

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

UMMC PHYSICIAN NAMED PRESIDENT OF 53,000-MEMBER GROUP

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Photo attached.

JACKSON, Miss. – A member of the faculty of the University of Mississippi Medical Center has been named president of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Dr. James Martin, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at UMMC, was installed today in Washington, D.C., as president of the 53,000-member organization that is the leading group of physicians providing health care for women.

Martin, a member of the UMMC faculty for 28 years, is the author of more than 500 scientific publications and communications, many of which address issues related to preeclampsia-eclampsia and atypical forms of this disease such as HELLP syndrome. The Preeclampsia Foundation presented Martin with its Hope Award in 2009 for lifetime achievement in preeclampsia research. He is a fellow of both the American Heart Association and the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society. He is a past president of the North American Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

During his presidency of ACOG, Martin's focus will be on preeclampsia and hypertensive complications of pregnancy. Despite being a leading cause of maternal death and sickness, the disease process is little understood after decades of research.

"To conquer this disease, we must know how it begins as well as how it ends," Martin said.

The disease process, he said, remains among the most understudied and underfunded in research compared to other diseases. "Such slow, underfunded research limits growth in evidence-based information and foments controversy surrounding the classification, diagnosis and management of the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy," he said.

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical

Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://www.umc.edu/>