



August 2021



President's Greeting

Divya K. Shah, M.D., M.M.E.
President 2021-22

Dear P.A.R.E.S. members,

It is difficult to comprehend the events of the past year and a half. The COVID pandemic has been challenging for us all, and some among us have experienced unprecedented hardship and loss. We made the decision last spring to cancel P.A.R.E.S. meetings for 2020-2021 with the hope of reconvening when the world looked different.

While we were initially optimistic that the high vaccination rates in the Philadelphia region would enable us to meet in person this year, the recent rise in caseloads and the virulence of the delta variant has required us to reconsider. Our current plan is to conduct our September 2021 meeting virtually. We will reassess the COVID-19 situation in late 2021 to make a final determination of whether the January and March 2022 meetings will be held live or virtually. Regardless of the meeting format, we will not charge membership dues this year. We will continue to monitor Department of Health and CDC guidelines to ensure that we respect local regulations and prioritize the safety of our members and speakers.

We have intentionally chosen an abbreviated schedule with three speakers during this transition year. We are excited to start the fall with Kate O'Neill, M.D., M.T.R., who will update us on her work as the co-investigator of the Uterus Transplantation for Uterine Factor Infertility (UNTIL) trial at the University of Pennsylvania. In the winter we will welcome Liz Ginsburg, M.D., Medical Director of ART and Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, who will speak to us about PGT-A outcomes in poor responder patients. Finally, we will end the spring with Amy Sparks, Ph.D., Past President of SART and Laboratory Director at the University of Iowa who will discuss the complexity of measuring ART outcomes and update us on both the challenges and future capabilities of the SART Clinic Outcome Reporting System (SART CORS) platform.

As always, we look forward to awarding our annual Luigi Mastroianni Prize to a local student, resident, or REI fellow at our final meeting in spring 2022. The Mastroianni Award is a funded award that rewards the research efforts of a promising trainee and encourages further research and publications. Congratulations to Iris T. Lee, MD, now a first year REI fellow at the University of Pennsylvania and the 2021 recipient of the Mastroianni Award.

We hope you will join us for the year ahead. I look forward to "seeing" you all again this fall.

Sincerely,
Divya K. Shah, MD, MME
P.A.R.E.S. President, 2021-2022

September Meeting

**Thursday,
September 30, 2021
Program 7PM**

*Uterine Transplant:
UNTIL Trial*

Join Zoom Meeting

**Kathleen O'Neill,
M.D. M.T.R.**

*Assistant Professor of
Obstetrics and Gynecology*

*Division of Reproductive
Endocrinology and Infertility*

University of Pennsylvania

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President's Greeting

Meeting Information

September Meeting Flyer

Mastorianni Winner

ASRM Press Release

Meet the Board



You are cordially invited to
Uterine Transplant: UNTIL Trial



Kathleen O'Neill, M.D., M.T.R.
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
University of Pennsylvania

Thursday, September 30, 2021, Program 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095612649?pwd=QUtKYjhLMG4xN3hIbGFhZXdaYzJNUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 9561 2649

Passcode: 513499

One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 840 9561 2649

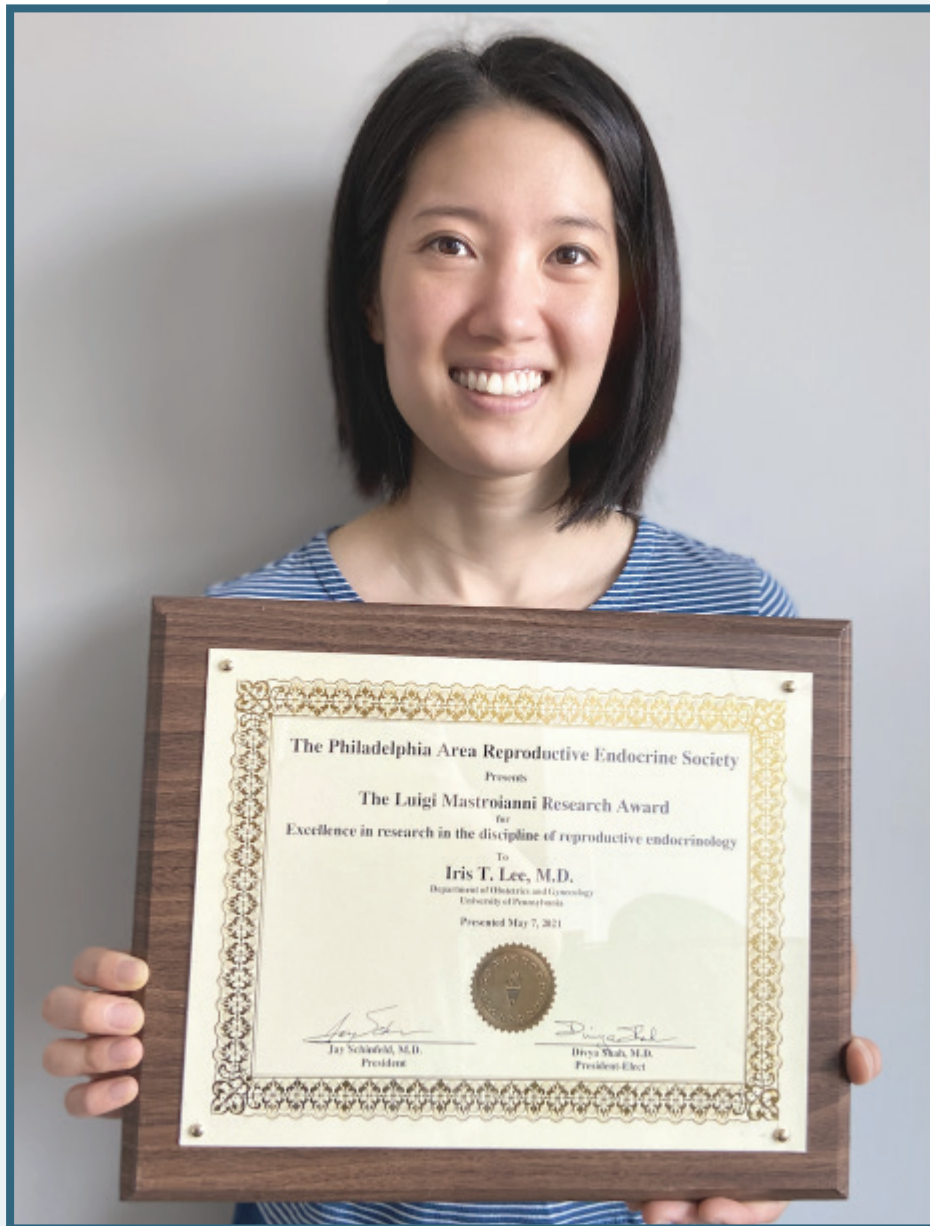
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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/khLmc6k1E>

