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• 4 excellent case presentations selected by faculty

Faculty Photo (L-R)
Petra Kohlberger MD (Co-Course Director); Stephen T. Chasen, MD, FACOG;
Laura E. Riley, MD (Course Director); Yelena Havryliuk, MD, FACOG;
Kevin Holcomb, MD, FACOG and Christian Dadak, MD
not pictured: Engelbert Hanzal, MD; Heinrich Husslein, MD, PLL.M.; Harald Leitich, MD, PhD
and Andrea Weghofer, MD, PhD, MSc, MBA
**Faculty Photo (L-R)**
Stephen T. Chasen, MD, FACOG; Yelena Havryliuk, MD, FACOG; Laura E. Riley, MD (Course Director); Andrea Weghofer, MD, PhD, MSc, MBA; Petra Kohlberger MD (Co-Course Director); Harald Leitich, MD, PhD and Christian Dadak, MD
not pictured: Kevin Holcomb, MD, FACOG; Engelbert Hanzal, MD and Heinrich Husslein, MD, PLL.M.

**Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows**
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<th>Time</th>
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WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR in SALZBURG

"OB/GYN"

January 19-25, 2020

FACULTY
Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckerkanndlpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the NewYork Presbytery Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD

Director, Open Medical Institute
American Austrian Foundation

Associate Dean and Gerhard Andlinger Professor for International Medicine & Distance Learning
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Laura E. Riley, MD (Course Director) is a renowned obstetrician and maternal-fetal medicine specialist. She has been appointed Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine. In her new role, Dr. Riley will lead the state-of-the-art NewYork-Presbyterian Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns when it opens in 2020. She will also oversee obstetrics and gynecology at NewYork-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell, NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. A highly accomplished physician-researcher and leader in women’s health, Dr. Riley will build upon the department’s reputation for clinical excellence while shepherding it into the next stage of innovation in women’s healthcare delivery. In addition to furthering clinical and outcomes research, she will strengthen education and training programs to nurture the next generation of obstetricians and gynecologists. Dr. Riley joins NewYork-Presbyterian from Massachusetts General Hospital, where she served as Vice Chair of Obstetrics and Medical Director of Labor and Delivery. An internationally recognized expert on obstetrics infectious diseases, she has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies to develop practice guidelines for pregnancy care of women with Group B strep, Zika, Ebola, and influenza viruses.

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Chair
Professor
Given Foundation Professor
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Petra Kohlberger, MD, MSc (Co-Course Director) is a gynaecologist and obstetrician who specializes in gynecologic oncology, preinvasive lesions of the female genital tract and children and adolescent gynecology. She graduated from the Medical University of Vienna in 1993 and completed her residency in 1999 at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Vienna and in Germany in Freiburg im Breisgau. In 1999, she was appointed Assistant Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. From 1999 to 2000, she was a fellow at the Gynecologic Oncology Department, Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick, Sydney, Australia with Prof. Neville Hacker. From 2000 to 2007, she returned to Vienna and was appointed consultant at the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. In 2007, she graduated the Danube-University Krems with a master's degree in Health Care Management. From 2007 to 2009, she was Head of the Semmelweis-Clinic in Vienna and went further on to Medical Management in Styria, Austria as Chief Medical Officer of the Styrian Healthcare Provider KAGes from 2009 to 2013. In 2013, she returned to Vienna and is currently working as Deputy Head of the Department of Ob/Gyn at the Medical University of Vienna. From 2016 to 2019 she was President of the Austrian Society for Gynecology and Obstetrics.

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Stephen T. Chasen, MD, FACOG is Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Weill Medical College and Director of Obstetric Imaging and Prenatal Diagnosis at the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he completed his fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine in 1998. He is board certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He is the director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship and was a recipient of the National Faculty Award from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Council on Resident Education in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2014. He is actively involved in clinical research involving prenatal diagnosis, multiple pregnancy and obstetric complications. Dr. Chasen has written and co-authored over 100 articles in peer-reviewed literature. He lives in New York City with his wife and two teenagers.

