



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

School of Medicine

October 2011

**Two New Department Chair Appointments –
Dr. Judith Burgis and Dr. Meera Narasimhan**

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Dean Richard Hoppmann announces two new Chair appointments. **Dr. Judith Burgis** has been named Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. **Dr. Meera Narasimhan** has been appointed Chair of the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science.

Dr. Burgis earned her bachelor's degree in medical technology and her master's in health sciences from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She obtained her medical degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Richland Memorial Hospital. After an active clinical affiliation, she joined the School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as an assistant professor in 2004 and was appointed interim chair in 2010.

She is an active member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology, the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, and the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She is also a member of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine. She has earned numerous honors, including the USC School of Medicine Distinguished Physician Alumni of the Year Award and the Kay McFarland USC School of Medicine Women in Medicine Award in 2008 and 2010.

Dr. Burgis serves as president of the South Carolina Perinatal Association, assistant secretary-treasurer for the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and immediate past president of the USC School of Medicine Alumni Association.

“Dr. Judith Burgis has a wonderful reputation among patients, students, residents, faculty and the community as a physician who is a champion for women's health, the best in education, and quality patient care. It is because of these characteristics and her leadership that the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will excel. As chair, her health care expertise, clinical knowledge, and strategic focus will propel Carolina's women's health and research initiatives to greater heights,” Hoppmann said about her appointment.

Dr. Narasimhan received her medical degree from the Gandhi Medical College in Bhopal, India and completed her residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in psychopharmacology at Yale University. Dr. Narasimhan is nationally recognized for her work on a statewide telehealth initiative to improve access, affordability, quality and cost-effective care. She joined the department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science in 2004 as the Director of Biological Research and was appointed interim chair in 2010. She also is director of Research and Scientific Initiatives for the S.C. Department of Mental Health, adjunct Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina and serves on the Clinical Trials Advisory Council of Health Sciences South Carolina.

Dr. Narasimhan is credited with launching a highly productive research division that has obtained federal, industry and foundation grant funding for research on mood disorders, schizophrenia, substance use disorders, autism, the interface of medical and psychiatric illness and telehealth.

Her research, teaching and service have earned her awards from the American Psychiatric Association, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health America, Indo American Psychiatric Association, Yale University, the South Carolina Department of Mental Health and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine.

Dr. Narasimhan is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. She co-chaired the Global Health Care Summit (Mental Health) in New Delhi sponsored by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, Indian Medical Association.

On her appointment, Dean Hoppmann said, “Dr. Meera Narasimhan is well-known as a trailblazing clinician, passionate educator, researcher, and community activist. Through collaborations, research and practice, she has had a positive influence on the profession of neuropsychiatry locally, nationally, and internationally. I am confident that, under her leadership, the Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science will flourish, positively impact the lives of students, residents, and patients, and gain prestige for the School of Medicine and the University.”