

## **Christian M. Pettker, MD**

Associate Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine; Medical Director, Labor & Birth Unit and Maternal Special Care Unit, Yale-New Haven Hospital; Chief of Obstetrics, Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital

### **BIOGRAPHY FOR SPEAKING INTRODUCTIONS**

Chris Pettker is associate professor and chief of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services and Chief of Obstetrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital and the Yale School of Medicine. A native Californian, he came east for college at Princeton University, followed by medical school and residency at Columbia University in New York. He moved to Yale for his Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship and has been on faculty there since. For nearly a decade he has overseen Yale's comprehensive obstetric patient safety program, which aims to improve patient care by standardizing treatment methods, creating a high reliability culture, and encouraging communication and collaboration between clinicians and departments.

### **NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHY**

In addition to his role as associate professor and chief of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Services, Dr. Pettker oversees Yale's comprehensive obstetric patient safety program. The program aims to improve patient care by standardizing treatment methods and encouraging communication and collaboration between clinicians and departments.

“A safety and teamwork culture is not something you can just implement, then walk away from and expect to continue,” Dr. Pettker says. “The really hard thing is the daily work you need to do to keep it going.”

After graduating *magna cum laude* from Princeton University in 1995, Dr. Pettker taught at Eton College in England on an Annenberg Fellowship. He received his MD from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed his Ob/Gyn residency at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Pettker then completed a three-year fellowship at Yale in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and joined the faculty.

Dr. Pettker primarily treats high-risk pregnancies. He notes that maternal-fetal medicine is the only branch of medicine where doctors much consider the needs of two patients at one time. “Something I do for a fetus may put the mother at risk, or something I do for the mother may put the fetus at risk,” he explains. “It’s intellectually challenging to balance the two, and it’s emotionally satisfying to help the family through a difficult time.”

Dr. Pettker is the 2013 recipient of the Nathan Kase Faculty Teaching Award with the department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Yale School of Medicine. He also was awarded the National Faculty Award in 2011 from ACOG/CREOG. He is a member of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.