
Recap of Meeting with Dr. Andrew Satin, Director of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Background on Dr. Andrew Satin:

Dr. Satin holds several national leadership positions, including president of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and member of the board of the directors of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He has served as chair of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committees on Practice Bulletins and Clinical Document Review. He has published many articles in obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine journals and written numerous textbook chapters. Satin, who also conducts extensive research in labor stimulation, has led countless residents through simulation laboratories and directed simulation courses for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Dr. Satin and I discussed the recent and exciting expansion of Hopkins OB/GYN footprint into DC, Howard County and Montgomery Co and we discussed how this allows for the expanding of important surgeries for women. Due to the expansion, patient volume is up, they've had more deliveries and as previously stated, more GYN surgeries, with over 90% comprised of minimally invasive surgeries. One area that has specifically expanded is the divisions cancer GYN research and surgeries, with cancer research having quadrupled in recent years.

The new fertility clinic at Greenspring has been incredibly exciting for the department as they have doubled the amount of in vitro fertilizations. Dr Satin recruited Valerie Baker, M.D. from Stanford University and she has proved an incredible asset to the program. The team has created the fastest growing fetal therapy center in the United States. The Fetal Therapy Program is an incredible program where the doctors can go in laparoscopically through the mother and perform surgery on the baby in utero. A couple of examples of surgeries they may perform are: 1.) Inserting a balloon into a baby's chest cavity to help with lung development and 2.) perform tasks on baby in utero to help cure spina bifida. All of this is cutting edge and requires amazing doctors and technology. For comparison, surgery at CHOP still require cutting the mother open to get to her uterus. Clearly, Hopkins' ability to do it laparoscopically is truly phenomenal.

In addition to these advances, Dr Satin discussed how his group is making great strides in genetic testing on embryos while expanding their knowledge and focus on studying embryos for genetic components. This is incredibly important to ensure a healthy baby for those couples who are most at risk for genetic disorders.

One final topic we discussed, which I found incredibly exciting, is the ability to do a uterine transplant at some point in the future. They've been working on this and continue to do so. This is cutting edge and would be a major breakthrough for cancer patients and other women who've had hysterectomies for any reason. Dr. Satin's colleague Mindy Christianson has also learned how to take healthy uterine tissue from young girls prior to cancer treatment, preserve it, give the child chemo and radiation, and then re insert the healthy tissue after treatments. This allow the healthy uterine tissue to re-grow, thus the possibility for preserving the uterus.

Finally, when asked about the future and what he would be excited to see, Dr Satin mentioned the ability of ovarian transplants. Again, this is in the future, but would truly be an incredible advancement in the women's medicine.