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Christian Dadak, MD is a native of Austria and studied Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna. In 1975, he obtained his medical degree. From 1974-1975, Christian Dadak was an assistant at the Institute for Blood Groups and Transfusion Medicine and held internships in internal medicine and surgery and transfusion medicine. From 1977 to 1982, he was a resident at the 2nd Department of OBGYN, where he became the Director of Senology in 1978. Currently Dr. Dadak is emeritus Associate Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. He is an OB/GYN specialist and is President of the Austrian Society of Prae- and Perinatal Medicine, President of the Austrian Society of Sexual Medicine and a board member of the European Association of Perinatal Medicine as well as a board member of numerous Austrian Medical Societies. Since 2009, he is Visiting Professor at the Weill Cornell Medical College New York, since 2011 Honored Member of the Russian Association of Perinatal Medicine, since 2013 Honored Professor of Siberian Medical University Tomsk as well as Visiting Professor of Kazan State Medical University, Russia and of the Mongolian University in Ulaanbaatar.

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Engelbert Hanzal, MD is an Obstetrician and Gynecologist and Associate Professor at the Medical University of Vienna, where he heads the multidisciplinary Continence and Pelvic Floor Center. He received his specialty training at the 2nd Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Vienna. Dr. Hanzal’s special interests are urogynecology, evidence-based medicine and epistemology. He is active in clinical work, teaching and research. He is a member of the International Urogynecological Association, where he currently is a member of the Scientific Committee and the International Society of Evolution Medicine and Public Health. He is involved in the planning, execution and publication of randomized trials and is a member of the Centre of Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford.

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Yelena Havryliuk, MD, FACOG is a board-certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist. She grew up in Ukraine and moved to the United States as a teenager. Dr. Havryliuk received her medical degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and completed her residency training at the New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She initiated her career at New York University Langone Medical Center, where her focus was on benign gynecological conditions and women’s health. In 2011, she returned to New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center to join the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Havryliuk provides care in all aspects of gynecology and women’s health including the management of contraception, abnormal pap smears, endometriosis, abnormal uterine bleeding, hormone replacement therapy as well as preventative care. In addition, Dr. Havryliuk has a special interest in the surgical management of fibroids, adnexal masses and endometriosis. When indicated, she strives to offer all patients minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Havryliuk has also fostered collaborations with other departments within the medical center in order to offer a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach. She lives in New York City with her husband and her children Julia and Alexander.

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Kevin Holcomb, MD, FACOG is a Gynecologic Oncologist at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College and works closely with other members of the Weill Cornell Obstetrics and Gynecology Department. He also closely collaborates with colleagues in the departments of Hematology Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Surgery. In addition to helping diagnose and treat gynecologic cancers, Dr. Holcomb continues to develop more effective techniques in chemical, radiological and surgical treatments for these pernicious conditions. He is also very interested and active in the development of robotic and laparoscopic surgical techniques for gynecologic cancers. Dr. Holcomb was recently appointed Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery. Dr. Holcomb's research contributions to the field of gynecologic oncology have included dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles, a book chapter, an interactive CD-ROM, and many presentations at regional and national conferences and symposia. His research activities include clinical trials of new chemotherapy regimens as well as research in endometrial cancers and lymph node sampling. Topics of his research articles and presentations have included treatment of locally advanced cervical cancer, pre-invasive cervical lesions in HIV-positive women, and analyses of cell characteristics in human ovarian cancers. His dedication to medical education was recognized by the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he received the National Faculty Award in 2002 and 2004. He has been named one of New York's Top Doctors by New York Magazine, one of the New York Metro Area's Top physicians by Castle-Connolly Medical Ltd., and one of America's Leading Doctors by Black Enterprise magazine. Dr. Holcomb served as the President of the Board of Advisors for the American Cancer Society Upper Manhattan Office as well as President of the Metropolitan Gynecologic Cancer Society.

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Heinrich Husslein, MD, PLL.M. is an obstetrician and gynecologist who specializes in minimal invasive gynecological surgery. Dr. Husslein grew up in Vienna and spent one year in Washington DC during high school. He graduated from the Medical University of Vienna and completed his OB/GYN residency at the Klinikum am Woerthersee in Carinthia, Austria. He completed his two-year clinical fellowship training in advanced minimal invasive gynaecological surgery at St. Michael's Hospital at the University of Toronto with Drs. Guylaine Lefebvre, Abheha Satkunaratnam, Sari Kives, Colleen Mcdermott, Deborah Robertson and Dana Soroka. Dr. Husslein’s research interests include surgical techniques, surgical education and objective skill assessment, endometriosis and urogynecology. He is a peer reviewer for multiple major obstetric and gynecologic journals. Dr. Husslein is currently a faculty member of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. His clinical focus is advanced laparoscopy and hysteroscopy as well as vaginal surgery for benign indications (eg. endometriosis, uterine fibroids, adnexal masses, uterovaginal prolapse, urinary incontinence, etc).

