



## SUPPORT TO RURAL OBSTETRICIANS STARTING OUT THEIR PRACTICE

The residents of Jackson County in rural Arkansas are about to welcome a new face into their community. Amy Scott, M.D., has made the important decision to practice in Newport upon completion of her residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at UAMS in 2009.

Raised in a small Arkansas town, Amy will find herself right at home in Newport. Moreover, she feels confident that her decision is the right thing to do and the reason she entered into the field of medicine. "It's so hard for many patients in rural Arkansas to make the necessary trips to Little Rock in order to obtain the high-risk medical care they need. Therefore, it's very important for us to bring the necessary medical services to them when it's possible," says Scott.

Many obstetricians opt out of practicing in rural areas due to lack of a strong perinatal support network. Scott need not worry because she has the support of ANGELS. As part of the ANGELS team herself the

last four years, she knows first hand how the system will support her and other physicians practicing in remote areas of Arkansas. Key to her success will be the telemedicine network set up by ANGELS. The program currently has a thriving telemedicine clinic in Newport, so Dr. Scott and her patients already have that vital lifeline in place. Telemedicine will not only serve as the vehicle for high-risk patient consultations but will extend to valuable educational and networking opportunities.

Along with ANGLES, Dr. Scott will enable women with high-risk pregnancies to remain in their community as much as possible for medical care during pregnancy. Without a strong physician in a rural area directly tied to a perinatal system such as ANGELS, women with high-risk pregnancies would not get the type of care they need. Net gain is less travel, improved patient compliance, saved health care dollars and improved outcomes for Arkansas women and their babies. On behalf of all Arkansans, good luck and thank you Dr. Scott.