington currently heads the UCLA Health System in Los Angeles where he has demonstrated leadership in academic medical center affairs, including research, education and patient care. In the area of obstetrics and gynecology, Washington is widely-recognized for his work in prenatal genetics, cervical cancer screening and prevention and reproduction-related infections. His contributions to medicine and public health are recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Read the announcement [here](#).

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Events



**ACOG's 32nd Annual
Congressional Leadership
Conference**
March 8 – 10
Washington, D.C.



**NCOGS
White Coat Wednesday**
April 8
Raleigh, N.C.



**NCOGS/NC Section ACOG
2015 Annual Meeting**
April 17-19
Kiawah Island, S.C.



The next ACOG CLC will take place
March 8-10, 2015.

Download the [2015 ACOG CLC flier](#).



The New BCBSNC “Estimate Health Care Costs” Website Provides Cost Estimates for Various Procedures. But How Accurate is the Data?

Please take a few minutes to browse [this new website](#) and let us know about any inaccuracies/discrepancies. In an effort to improve health care costs transparency, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) recently launched a new online costs estimator. Health care consumers can use the site to compare the cost of various procedures within a geographic range simply by entering the type of treatment, their location and the search range in miles. We are looking into this issue at the request of physicians who are concerned with the accuracy of the data presented. Please email your feedback to the NC Ob/Gyn Society at ncobgyn@ncmedsoc.org, or contact us at 919-833-3836.

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Hospital Quality and P4P to be Featured at the NCOGS 2015 Annual Meeting



Dr. Matthew Hanley

Matthew Hanley, MD, MBA will give the Presidential Address at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society/North Carolina Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Dr. Hanley, chief medical officer at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, will present on hospital quality and pay for performance. The meeting is scheduled for [April 17-19, 2015](#), at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort in Kiawah Island, S.C. Dr. Hanley’s presentation will take place on Saturday, April 18, at 8:30 am.

For room reservations, call 1-800-654-2924 by March 17.

Please help ensure a successful meeting by sharing the [Exhibitor Prospectus](#) (PDF) with product and service representatives who call on your office.

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ICD-10 Resources & Requests

As the October 1, 2015, ICD-10 implementation date nears, providers continue to be at various stages of preparedness. Are you ready for ICD-10? A new white paper titled “[Avoiding the Top 5 Risks of the ICD-10 Conversion](#)” (from EHRIntelligence.com) aims to ease your transition to ICD-10 by alerting providers to the 5 major risks that you may experience. Meanwhile, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to hear about your preparedness efforts and any stories that you can share with the health care community. [Share your story with CMS](#).

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Advocacy Update from Our NCOGS Lobbyist Rob Lamme

Members of the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) convened briefly in Raleigh earlier this month to complete organizational work that included selecting leaders for both chambers. Rep. Tim Moore (Cleveland) was selected as House Speaker and Sen. Phil Berger (Guilford, Rockingham) was again selected as Senate President Pro Tempore. The legislative session got underway in earnest on Jan. 28.

Committee assignments for the 2015-2016 session were announced on Wednesday, Jan. 28. On the House side, Rep. Nelson Dollar (Wake) was again named Senior Chairman on *Appropriations* and Vice Chairman on *Health*. Rep. Donny Lambeth (Forsyth) was named Chairman on *Appropriations* and also on *Health*. Lambeth is also a member of the *Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services*. Rep. Marilyn Avila (Wake) was named Vice Chairman on *Appropriations*, Chairman on *Appropriations, Health and Human Services*, and Vice Chairman on *Health*. On the Senate side, Sen. Tommy Tucker (Union) will play a bigger role in health policy and appropriations. Tucker was named Co-Chairman on *Appropriations on Health and Human Services* and Co-Chairman on *Health Care*.



Sen. Mike Lee

Dr. Sandy Easley helped organize a meeting with New Hanover ob/gyns and the newly-elected Sen. Mike Lee, which took place on Jan. 19 in Wilmington. We are working with members to set up meetings in the Triangle in the coming weeks, and we are here to help you coordinate local meetings with your elected officials. Please contact us at ncobgyn@ncmedsoc.org for assistance.

Dr. John Allbert, Dr. Haywood Brown and Dr. Keith Nelson, along with the Society's executive director Alan Skipper and lobbyist Rob Lamme, had a very good meeting with **N.C. DHHS Secretary Aldona Wos, MD** in January. They discussed Medicaid reform, the pregnancy medical home program, and Medicaid expansion.