2021 Luigi Mastroianni Research Award Winner

Congratulations to Iris T. Lee, M.D.

Dr. Lee, a former resident and current first year REI Fellow at University of Pennsylvania was awarded the Mastroianni Resident Research Award for her submission, 'The Incidence and Importance of the Pseudogestational Sac Revisited'.



Fertility and Sterility August 2021 Issue Focuses on Black Patients' and Black Physicians' Experiences with Reproductive Medicine

Aug 05, 2021

By: ASRM

Origin: ASRM Bulletin

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine's (ASRM) flagship journal, Fertility and Sterility leads off its August 2021 issue on the reproductive health experiences of Black patients and Black physicians. Systemic racism has had an impact, and ripple effect, on patients seeking infertility treatments, as well as reproductive health trainees and professionals.

"Black men and women experience many health conditions differently from their white counterparts," said ASRM vice president and chair of the organization's DEI Task Force Michael Thomas, M.D. "That's why it is important to ASRM to ensure we are inclusive in our efforts to educate physicians and patients about reproductive health. This issue of Fertility and Sterility showcases four expert authors whose articles provide first-hand experience and insights that not only ensure Black physicians and patients are seen and understood, the articles serve as important education for our colleagues in the profession," he added.

Three of the feature articles in this issue are the authors' first-hand perspectives on racism's effect on the academic and professional pipeline of reproductive health professionals, family-building health disparities in the United States, and access to infertility treatment.

Noted below are the four feature articles with brief descriptions:

[The African American experience in reproductive medicine: provider, patient, and pipeline perspectives](#)

Richard S. Legro, M.D.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Public Health Sciences, Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania

-- In Dr. Legro's introduction to the August issue, he writes about the importance of Black voices telling the stories of Black patients and professionals, and provides a narrative overview of the following three articles.

[Making an African American REI physician: a story of mentorship](#)

Michael A. Thomas, M.D.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio

-- Match day for residency programs has become a celebratory event across social media, with more diversity and inclusion than in previous years. Dr. Thomas writes about how things have changed or gotten even more challenging since his time as a medical student in the 1980s. He

provides a play-by-play of his residency matching experience all the way up to his role now as a tenured professor and incoming president of ASRM.

Health disparities of African Americans in reproductive medicine

Samantha F. Butts, MD MSCE

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

-- Dr. Butts discusses the lack of access to infertility treatments for Black women and men, and overall racial disparities in reproductive health care. She recommends enhanced training to ensure reproductive disorders in Black patients are discovered sooner.

The pipeline problem: barriers to access of Black patients and providers in reproductive medicine

Gloria Richard-Davis, MD, MBA, NCMP

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Division of Diversity of Equity and Inclusion, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas

-- Implicit bias is a legitimate concern in medicine, and Dr. Richard-Davis outlines the many places along the academic and professional pipeline that must be bolstered with educational efforts to address systemic racism from fellowship to mentorship.

“In an ongoing effort to ensure diversity of experience, expertise, authorship, and points of view, the August issue is one that will stick in readers’ minds and will elevate the need for our profession to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts,” said Kurt Barnhart, M.D. MSCE, Editor-in-Chief of Fertility and Sterility. “In my inaugural journal as editor of the journal, I’m thankful for our contributors and authors, and I look forward to robust discussion and problem solving on these topics,” he added.

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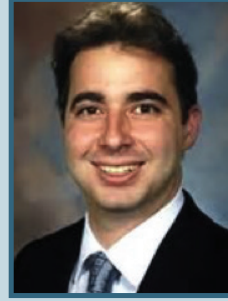
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Meet the Board (2021-2022)



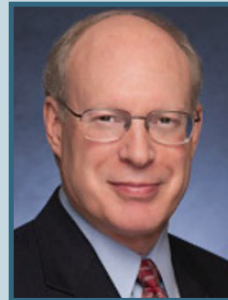
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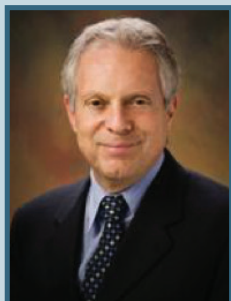
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