Awards, Research & Funding Initiatives

Just as spring’s flowers unfurl, ANGELS has blossomed into yet another strong start to its year. While 2008 saw funding and recognition totaling more than $2 million in support of ANGELS programs, 2009 shows promise in rivaling these accomplishments.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act economic stimulus package has caused quite the stir in ANGELS grant writing. With funding being released from all channels, ANGELS has sought to compete for grants that could greatly boost programmatic capabilities and thus improve available resources. In a matter of just four months, ANGELS has submitted five grant proposals, and two additional grants were submitted through related efforts by the Center for Distance Health.

- Expand rural availability to telecolposcopy services to two new remote sites
- Develop telecolposcopy research at the existing Hempstead County clinic
- Institute a Regional Telehealth Resource Center serving Arkansas and surrounding rural areas
- Study the bioethical implications of women’s health telemedicine and its impact on high-risk patients
- Create a prenatal smoking cessation provider education program delivered through teleconferencing

Award of any these opportunities will greatly assist ANGELS in reaching more high-risk women. The March of Dimes Arkansas Chapter has already approved and awarded the smoking cessation program. Titled FAAST: Five “A’s” Approach Stops Tobacco,” Stephanie Wyatt, A.P.N., leads this funded initiative designed to encourage smoking cessation patient education delivered during prenatal visits. To further support ANGELS’ role in the economic stimulus, ANGELS’ leaders have worked collaboratively with UAMS’ Information Technology / Broadband Committee to identify and prioritize ideas in search of grant funding. ANGELS has received UAMS approval to seek grant funding for the full development of Arkansas’ statewide telehealth infrastructure. With the Chancellor’s “green light,” ANGELS can begin preparing multi-million dollar grant proposals. This important step aligns ANGELS with the University-endorsed capacity to seek American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Also ANGELS delivered an astounding 12 presentations at the recent American Telemedicine Association (ATA) Annual Conference held in Las Vegas. No other organization nationally or internationally could claim such a representation of its work. The ATA invited Curtis Lowery, M.D., to moderate a session exclusively focused on Telemedicine in Arkansas. The well-attended event described the outreach, operation and evaluation component to ANGELS’ efforts. Congratulations to all of ANGELS ATA presenters, as listed below:

**Oral Presentations**

- Truth in Telemedicine: Improving Care for Patients Receiving Adverse Diagnosis (Stephanie Wyatt)
- Evaluating the Arkansas Medicaid Population’s Utilization of Telemedicine (David Fletcher)
- Technologically Forward Triage: Connecting Call Center with Interactive Video (Donna Williams)
- Legislative Lessons: Telemedicine Sustainability Strategies of a Proven Program (Curtis Lowery)
- Reflecting on Rural Practice: Telemedicine Satellite Clinic Lessons Learned (Noelle Agan)
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- Distant Physicians, Close Support: Telemedicine Recruits and Retains Rural Providers (Michael Manley)
- Tagged for Success: Telemedicine Action Group Aligns Multi-Institutional Efforts (Christopher Smith)
- If We Build It, Will They Come? Hosting Successful Teleconferences (Barbara Smith)

Poster Presentations

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Improving Co-Morbidity Services through Telemedicine (Shannon Barringer)
- Blueprints for Successful, International Learning: Teleconferencing Fuels Healthcare Collaboration (Curtis Lowery)
- Accommodating Rural Practice: Standardized Courses Receive an Injection of Technology (Sarah Rhoads)
- Telenursery: Bucking the Trend toward Regionalization (Whit Hall)

25th Annual Conference Service Awards given by ANGELS awards committee

- ANGELS Award for Outstanding Service in Neonatal Nursing
  An annual award given to a nurse who has devoted his/her career to outreach in the field of neonatology.
  Tim Conaway, R.N.
  Neonatology Specialty Nurse, UAMS

- ANGELS Award for Outstanding Service in Obstetrical Nursing
  An annual award given to a nurse who has devoted his/her career to outreach in the field of obstetrics.
  Tina Benton, R.N.
  ANGELS Program Director, UAMS

- Hawks-Workman Award
  This award is named in honor of two physicians, Byron L. Hawks, M.D., and W. Wayne Workman, M.D., who pioneered for and delivered exemplary obstetrical and women’s health care during their careers spanning several decades at the UAMS and the Arkansas Department of Health.
  This award represents the recipient’s tireless contribution to not only the vision of these pioneers but through the use of modern technology and best practices for standard of care, it is their everyday commitment for women and infants in the state of Arkansas to have access to the best possible medical care.

  Paul J. Wendel, M.D., Associate Professor
  UAMS, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Left-to-right, James Willingham, Dr. Curtis Lowery, Tina Benton, Marilyn Strickland and Dr. Paul Wendel.
Attendance for **Peds PLACE**, a weekly, interactive telemedicine conference for pediatrics continues to grow state-wide. This weekly, one-hour CME offering covers relevant pediatric and neonatal topics for pediatricians and family practitioners across the state. Upcoming topics include: Drowning, Otitis Media, Neonatal Topic - Torticollis and Plagiocephaly, Hematuria, Translational Research Topic, Acetaminophen adduct Work, Pharmacy Update and Urinary Tract Infection. Please visit our Web site for a complete schedule of teleconferences: /www.uams.edu/cdh1/teleconference_schedule.asp

**Tele-nursery rounds** allow nursery staff to interact with a neonatologist and discuss census, transport issues and other items of interest. Whit Hall, M.D., and his colleagues offer neonatal consultations over interactive video and can actually assess a baby in real time. We welcome two additional tele-nursery sites, Jefferson Regional in Pine Bluff and National Park Medical Center in Hot Springs. Our goal is to place a telemedicine unit in every delivering hospital in Arkansas.

