Advances in Technology: The Impact on Women’s Health

Wednesday  May 6, 2015  
5:30 – 8:30 PM  
Constant Contact Headquarters  
Waltham, MA

Recently, it has become clear that many symptoms of diseases which affect men and women are manifest differently in each. Furthermore, diseases specific to females have specific outcomes which were not predictable based on extrapolation from conventional wisdom.

Program Description

This Forum focuses on the impact of recent technology for understanding and treating women. We will explore the differing presentation of heart attacks, the unique spread of uterine cancer in minimally invasive surgery and the earlier diagnosis of ovarian cancer, three major problems in woman’s health.

The unique problems in these diseases suggest that clinical trials must now include men and women in sufficient numbers to define any unpredictable gender differences.

Practicing physicians, academic researchers and industrial R&D professionals will share their interests and breakthroughs in understanding and treating these female health issues.

The impact of planning future research, giving appropriate concentration to gender specific manifestations of any disease will be discussed, stressing the need for all caregivers and policymakers to understand that correct diagnosis and treatment must account for differences between men and women.

Vive la difference which has been evident since the beginning of the species and is still incompletely understood, but is now more fascinating and important than ever.

Presentation Briefs

Anthony DiSciuollo, MD, will discuss his review of uterine morcelization devices for Mount Auburn hospital, the FDA review and advisory statement, cover the scope of the problem, briefly review the science behind current practices and show a video clip or two to illustrate.

Monica Mallampalli, PhD, will discuss gender differences in how symptoms occur (of a myocardial infarction, for example), how devices for women need to be smaller (cardiac stents and pacemakers) and the importance of including women in clinical trials for new medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

Valena J. Wright, MD, will explain why ovarian cancer is often diagnosed so late that women have only an 18% chance of survival, and how new biomarkers are being developed to detect ovarian cancer early, before it metastasizes throughout the body.

Sujat Sukthankar, PhD, will update us on Boston Scientific’s latest research and new products.
As a leader, fast-track developer and inventor of new medical devices, Dr. Shapiro’s work with gynecologists, other healthcare providers and their patients since 2002 treating female urinary stress and mixed incontinence made him keenly aware of the way urinary incontinence reduces the quality of patients’ lives. In April 2010 he started working with a medical assistant to develop a revolutionary medical device to treat 75% of incontinent women (430 million potential patients worldwide.) The company they cofounded, Floelle Inc., has raised $150,000 in seed funding and has designed, prototyped, tested and patented their nonsurgical medication-free device for freeing women from the shame and restricted lifestyle of urinary incontinence. He is now raising funds to complete the documentation and production of devices for a clinical trial, to run that multilcenter international clinical trial and to apply for regulatory clearance and reimbursement in the US and Europe.

Panelists

**Jarrod M. Shapiro, Ph.D./Bioengineering**
President, Floelle, Inc.

As a leader, fast-track developer and inventor of new medical devices, Dr. Shapiro’s work with gynecologists, other healthcare providers and their patients since 2002 treating female urinary stress and mixed incontinence made him keenly aware of the way urinary incontinence reduces the quality of patients’ lives. In April 2010 he started working with a medical assistant to develop a revolutionary medical device to treat 75% of incontinent women (430 million potential patients worldwide.) The company they cofounded, Floelle Inc., has raised $150,000 in seed funding and has designed, prototyped, tested and patented their nonsurgical medication-free device for freeing women from the shame and restricted lifestyle of urinary incontinence. He is now raising funds to complete the documentation and production of devices for a clinical trial, to run that multilcenter international clinical trial and to apply for regulatory clearance and reimbursement in the US and Europe.

**Anthony J. DiSciullo, MD**
Director of Gynecology, Mt. Auburn Hospital
Assistant Clinical Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. DiSciullo specializes in Gynecology, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, including robotic surgery and minimally invasive surgery for gynecology, incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse. He received his B.A. from Boston College and his MD from New York Medical College, completed his residency at Brown University-Rhode Island Hospital, served as Chief of Professional Services at Dunham Army Hospital and completed his fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. Dr. DiSciullo is Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology and has served as a consultant for several surgical device makers. As co-founder of the New England Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (NEAGL), he has produced several minimally invasive gynecologic surgery teaching videos.

**Monica Mallampalli, PhD**
Vice President of Scientific Affairs at Society for Women’s Health Research (SWHR®)

Monica earned her Ph.D in Human Genetics at the Univ. of Utah and her MS with a concentration in Biochemistry from Osmania Univ. in India. Before SWHR, she was a Health Science Policy Analyst and Research Fellow at NIH and a Post-doctoral Fellow in Cell Biology at The Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine. With SWHR for five years, she currently oversees its entire science department’s portfolio. Previously she successfully managed SWHR’s interdisciplinary networks in cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal health and breast cancer. She recently launched two new initiatives at SWHR on women’s sleep and urologic health. She also organized and moderated roundtable discussions in many disease areas that either predominantly or disproportionately affect women. In 2014, she appeared live on the NBC Today Show to discuss sleep health in women and has been interviewed by the Huffington Post, More magazine, Allure and Reuters.

