This syllabus represents the top 150 articles relevant to obstetric anesthesia. Seventy-five journals were hand-searched from January 2010 to December 2010 to find articles relevant to anesthesiology/obstetric anesthesia, obstetrics, perinatology, general medicine, and health services research. In addition, key word searches were conducted through Pubmed and ISI Web of Knowledge, to identify additional articles not found in the preliminary search.

A total of 1,115 articles were identified on initial review. The articles were reviewed for quality and interest to the practicing obstetric anesthesiologist. Articles considered for the Ostheimer syllabus were scored using a modified NIH scoring system. Scores were assigned using a nine-point scale with 1 being exceptional and 9 being poor in each of the following categories:

Significance: The importance of the hypothesis or study purpose relative to the respective field in which the article was published. Articles for obstetrical anesthesia, obstetrics, perinatology, general medicine, and health services research were scored separately.

Innovation: This area evaluated the article’s ability to present new theoretical concepts or challenge current practice paradigms. New methodology (i.e. for simulation research) was evaluated as well.

Approach/Methodology: The overall strategy, methodology, and analyses were evaluated to determine if they were well conducted and appropriate for the dataset presented. Randomized controlled trials were scored for quality separately using the Chalmers quality assessment tool (Greenfield MVH. Anesthesia & Analgesia 2009; 108: 1916-1921). Quality scores > 75% are reported as high quality and scores between 50% and 75% are moderate quality.

Overall Impact Score for obstetrical anesthesia: An overall score was assigned to each article that accounted for the individual score in each area, as well as the overall impact to obstetric anesthesia.

List of Journals:

Anesthesiology and Critical Care Journals
1. Acta Anaesthesiologica Scandinavica
2. Acta Anesthesiologica Belgica
3. Anesthesia
4. Anesthesia and Intensive Care
5. Anesthesia & Analgesia
6. Anesthesiology
7. Anesthesiology Clinics of North America
8. American Society of Anesthesiology Newsletter
9. British Journal of Anaesthesia
10. Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia
11. Critical Care Medicine
12. Current Opinion in Anesthesiology
13. European Journal of Anaesthesia
15. International Anesthesiology Clinics
17. Journal of Clinical Anaesthesia
18. Journal of Pain
19. Obstetric Anesthesia Digest
20. Pain
21. Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine
22. Resuscitation

Obstetrics & Gynecology Journals:
1. Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica
2. American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
3. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
4. Birth
5. British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
6. Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
7. Current Opinion in Obstetrics and Gynecology
8. European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology
9. Fertility and Sterility
10. Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation
12. Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health
13. Journal of Perinatology
14. Journal of Women’s Health
15. MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing
16. Midwifery
17. Obstetric Medicine: The Medicine of Pregnancy
18. Obstetrical & Gynecological Survey
19. Obstetrics & Gynecology
20. Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinics of North America
21. Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Reproductive Medicine
22. Placenta

Perinatology Journals:
1. BMC Pediatrics
2. Journal of Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal Medicine
3. Journal of Pediatrics
4. Journal of Perinatology
5. Pediatrics

Specialty Journals:
1. British Journal of Haematology
2. Circulation
3. European Heart Journal
4. Heart

Health Services Research, Epidemiology, and Simulation:
1. American Journal of Epidemiology
2. Health Affairs
3. Health Services Research
5. Quality and Safety in Health Care
6. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology
7. Journal of Patient Safety
8. Simulation in Healthcare
9. Social Science and Medicine

General Medicine Journals:
1. Annals of Internal Medicine
2. British Medical Journal
3. Chest
4. Cochrane 2010
5. Critical Care Medicine
7. Journal of the American College of Cardiology
8. Journal of the American Medical Association
9. Lancet
10. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
11. Nature
12. New England Journal of Medicine
13. Science