

Minneapolis, MN – September 24, 2009 – The Preeclampsia Foundation announced today that Dr. James N. Martin, Jr., University of Mississippi, is the recipient of its 2009 Hope Award for Lifetime Achievement. Martin is professor of obstetrics and gynecology and director of maternal-fetal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Martin will be presented the award at the Foundation's annual benefit gala, Saving Grace – A Night of Hope, on Saturday, October 24, at the Renaissance Chicago Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Martin has had a distinguished career that spans over 30 years and includes leadership roles in various organizations, over 500 scientific publications and communications to date, and exemplary service as an active clinician, educator, administrator and investigator with a primary focus of interest in hypertensive complications of pregnancy.

He is past president of the North American Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy, as well as the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Between 1989 and 2003 he was an examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Recently, he completed twelve years of service The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) as its District VII Chair from 2000-2003, and was elected as ACOG National Secretary in 2004 for two three-year terms. He is a candidate for President of ACOG at this time. Most recently, Martin has been published in the area of obstetric management of patients with hypertensive and hematologic disorders of pregnancy, especially HELLP syndrome. He has also served on the Preeclampsia Foundation's Medical Board since its founding.

When asked about some of the biggest challenges he has faced in his career, Martin said, "Studying this particular disease in the human patient is extremely complex. Women are not lab specimens and we're dealing with them at an extremely vulnerable time."

Leslie Weeks, Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors, said, "Patients who have known him comment that it is his compassion and reassuring demeanor, coupled with his intellect and competence that make him most worthy of this award. Colleagues consistently refer to him as 'always the Southern Gentleman.' We are honored to recognize his academic, research and clinical achievements, no less than his character and values."

In reflecting on this Lifetime Achievement Award, Martin responded, "Thank you and the Board of Directors for this career-crowning award which is so special and surprising. I have too much I still want to do, however, to even think about retirement!"

Dr. Martin oversees the obstetric services for the medical center, including managing a very active maternal-fetal medicine fellowship masters' degree program and research program for the Ob-Gyn residency. The graduating senior resident classes of 2006 and 2009 presented him with Excellence in Mentoring Awards. Dozens of clinical research projects are underway at this time that Martin supervises.

