

NAMS EDITORIAL

James H. Liu, MD, NCMP 2018-2019 NAMS President

Dr. James H. Liu was elected as the 2018-2019 President of The North American Menopause Society (NAMS) during the Society's 29th Annual Meeting held October 3-6, 2018, in San Diego, California. Dr. Liu succeeds Dr. Sheryl Kingsberg as President and will serve a 1-year term.

Dr. Liu received an MD from The Ohio State University School of Medicine, did his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital, in New York, and completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the University of California, San Diego.

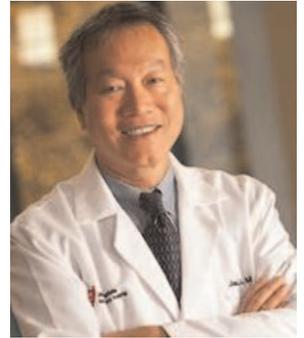
He is Chair of the Department of Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University Hospitals MacDonald Women's Hospital, where he joined the staff in 2001. He is the Arthur H. Bill Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and Obstetrician-Gynecologist in Chief of the University Hospitals Health System.

Before working at Case, Dr. Liu was on the faculty at the University of California in San Diego from 1983 to 1988 as a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist and was Director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Cincinnati from 1988 to 2001.

"I knew that Jim would be an amazing leader in 2001 when he was being recruited as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center," says Dr. Sheryl Kingsberg, NAMS Immediate Past-President. "He proved me right back then and continues to show his leadership skills now, 17 years later, having built a flourishing department and noteworthy faculty. It is without question that Jim will use those same skills to lead NAMS in the upcoming year."

Dr. Liu is a noted expert on progestins in reproduction and in menopause. His primary clinical and research interests include endometriosis, ovulation disorders, in vitro fertilization, reproductive surgery, neuroendocrine control of reproductive function, nonestrogen treatments for vasomotor symptoms in menopausal women, and clinical research for medical treatments/devices for menopause. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for the past 18 years for his work in menopause and contraceptive technology and holds five patents on vaginal drug delivery systems, with a special expertise in steroid hormone drug delivery.

"In looking back at my career, I have always had a strong inclination toward intellectual curiosity, problem solving, and striving to understand 'how things work,'" says Dr. Liu. "This has ranged from taking toys apart as a child (not always putting them back together), programming the Apple II computer, understanding and diagnosing complex medical conditions, unraveling hormone physiology, and troubleshooting surgical instrument problems in the operating room."



Dr. Liu was the Principal Investigator of the Women's Health Initiative site at the University of Cincinnati and currently is the Principal Investigator of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Contraceptive Trial Network at Case Western Reserve. He served on the advisory committee for the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN). He is a former member of the FDA Advisory Committee on Reproductive Drugs and the American College of Obstetrics Gynecology (ACOG) Committee on Gynecologic Practice, serving as Vice-Chair from 2004 to 2006 and as Chair of the ACOG Gynecologic Practice Bulletins Committee from 2005 to 2007. He served on the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's Practice Committee for 6 years.

Dr. Liu has been an Active Member of NAMS since 1994. His contributions to the Society include serving as a speaker at the Society's Annual Meeting and participating as a roundtable moderator. He has served on the NAMS Awards Committee, Executive Committee, and Poster Judging Panel. He was a member of the Advisory Panel for the 2012 and 2017 NAMS Hormone Therapy Position Statements and the 2013 Vulvovaginal Atrophy Position Statement. He contributed to past editions of *Menopause Practice: A Clinician's Guide*, the Society's *Recommendations for Clinical Care of Midlife Women*, and the SERMs Education Task Force and is currently an Associate Editor for and contributor to the updated *Menopause Practice: A Clinician's Guide*, 6th edition. He has been a contributor to the popular *Menopause e-Consult* and *Menopause Care Updates* e-newsletters and serves on the *Menopause* journal Editorial Board. He was elected to a first term on the NAMS Board in 2013 and has

most recently held the office of Treasurer before being elected President.

“Jim has an impressive record of accomplishment and of leadership,” says Dr. JoAnn V. Pinkerton, NAMS Executive Director. “He has been extremely active in NAMS, and his extensive experience and passion for leadership, his ability to see multiple viewpoints, and his strong sense of fiscal responsibility make him uniquely qualified to serve as President of NAMS.”

“It is somewhat paradoxical that Jim is following me as NAMS President,” says Dr. Kingsberg. “Yet it is a testament to his leadership skills that I am the Past-President. He has always put his faculty’s success as a priority. I credit my own professional accomplishments and leadership skill to Jim’s mentorship, encouragement, guidance, and support. Whatever skills I may have brought to NAMS as President, Jim brings in spades. On a personal level, I value his friendship as much as his leadership and am thrilled that he has offered his service to NAMS.”

In addition to his work with NAMS, Dr. Liu is a member of several professional and scientific societies, including ACOG, the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the American Medical Association, the Endocrine Society, and the International Society of Neuroendocrinology, among others.

Dr. Liu has served on the editorial boards of *Obstetrics and Gynecology*; *Fertility and Sterility*; *Journal of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation*; *Reproductive Sciences*; *Clinical Journal of Women’s Health*; and currently on the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*; *Sexuality, Reproduction and Menopause*; and *Menopause*. He has authored more than 100 publications and has presented at several plenary

symposium at NAMS, participated in many roundtables, and is a noted expert on progestins in reproduction and in menopause.

“Intellectual curiosity has helped me directly or indirectly further the development of GnRH agonists and antagonists,” says Dr. Liu, “as well as improve devices for endometrial ablation, treat endometriosis with progesterone receptor modulators, treat fibroids with ulipristal, improve the use of urine luteinizing hormone kits for ovulation prediction, introduce the technique of amnion grafts to regenerate endometrium in patients with Asherman syndrome, and improve vaginal drug delivery of hormones. I find problem solving new challenges rewarding, especially if the solutions lead to enhancing the health of women.”

“Jim will be a strong leader and advocate for the most up-to-date information about menopause issues and for the implementation of tested, novel therapies,” says Dr. Pinkerton. “I am proud to call him a friend and a colleague. He has my utmost respect and support as incoming President.”

Dr. Liu is an avid tennis player. “But alas,” he says, “being older, I only play doubles due to lack of stamina.” He also likes to go walleye fishing on Lake Erie and would love to learn how to fly fish for steelhead. “If I had more spare time, I would make more art furniture,” says Dr. Liu. “But because I am a surgeon, my wife sold all my powered woodworking tools so I wouldn’t hurt myself. Perhaps in retirement, I will pick it up again.”

He and his wife, Lynne, have three children and six grandchildren. Every winter he travels to Australia to enjoy their summers with his daughter’s family in Sydney.

The Editors