**Sujat Sukthankar, Ph.D.**
VP of R&D for Urology and Women’s Health, Boston Scientific Corporation

Sujat is responsible for all Urology and Women’s Health related R&D activities. Previously, he was the VP, Devices R&D, at Endo Pharmaceuticals where he was responsible for all device related R&D activities including concept/technology development, new product development, and sustaining engineering activities for both new and existing devices in Endo’s product portfolio. Prior to joining Endo Pharmaceuticals, Sujat was the Gen. Manager of multiple divisions within Best Medical International (BMI) including Nomos, Theratronics, and Huestis Medical. He is the author or co-author of several publications in peer reviewed journals and holds a patent on the use of virtual reality technologies in surgical simulations. Sujat holds multiple degrees including a B.E. in Biomedical Engineering from the Univ. of Mumbai, India, a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the Univ. of Akron, Ohio, and an MBA from Georgetown Univ. McDonough School of Business in Washington DC.

**Valena J. Wright, MD**
Director Gynecologic Oncology and and the Director, Robotic and Laparoscopic Gynecologic Surgery at the Lahey Hospital and Medical Center

Attending Physician in Surgery, Division of Gynecology, Lahey A former President of the New England Society of Gynecologic Oncologists, Dr. Wright’s research is focused on laparoscopic and robotic surgical procedures for gynecologic oncology, including resident training, and promoting lifestyle change in obese endometrial cancer patients. From 2009 – 2013 Boston Magazine voted her one of Boston’s Top Doctors. Her publications over the past 21 years include the many medical devices used in gynecologic surgery for removing tumors and fibroids. She presently serves on staff and/or faculty positions in her specialties at Beverly Hospital and Boston Univ. School of Medicine. At Lahey Clinic, she is Director, Robotic and Laparoscopic Gynecologic Surgery and Fellowship Director, Lahey Clinic Pelvic Surgery Fellowship. She received the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ National Faculty Award in 2002.

Co-Champions

**Anna Xia**
Managing Partner of Cambridge, MA based Market Ignition Group

**Jerry Shapiro**
PhD/Bioengineering, President, Floelle, Inc.
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We would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who help to make this organization a success.

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MDG Boston 2014-2015 Program Calendar

Forum Panels
(Location: Constant Contact Headquarters, Waltham, unless noted otherwise)

Sept 10 Bringing Bionics To Life
Co-Champions: Kevin Franck, Dan Healey

Oct 1 Intellectual Property Approaches To Safeguard Value
Co-Champions: Rob Adelson, Roy Coleman, Stanley Chalvire

Nov 5 Optical Cancer Detection: 20 years of Lessons Learned and 20 Years Of Future Promise
Co-Champions: Bob Andrews, Randy Chinnock

Dec 3 The Radical Transformation of Healthcare: The Rise Of Virtual Care Delivery
Co-Champions: Kevin Fickenscher, MD, Shankar Krishnan, MD

Jan 7 Making Medical Technology More Human
Co-Champions: Mike Wiklund, Sean Phillips

Feb 4 Devices And Combination Products For Neurodegenerative Disease
Co-Champions: Paul Hartung, Richard O’Brien

Mar 4 Combination Devices: Diversity In Type And Application
Co-Champions: John O’Gara, Rich Andrews

Apr 1 The Surgical Suite Responds to the New Business Model of Healthcare
Co-Champions: Bill McIlhargey, Melvin Prenovitz

May 6 Advancing Women’s Health: Gender Centered Treatments for What Worries Women
Co-Champions: Anna Xia, Jerry Shapiro

June 3 Keep It Agile – Keep It Legal
Co-Champions: Eric Poole, Jeff Karg

Member News
MDG welcomes these new members:
Mohsen Akbari
Kim Cobb
Jim Doscher
Karen Griffith
Hasson Shakor Harris Wilcher
Hope Hopkins
Mariana G Matus
Alisa Niskch
Cathy Petrozzino
Stephen Sousa
Margie Zuk

In addition, we welcome back those who have renewed their MDG membership:
Richard Andrews
Larry Bell
Stephen Charron
Chris Coghlin
Denise de Murcie
Bill Denison
Robert Desimone
John Forster
Donald Freeman
David Freeman

James Haacunda
Paul Hartung
Pavel Hradecky
Jeffrey Karg
Keith Kowal
Marcella Lynch
Peter Madras
John O’Gara
Christopher Palatucci
Martin Sklar

Explore the NEW MDG Boston website at www.mdgboston.org

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MDG is the professional association for career building, knowledge acquisition and mutual support for New England medical technology professionals.

MDG sponsors Forums, Networking, SIGs (Special Interest Groups), Workshops and Special Events where diverse industry leaders can share their experience and knowledge as presenters and one-on-one.