

Culture of Life Newsletter



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Bringing “hope and healing” to Poland

By Matt Johnson, Marketing Manager

WHEN LECH WOJEWODZIC **BEGAN HIS CAREER** in medicine, he never imagined that he would become an OB-GYN. “I made all the vocation training in Germany and Italy in orthopedics,” he said, “because it was for me — a man who can fix some fractures and so on.” But then in 2009, an article in the Catholic Polish newspaper *Gość Niedzielny* (“Sunday Guest”) made him reconsider. It was an interview with Pope Paul VI Institute Director Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers and the impact NaProTechnology was having in Poland. “I was riveted,” Lech said. “[Dr. Hilgers] invented all this stuff with NaProTechnology. I was like, ‘Wow, this is for me!’”

Lech was still unprepared for this career change. “I was praying for God to show me the way,” he said. “When I opened the Bible, there was Abraham ... it was the place where God told him that his children will be as many as sand on the beach.” Still, he needed convincing. “So I opened at another place, and it was about Mary, mother of Jesus, who already conceived. It was about her giving birth to the Lord.” Moved by this sign of divine intervention, Lech went to his priest for one last confirmation. “He says to me, ‘If you have prayed, you can choose this other specialization.’”



Lech Wojewodzic

Lech applied for residency as an OB-GYN, and there were only three available openings in his area. When he received the results back from his test, he placed third — only 0.3% higher than the next applicant.

Lech then bought the textbook, “The Medical & Surgical Practice of NaPro-Technology,” learning new ways of treating infertility that were unheard of in Poland

at the time. “I was someone who was already converted,” he said, telling his colleagues, “‘In America, they do this and this and this!’ They were laughing, ‘You will do surgery in all those complicated cases?’” After five years, however, Lech gained the respect of his colleagues. In 2016, he passed the Board State Exam for OB-GYNs in Poland with the second highest score in the country.

There is still an uphill battle in bringing these natural, procreative methods to Poland. “About 70% of the population are pro-IVF ... They are Christian and they are Catholics, but they think in a different way.” Lech believes, however, that the results of the Creighton Model System will win them over. “It’s the time to show them, even if they don’t believe in God, even if they don’t believe in Natural Methods, they can see fruits of it, and maybe this will convince them about our work and our services.”

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Above: Students and faculty at the 2017 EPII Class in Mexico City

Our Mexico February 2017 EPI was captured on video. Watch this amazing promotional video for our upcoming Educational Programs in Mexico City.

www.popepaulvi.com/mexico

Education Programs

- Class 40, Omaha, NE USA:
EP I: **Oct. 7–14, 2017**
EP II: **April 14–21, 2018**
- **Oct. 10–12, 2017:** Women’s Healthcare Matters, Love & Life Unlimited
- Mexico City Education Programs
EP I: **Feb. 3–10, 2018**
EP II: **Aug. 6–11, 2018**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Events

- **Oct. 16, 2017:** Dr. Hilgers will be on “At Home with Jim & Joy” on EWTN at **1 PM Central Time** (2 PM Eastern). Encore presentation **Oct. 21 at 9:30 AM.**
- **Nov. 28, 2017:** #GivingTuesday

Learn more online
popepaulvi.com/events

Meet the 2017 Summer Interns

By Maureen Karpf, Development Associate

The Pope Paul VI Institute has always been committed to the education of people on the truth about issues facing women’s reproductive healthcare. Educating young people and showing them the difference they can make is an important endeavor for the Institute. The spirit that young people have for this work creates synergy with our mission. Their enthusiasm is truly contagious and reminds us all of why we work to bring the culture of life to women’s healthcare.



Malori Mattson

**Malori Mattson,
Summer Research Intern**

Over the summer of 2017, Malori Mattson, a Creighton University medical student from Minot, North Dakota, interned with the Institute and evaluated pregnancy rates in relation to the Creighton Model System, as well as factors that played a role in these rates, such as endometriosis and past surgeries.

Malori first learned about the Pope Paul VI Institute and the Creighton Model System from her teacher and mentor, Fr. Justin Waltz. Through her undergraduate and medical studies, she kept the Institute in her mind, and after a discussion with two previous Pope Paul VI Institute interns, she was certain she needed to apply for the internship. She is now considering becoming an OB-GYN.

“I know that one day I will be able to look back on my experience at the Pope Paul VI Institute and gather from it the encouragement and strength I will need to remain steadfast in my beliefs,” Malori said, “especially during times when those beliefs are challenged.”

J.P. Jensen, Summer File Clerk

John Paul “J.P.” Jensen is a junior at Mount Michael Benedictine High School and a “NaPro Miracle” of FCCA Assistant Administrator, Gerianne Jensen.

