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**Leaders in Pregnancy Care Partner with Las Vegas High School**

*Physicians Provide Instruction and Mentoring During the SMFM Annual Meeting*

**Washington DC, February 11, 2019** – This week, nearly 3,000 maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists (high-risk pregnancy physicians) will gather in Las Vegas for the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine’s 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting also called, The Pregnancy Meeting™. At the meeting, researchers from around the world will present their findings on important topics such as the prevention of maternal morbidity and mortality, strategies to address racial disparities in obstetric care, the latest techniques in fetal therapy and more.

As part of The Pregnancy Meeting™, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is partnering with Rancho High School in Las Vegas. This partnership is part of an ongoing effort to “give back” to the communities that host the SMFM Annual Meeting.

SMFM physician members will go to Rancho High School on February 13, 2019 for several scientific presentations related to prenatal care and childbirth. The following day, about 50 students from the school will be paired with a physician mentor. The students will have the opportunity to attend a portion of The Pregnancy Meeting™ with their mentor to listen to plenary presentations and view poster presentations.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for the students, many of whom want a career in a medical field,” said Jennifer Haas, magnet coordinator at Rancho High School. “For the kids to learn the same way physicians learn and to make new connections, inspires a special kind of confidence in them.”

Rancho High School has approximately 3,250 students, 70% of whom are Hispanic, with 30% of graduating seniors attending four-year colleges. The school hosts a medical magnet program consisting of 750 students, who have to apply for admission. They take one medical elective per year, starting out with health overview courses as freshmen and sophomores and moving to more specialized fields as upperclassmen, such as sports medicine, forensic pathology, community health and a biomedical program.

The Society is now in its third year of community outreach efforts in conjunction with its annual meeting. In its first year of the program, SMFM also partnered with Rancho High School.

“When you bring this much intellectual capital into a city, it only seems right to share it with the community,” said Brian Iriye, MD, president-elect of SMFM and organizer of the activities with

Rancho High School. "I want the kids to know that there's a place for them in science and healthcare."

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### **About SMFM**

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (est. 1977) is a non-profit membership organization representing the interests of obstetricians/gynecologists who have additional formal education in maternal-fetal medicine. The Society is devoted to reducing high-risk pregnancy complications by providing continuing education to its more than 2,000 members on the latest pregnancy assessment and treatment methods. It also serves as an advocate for improving public policy and expanding research funding and opportunities for maternal-fetal medicine. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research in the area of maternal-fetal medicine are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit [www.smfm.org](http://www.smfm.org).