Like Christmas, election season seems to start earlier and earlier with each passing year. The next primary election contests for the North Carolina General Assembly will take place on Feb. 16, 2016. As a result, the legislative races will heat up this year. Many contests are won and lost in the primaries here in North Carolina, and that's why we are working so hard now to ensure a strong GOPAC (the political action and education committee of North Carolina's gynecologists and obstetricians) as the races begin to take shape. GOPAC is your partner in advocacy, supporting candidates who are open to the Society's position on issues of importance to women's health. Download the [2015 GOPAC contribution form](#) (PDF) to support this important work.

Finally, we developed several new materials to introduce the NC Ob/Gyn Society, our legislative interests, and our members to the legislature. Many thanks to **Dr. Christi Hunt** for volunteering to be profiled in one of these new pieces.

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April 8, Ob/Gyn White Coat Wednesday in Raleigh

North Carolina's women's health physicians are mobilizing to have an impact on the discussion surrounding the future of Medicaid in our state and other important health policy topics. Every ob/gyn physician is encouraged to join us in Raleigh on April 8, 2015, beginning at 8:00am with a legislative briefing at the NCMS followed by meetings with legislators and legislative committee hearings at the N.C. General Assembly.

- RSVP today by email to Denna Suko, dsuko@ncmedsoc.org.
- Share [this promotional flier](#) with your ob/gyn colleagues.
- Add [this event](#) to your calendar.

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New Rules Proposed for Certification of Abortion Clinics

In accordance with a law passed in 2013, Senate Bill 353/*Health and Safety Law Changes*, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) proposed new certification rules applicable to abortion clinics in December 2014. The proposed rules were announced on Dec. 1, 2014, and can be viewed [here](#).

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US Appeals Court Strikes Down NC's Ultrasound Abortion Provision

The U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unconstitutional a provision of N.C.'s 2011 *Women's Right to Know Act*. The December 2014 opinion stated that the ultrasound requirement "is ideological in intent" and a violation of free speech. This decision upholds a January 2014 lower court ruling. You can [read the court's 37-page opinion here](#) (PDF).

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For Your Love of Sophisticated Style and Unmatched Quality



An exciting prize is being offered as part of our new **Renew to Win** campaign. Every renewing and new NC Ob/Gyn Society member enrolled by Feb. 28, 2015, will be automatically entered in the random drawing. Up for grabs is a **Harmon Kardon Esquire Mini** Ultra Thin Portable Bluetooth Speaker. For complete details about this sweet prize, [click here](#) (PDF). Renew your NC Ob/Gyn Society membership, or join the Society, online at www.ncmedsoc.org.

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Share Your News With Us!

Do you have personal or professional achievements, awards, appointments or promotions that you would like to share with your women's health colleagues? Are big changes taking place at your practice? Email your news to Denna Suko at dsuko@ncmedsoc.org.

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Rep. Ellmers Reintroduces the Flex-IT Act

U.S. Representative Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.) introduced The Flexibility in Health IT Reporting (Flex-IT) Act of 2015 ([H.R.270](#)) on January 26, 2015. Originally introduced in the 113th Congress, this legislation gives providers the flexibility they need to successfully comply with Meaningful Use requirements. The bipartisan bill was introduced with two Republicans and two Democrats leading as original co-sponsors, including Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Rep. G.T. Thompson (R-Penn.), Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) and Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.).

The Flex-IT Act allows providers the option to choose any three-month quarter for an EHR reporting period to qualify for the Meaningful Use Program in 2015, as opposed to a full year. This shortened reporting period would be an important step in addressing the challenges faced by doctors, hospitals

and other medical providers while avoiding threats to patient safety due to the rigid reporting period currently in place.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a final rule, which included a provision that requires providers to perform a full-year EHR reporting period in 2015.

The full-year reporting rule has sparked much outrage in the health care industry, as evidenced in the low attestation numbers reported last year. [CMS reports released in December](#) (PDF) confirmed that only 4 percent of physicians and less than 35 percent of hospitals achieved Stage 2 Meaningful Use requirements.

[Click here](#) to view H.R. 270 - The Flexibility in Health IT Reporting (Flex-IT) Act of 2015.

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Your NCOGS Executive Committee, 2014-2015



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