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Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG): The Science

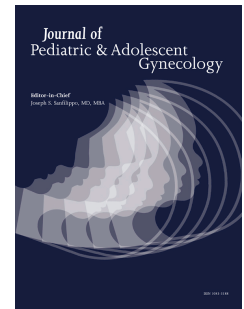
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PII: S1083-3188(17)30294-2

DOI: [10.1016/j.jpag.2017.03.141](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpag.2017.03.141)

Reference: PEDADO 2112

To appear in: *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology*



Please cite this article as: Adams Hillard PJ, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG): The Science, *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.jpag.2017.03.141.

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Editorial 03/28/17

## Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG): The Science

By the time this editorial appears in print, the 31st Annual Clinical and Research Meeting of the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG) in Chicago will have come and gone. At the time I write this editorial, I am eagerly anticipating that meeting. My network of colleagues and friends from around the country and around the globe has grown to be a real community. My NASPAG colleagues have encouraged my professional growth, and they have brought an increasing rigor to the science of PAG. They have been vocal and tireless advocates for young girls, adolescents, and young adult women. And, importantly as it relates to the Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, the official journal of NASPAG and the International Federation of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (FIGIJ), the *science* in our field has progressed.

NASPAG itself has grown, matured, and changed since I attended my first meeting. The early meeting that I recall most vividly was the one where I presented my paper with my 4-month old son in a Snuggli carrier on my chest. That son just turned 29 in January, and I suspect like many of you, I date important events in my life in relationship to how old my kids were at the time. I honestly don't recall how he behaved during that presentation. But my paper was well received. The scholarly work and studies that I had been doing in the area of pediatric and adolescent gynecology were recognized as important. When I think back on it, what I do recall is a vivid memory that it is hard to travel alone with a baby, how nervous I was presenting a paper, and how warmly I and my baby were received by a developing and new group of colleagues in OB/Gyn and Pediatrics from around the country. I had found a professional home in NASPAG—a home where my focus on the gynecologic problems of young girls and teens was acknowledged as important. Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, which we now refer to as PAG, was a new subspecialty at the time. Every year for the last thirty years, I have attended the NASPAG meeting with anticipation and eagerness. It is there that I am challenged with new knowledge and information. It is there that I hear of the exciting work that my colleagues are pursuing. I attend the meeting so that I can learn to take better care of my patients, so that I can continue to teach the latest findings of the field, and so that I am challenged with additional questions that deserve additional scholarly research. After the meeting, and between meetings, I turn to JPAG to read the details of my colleagues' work, knowing that the studies have received rigorous peer review to improve their presentation, acknowledge their limitations, and highlight their importance. Science and knowledge are moving forward.

In 2010, I was fortunate to help organize and be a part of a meeting at the NICHD to consider the research agenda for JPAG. For that meeting, in assessing the science of the field, I looked at the types of articles that were published in JPAG, considering articles published from 1996 to that date. It was not until 1996 that JPAG began to be indexed in PubMed. Many of the publications in JPAG were case reports and small case series, as is the case in many scientific fields where the science is young. Table 1 shows the mix of types of articles published in the journal at that time. For comparison, the closely allied field of Adolescent Medicine has a

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