Editor’s message

PAUL A. KRUEGER, DO

JAOA—THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION and the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists are pleased to present this supplement on high-risk pregnancies. Two years ago, the American Osteopathic Association launched the Women’s Health Initiative. The mantra of that movement is that reproduction, the classic realm of the obstetrician/gynecologist, is only a small part of our female patients’ healthcare needs. Therefore, our women’s health supplements have focused on a broad range of topics, including osteoporosis, arthritis, migraine, and other conditions that disproportionately affect women.

Nonetheless, we cannot forget that caring for pregnant women and managing complications of pregnancy are an essential part of what osteopathic physicians do every day. Primary care physicians provide obstetric care in many areas of the United States. For those who do not still care for and prescribe for pregnant women, the article on preconception care by Peter S. Konchak, DO, is a must read. Primary care physicians and medical specialists all have diabetic patients in their practices. And, diabetic patients do become pregnant. The article on diabetes in pregnancy by Joseph N. Bottalico, DO, teaches us how to care for them.

Prematurity is the number one cause of infant mortality. The infant mortality rate in the United States is still below that of other industrialized countries. Although many reasons for this are out of the physician’s control, proper management is essential. Two articles, “Management of preterm labor” by James W. Hole, DO, and Terry B. Tressler, DO, and “A clinical review of home uterine activity monitoring (HUAM),” by Mark A. Kalchbrenner, DO, address this critical topic.

Women’s health is a holistic ideal, making osteopathic physicians the ideal practitioner. We hope these supplements are helpful.

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