J.P. worked over the summer filing research articles from various medical journals and says that working for the Institute over the summer may have changed his long-term goals. From reading an article titled “Potassium Chloride-Induced Fetal Demise,” he discovered how very broken mainstream medicine is. “I had remotely considered medicine before,” J.P. said, “but now I know there is a lot of work to be done and many people to help with good medicine.”



J.P. Jensen

Presentation at the Institute for Priestly Formation

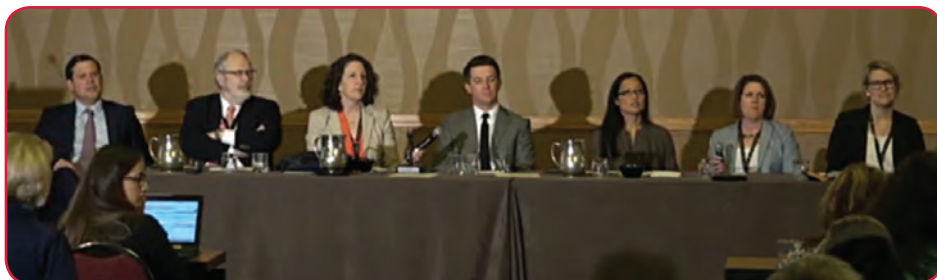


Dr. Kristina Pakiz

Every year, Dr. Kristina A. Pakiz, associate medical consultant in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive medicine and surgery at Pope Paul VI Institute, gives a presentation to the seminarians at the Institute for Priestly Formation about the work of the Institute. The presentation was created to assist future priests in their priestly ministry to single women and engaged and married couples in the areas of women's health, family planning, and sexuality consistent with Catholic Church teachings. The presentation was held on July 20, 2017 at Creighton University's Hixson-Lied Science Building, which you can view via the link below. Watch this powerful presentation and then share to help spread the word about the work we do!

WWW.POPEPAULVI.COM/IPF

The Pre-Conference NFP Forum



Forum Q&A with speakers Stephen J. Hilgers, MD; Thomas W. Hilgers, MD; Kristina A. Pakiz, MD; Gavin Puthoff, MD; Christine Cimo Hemphill, MD; Catherine E. Keefe, MD; and Teresa A. Hilgers, MD.

On Sept. 6, at the invitation of the Catholic Medical Association, the Pope Paul VI Institute presented a day-long pre-conference on NaProTechnology and the Creighton Model FertilityCare System. Institute Director Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers was the moderator and a presenter of this sold-out conference in Denver, Colorado. The Institute specifically featured the next generation of NaProTechnology Surgeons who completed our Fellowship Program and also arranged for the recording of this outstanding and historic day. This recording will be available for purchase, and you can learn more on our website when it becomes available.

"A NaProTechnology surgeon needs ears to listen, eyes to show compassion, hands to heal, and a heart to be compelled to give hope to the hopeless."

— Dr. Kristina A. Pakiz,
"Surgery of the Heart,"
Sept. 6 Pre Conference

WWW.POPEPAULVI.COM/CMA



Dr. Teresa A. Hilgers with her father, Institute Director and Founder Dr. Thomas W. Hilgers.

The Pope Paul VI Institute is pleased to announce that **Teresa A. Hilgers, MD, MS**, has been added to the full-time medical staff!

Dr. Teresa Hilgers is a graduate of Skutt Catholic High School and received her bachelor's degree from Baylor University. She graduated from Georgetown University with a Master's Degree in Physiology and a medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in 2012. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis in 2016, followed by a full-time fellowship in Medical & Surgical NaProTECHNOLOGY at the Pope Paul VI Institute in 2017.

She is now seeing patients for obstetrical care and specializes in patients with infertility problems, endometriosis, polycystic ovaries, and extensive pelvic adhesive disease.

Welcome, Dr. Teresa Hilgers!

2017-18 FELLOWS



The Pope Paul VI Institute is pleased to welcome its St. John Paul Fellows for 2017-2018: Dr. Blaise Milburn (above left) and Dr. Naomi Whittaker (right).

Both Fellows have graduated this year from respective OB-GYN residency programs in Buffalo, New York and Peoria, Illinois. The Institute is very excited to have both of them with us this year. Welcome, Fellows!

In this issue: Read about NaProTechnology in Poland, exclusive videos on our website, and other exciting events!

JOIN THE GIVING CLUB

Join our loyal supporters whose monthly gifts enable the Institute to continue research to improve women's health care, train the next generation of pro-life doctors, and continue outreach activities to share our mission throughout America and the world. Thank you for your generosity!

For more information on setting up monthly contributions, contact Maureen Karpf at maureen.karpf@popepaulvi.com, or use the donate button on our website at popepaulvi.com/givingclub.



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