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Harald Leitich, MD, PhD is working as a consultant at the Division of Obstetrics and Maternal-Fetal Medicine of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Medical University of Vienna. Harald Leitich was educated at the University of Vienna, Austria, and graduated from the Medical School in 1993. He also studied Computer Sciences at the Technical University of Vienna and graduated as a Doctor of Technical Sciences in 2001. Harald Leitich joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as a research fellow in 1994 and finished his residency at the department in 2001. His scientific research focuses on preterm birth and Evidence-Based Medicine. In 2001, he became Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2001, Harald Leitich became Quality Systems Manager in Healthcare. He was head of the Division of Quality Management of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology until 2013. His present position at the department is head of the Division of Medical Education and Postgraduate Training. He lives in Vienna with his wife Katharina and children Mina and Ben.

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Andrea Weghofer, MD, PhD, MSc, MBA works as a senior consultant at the Department of Gynecological Endocrinology and Reproductive Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria and serves as the head of the department’s outpatient unit for fertility treatment. Dr. Weghofer was born and raised in Vienna and graduated from the Medical University of Vienna, where she obtained her PhD as the first graduate of the university’s reproductive endocrinology program. Dr. Weghofer completed her residency training at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical University of Vienna and her fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Genetics at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. She is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology (including reproductive endocrinology and infertility) and in Human Genetics. In the course of international research collaborations, Dr. Weghofer concentrates her research efforts on in vitro fertilization, ovarian senescence and reproductive genetics. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles and has won a number of national and international awards for her scientific work. Currently, Dr. Weghofer serves as section editor for *Reproductive Biomedicine Online*. She was appointed vice president of Austria’s Society of Reproductive Medicine and of Austria’s Medical Chamber’s Board Certificate Committee for Obstetrics & Gynecology.

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**SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW**

Amina Sayed, MD  
Hamad Medical Corporation  
Doha, Qatar  
January 19 - 25, 2020

**January 19, Sunday.** I arrived at Schloss Arenberg, where the seminar is held, they have nice cozy rooms. The receptionist was nice and answered my questions about the city. I decided to explore the city for the remaining day and used the Hop on Hop off bus tour to see Salzburg’s main attractions. Everyone smiles and is kind in Salzburg, getting lost in the city is not an issue as everyone speaks good English and all are happy to help. The weather was cold and it was snowing, though I couldn’t see much I enjoyed the tour and the weather, it does not snow in Qatar so it was an exceptional experience! In the evening, we met the faculty and the organizers, the welcome speech was motivating and I was excited to start the week.

**January 20, Monday** We started the day with a nice and simple breakfast at 7am followed by a pre-seminar test, most of the topics were similar to our board exams however some were new. The first lecture was quite interesting, looking at pregnancy as a window to the women’s future health by Dr. Laura Riley. I realized I need to counsel my patients more about their future health. All the lectures were very informative and interesting. I liked that we had a break between every 2 lectures for coffee or lunch. Everyone sits together during these breaks and shares their unique experiences from their countries. I really met nice people from across the globe. The kitchen staff were especially nice and thoughtful, one of the nice waiters came to me and explained how they separate the vegetarian food and cut the cheese away from meat as she knows we don’t eat meat.

**January 21, Tuesday.** Today’s lectures mostly covered gynecology conditions, the benign diseases by Dr. Yelena Havryliuk and the malignant diseases by Dr. Kevin Holcomb. All lectures were informative and detailed. I’m a big fan of laparoscopy procedures so it was quite interesting to get to know another procedure that is performed in the US, that is not yet available in my hospital which is about the laparoscopic ablations of fibroids. After lunch, fellows started to present their cases. It was interesting to listen to everyone’s different experiences, some rare cases were presented as well.

