



Join the annual international consortium of surgeons, multidisciplinary clinicians, researchers, scientists, academicians, professionals, media and patient constituency for the latest aspects of endometriosis research and minimally invasive surgical education. Learn more at www.endofound.org

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Collaboration with a premiere NYC hospital for the establishment of the nation's first Endometriosis Pathology Biorepository Research Core/Tissue Bank;
- Execution of annual scientific symposia featuring expert consortiums of faculty presenting on crucial biomolecular and surgical topics;
- Launching the Center for Gynepathology Research, a groundbreaking research initiative housed within the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Engineering;
- Continuing extensive outreach efforts to promote early intervention, timely diagnosis and effective treatment with a particular emphasis among young women and adolescents;
- Striving towards the establishment of multiple 'Centers of Excellence' for the expert research, care and treatment of endometriosis;
- Providing surgical fellowships for the advanced laparoscopic excision of endometriosis with AAGL;
- Lectures at academic centers and institutions across the country to raise awareness among faculty, employees and students;
- Hosting the annual Blossom Ball, a red-carpet fundraising affair for awareness and research;
- Generating over 320 million media impressions in 2011 alone, in such high profile media resources as the Wall Street Journal and the Today Show;
- Engaging in highly successful awareness campaigns with such high-profile brands as Danskin®, Dial® NutriSkin™;
- And so much more...

OUR ANNUAL SYMPOSIA ON ENDOMETRIOSIS

- **MAY 20, 2010**
Advancing the Art & Science of Endometriosis: Stem cells to Radical Excision Surgery
HONOREES CAMRAN NEZHAT, MD, FACOG, FACS & LINDA G. GRIFFITH, PH.D
- **MARCH 18 & 19, 2011**
Let's Talk About Sex...and Endometriosis...Seriously!
HONOREES DR. CAROLINE GARGETT, BAPPSCI, MAPPSCI, PHD & DAVID B. REDWINE, MD, FACOG
- **MARCH 16, 17 & 18, 2012**
Extracting the Roots for the Next Generation
HONOREES HUGH TAYLOR, MD & CHARLES H. KOH, MD, FACOG, FRCOG



2009 Inaugural EFA Honoree
Harry Reich, MD

endofound.org



ENDOMETRIOSIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA



"...If we are to achieve significant progress for women with endometriosis, we must emphasize the most important steps of action: Early diagnosis, timely intervention, and improving the quality of surgery"
-Tamer Seckin, MD, EFA Founder & President

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CRITICAL SHORTCOMINGS IN ENDOMETRIOSIS

Endometriosis is a disease characterized by missed opportunities. A highly complex disorder, which for decades has not received its due, endometriosis remains plagued by a culture of menstrual misinformation, societal taboos, delayed diagnosis and ineffective treatments. Moreover, its economic impact is staggering: related costs and productivity losses of endometriosis sufferers soar near to \$110 billion[■] annually. Endometriosis is linked to co-morbid disorders including certain malignancies, and is one of the most prevalent female health concerns of our time - yet despite its ubiquitous impact, significant gaps continue to exist in knowledge of its pathophysiology and appropriate treatment—this translates into continued poor disease management and diminished patient outcome.

Endometriosis tends to severely diminish the physical, sexual and emotional health of those affected; relationships, careers, academics, sexuality, fertility and overall quality of life can be negatively impacted. Thus, it is critical that all gynecologists and subspecialists become involved in the care of these patients. We must work together to support efforts towards the timely knowledge of its pathophysiology, early recognition and correct diagnosis, understanding of pain mechanisms, increased recommendations for management and significant improvement of surgical quality, accessibility and affordability.

■ Professor Asgerally T. Fazleabas, Remarks, Endometriosis Lecture, Michigan State University, April 2011

ABOUT THE ENDOMETRIOSIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA (EFA)

The Endometriosis Foundation of America is the only organization of its kind in the world. Unique in that it is founded by a surgeon and promotes advanced laparoscopic surgical excision as the gold standard of treatment. EFA is engaged in a robust campaign to educate both medical and surgical communities, media, and the public about the critical importance of early diagnosis and effective intervention while simultaneously providing vital professional training and education to the next generation of surgeons.

We must acknowledge there exists a "Triad" of disease: peritoneal, ovarian endometrioma and deeply fibrotic, rectovaginal endometriosis. Though different, they are not altogether clinically distinct entities, and the pathophysiological mechanisms involved in all three remain poorly understood. All forms of endometriosis, however, can be successfully treated through precise excision. Benefits conferred include substantial symptomatic relief and resolution of infertility in many cases, circumvention of major abdominal surgery with its related morbidity, and avoidance of the hypoestrogenic effects of ovarian suppression drugs, all of which are contraindicated to fertility and none of which ever eradicate disease.

Early diagnosis, timely intervention and quality excision prevents progression.



Excisional biopsy and removal is the most effective way of both treating superficial and deeply invasive disease and allowing for histological confirmation. In order to achieve longitudinal benefits, we must evolve towards a paradigm shift that defines the most favorable treatment policies by integrating advancements in technology. Failure to excise will cause ongoing symptoms even in absence of other visual evidence; surgical excision may also mitigate potential malignant transformation.

The cornerstone of our research endowments sponsor landmark studies into the core biomolecular sciences and pathophysiology of endometriosis, which will lead to a better understanding of the disease, possible prevention and ultimately, a cure. Our objective is to not only illuminate the mechanisms of endometriosis by speeding up the learning curve and creating a sense of academic enthusiasm, but to also transcend basic research which may be too distant from the pathophysiology to appreciate the true aspects of the disease. We must adapt with the next generation of surgeons and patients in mind, harboring early diagnosis and effective intervention and facilitating a congruous approach from the realms of science with translational medicine and surgery.