Beginning August 1, Beth Storm, M.D., at Arkansas Children’s Hospital will expand on the **CDH tele-stroke** project by providing Pediatric ER consultations. This project will allow for real-time consultation between rural physicians and pediatric emergency physicians, view the patient and discuss possible transport decisions and care recommendations.

**Teleconferences and Guidelines Update**

by Barbara Smith

Another great academic year of noteworthy presentations is on tap for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Grand Rounds series 2009. Dr. James Bofill, a Maternal-fetal Medicine Specialist from the University of Mississippi Medical Center will kick off the new 2009-2010 academic year on July 8.

OB/GYN Grand Rounds are held on Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the OB/GYN conference room S5/25 on the 5th floor of the Shorey building on the UAMS campus and are also available via interactive video. Thanks to Donna Eastham, OB/GYN Grand Rounds Coordinator for her contributions to this section.

If you have a topic you would like to see presented at a teleconference, wish to recommend a speaker, or register for an interactive video site near you, call 501-526-7178, or e-mail cdhealth@uams.edu. To view upcoming topics: www.uams.edu/cdh1/teleconference_schedule.asp

**The Call Center Update**

by Donna Williams

There is continued growth in the ANGELS Triage Call Center in call volume and staff. We welcome the following new employees: **Nursing staff**: Dawn Woodruff, Sue Ramsey, Kathleen Fowler, Tana Jones and Kristi Thompson.

**PSCCs (administrative staff)**: Britanni Harris, Sara Webb-King and Wesley Perry.

The tele-stroke project, AR SAVES also continues to grow. There has been additions of more spoke hospitals to the network. The Call Center now connects with eight rural hospitals through interactive video for acute stroke assistance. We continue to assist in the training of the new sites that are being added to the network by participating in “Mock” stroke drills.

**Outreach Update**

by Michael Manley

Vince Lombardi once said, “Individual commitment to a great effort is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” I strongly believe this philosophy is what makes ANGELS successful.

The Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) will soon be fully functional telemedicine clinics for all medical disciplines. This allows better access for the patients across the state of Arkansas, and provides excellent educational opportunities to the medical residents at those centers. We have seen an increase in the usage of telemedicine by residents once they leave and go into private practice. An intangible that wasn't even considered when ANGELS started; putting physicians back into the underserved areas of Arkansas.

Recently, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission brought members of the British consulate to UAMS to visit Quality and Innovative Health Care initiatives here in Little Rock and Arkansas.

Pictured from left, Paul Lynch, British Consulate-General; Michael Manley, R. Mitchell Jeffrey, Jr., Vice Consul; and John Reale, Jr., Consul
25th Annual Perinatal Conference
by Stephanie Wyatt, Conference Coordinator

The 25th Annual Conference on Perinatal Care focused on a central theme, “Continuous Quality Initiatives: Pathways to Excellence in Obstetrics and Neonatology.” The conference highlighted the importance of continuous quality improvement (CQI) in the fields of obstetrics and neonatology, as well as in hospitals caring for this population.

With its unique theme, exciting agenda, varied speaker list and diverse vendors the 2009 conference was a huge success. Attendees included 51 physicians and 326 other health care workers.

Conference highlights included a keynote address by Dr. William Golden, UAMS Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, and the College of Public Health. Dr. Golden’s thought-provoking discussion titled: “QA, QI, Why? The Argument for Transparency,” defined CQI, discussed its management, and explored why health care providers should be interested in the concept.

Maternal-fetal medicine specialists, Dr. Curtis Lowery and Dr. Paul Wendel, lectured on the effects of delivery prior to 39 weeks, management of shoulder dystocia and cord blood banking.

Additionally, local experts including other maternal-fetal medicine specialists, psychiatrists, neonatologists, social workers and nurses spoke individually and as panelists on an array of issues affecting obstetrics and neonatology.

Motivational speaker Bobbie Staten, R.N., filled the lunch break with her hilariously entertaining style designed to give the “jump-start you’ve been missing.” Bobbie described how you can “charge your battery while you laugh and learn to work smart, work together, and most importantly, fall in love with your job again.”

Another exciting presentation, new to the perinatal conference, involved a drill on a simulator mannequin targeted in teaching health care professionals how to manage shoulder dystocia and breech delivery through a hands-on approach.

The longevity of this conference is testimony to the quality and value that is produced year after year by the UAMS Department of OB-GYN and the ANGELS program. With the success of this long-standing conference, the tradition is sure to continue for many years to come.

Save the date for next year’s conference — May 6-7, 2010. Holiday Inn Airport-Little Rock.