**January 22, Wednesday.** We had a laparoscopy workshop on Wednesday. Dr. Heinrich Husslein held his lecture first, then we could practice. Both Dr. Heinrich Husslein and Dr. Kevin Holcomb were with us and guided us. We also got tips about how to make homemade laparoscopy simulators which I’m planning to make. After the workshop I reviewed my presentation and prepared it for the next day.

**January 23, Thursday.** We had more gynecologic lectures. The first lecture was about contraception which answered many of our questions. This was followed by lectures on endometrial cancer and pelvic organ prolapse; all were interesting topics. At lunch I met a few girls from Mexico and we shared
our experiences at our hospital and discussed Mexican food! After that, we had the second part of fellows presenting their cases. My case was scar pregnancy and we had in total 3 cases with similar topics. It was a nice coincidence as all of these 3 cases that had been presented were managed differently. At night at about 8:30 pm we had the chamber music concert, the piano performers were really talented, they made sure to tell us the story of each symphony as well. It was my first time attending such events, they played Mozart and performed other artists as well.

Looking back at the week, I enjoyed the seminar, the experience was very unique. Living and attending the seminar in the same building has great benefits, you get closer to the other fellows and the faculty. You get to share your experience, discuss different cultures and history. The experience was truly outstanding and special. I would like to thank the organizers and lecturers for all their efforts and I hope we see everyone again next year!

Amina Sayed, MD (Qatar)
January 19, Sunday - January 25, Saturday. I had a great opportunity to attend a weeklong (19th-25th Jan) 2020 Salzburg Weill Cornell, OMI Seminar. Being selected and to participate among highly qualified OB/GYN specialists was in fact a great honor. The seminar was very unique in many positive ways. After hearing about the overall mission of the AAF- “Prevention of brain drain and foster brain gain” during the welcome remarks, I consider this comprehensive OMI program (OMI seminar to begin with) so special. There is no doubt, the same must be true for the 35 other participants from Eastern and Central European regions, Africa and Asia, who are thriving to improve health care in their homeland while being closely associated with the medical community globally at the same time.

I highly appreciate the OMI Course Director Laura E. Riley, MD and the faculty how meticulously the seminar topics had been chosen. It included updates on important health issues that we OB/GYN doctors encounter very frequently during out clinical practice. Directing us to recent guidelines by faculties was again the bonus point. All lectures, that the seminar covered, for example “Pregnancy as a window to future health” by Laura E. Riley, MD (Course Director) was very insightful and gave direction to future research in this field thus broadening our prospective in health care. To receive several updated lectures on evaluation and management of benign and malignant ovarian and endometrial tumors by highly renowned experts in the field followed by series of healthy discussion helped a lot to make further plans as how to adapt the obtained information into practice when I go back to my work station.

Lectures on Intraepithelial diseases of cervix, vagina and especially vulva- the neglected women health issues by Dr. Petra Kohlberger (Co-Course Director) was really insightful. She highlighted how small errors in the decision making process lead to compromise in the patient’s quality of life. While the discussion on prevention of cervical cancer it was good to learn that HPV vaccination has been started in 18 home countries of the participants. I enjoyed the series of key note lectures covering a broad range of topics such as pelvic floor disorders and elderly pregnancy so much. The faculties’ sense of humor to make the subject interesting was incredible. A lecture on clinical risk management followed by an interactive discussion was very fruitful. Along with my colleagues we exercised and learned the complex issue of managing medical errors through case analysis. “Safety culture to create safety climate for prevention of medical errors” is one of the key take home messages of the seminar for me. This is something I am aiming to keep it up in my work environment. The Hands-on training/ workshop on laparoscopy was well organized. Each participant had equal opportunity to learn through the guided lecture followed by demonstration and practice.
Additionally, the yet unique part of the seminar were the case presentations held by each of the participants and further discussion on possible alternative management of such cases back in their home countries. I highly appreciate all the faculty’s contributions.

I find the organization of the OMI seminar is of very high quality. One of its special features is the environment for a great social networking opportunity among the participants and the faculty. Besides comfortable accommodation, warm hospitality, authentic Austrian cuisine and Chamber Music Concert in the evening at Schloss Arenberg it gave me and my friends the feeling of being treated as special guests. I am thankful to the AAF and glad to be the part of the OMI seminar.

_Sunila Shakya, MD (Nepal)_