

SMFM Pregnancy Meeting FAQs

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Why is the 2020 Annual Meeting in Grapevine, Texas?

We weigh several factors when choosing Annual Meeting cities. First, we must choose a venue that can accommodate a meeting of our size. We need meeting rooms that are large enough for our bigger sessions and enough hotel rooms in close proximity to the meeting space. As the Annual Meeting grows, our options change.

We also want the city to be relatively easy to access with an airport that can accommodate a number of direct flights. We try to rotate between different parts of the country and given the timing of our meeting - typically January or February - we aim for cities that have a lower likelihood of snow or potential travel delays related to weather. Most importantly, we aim to keep costs down for Meeting attendees by negotiating hotel room rates that are reasonable. In some instances, like in the case with Gaylord Hotels, we agree to multi-year deals which also helps to keep those costs down. This is why you may see us return to cities or hotel brands several times. Also related to cost, we look for cities where the cost of doing business (think: AV set-up, food and beverage, etc.) is more affordable.

Finally, we want you to have some fun while you are away from home. Whether it's good food, live shows, sporting events, or places to network and meet with other MFMs - we want a city to offer options for a diverse group of Meeting attendees.

Why does SMFM have industry sponsorships?

Without their support, we would not be able to offer the breath of sessions, services and educational opportunities that are currently available to our Meeting attendees. Industry sponsorships ensure an additional source of revenue to cover the Meeting expenses.

Where can I get lunch during the all-day postgraduate courses?

There are a few options for lunch on Monday – Wednesday during the postgraduate courses.

- **SMFM Grab-and-go:** Conveniently located in the convention center adjacent the registration area and near the postgraduate courses, cash-and-carry kiosks will allow you to quickly grab lunch and offer space to sit down and reconnect with your colleagues. A selection of sandwiches, salads, and snacks will be available at a reasonable cost.
- **Industry-Sponsored Learning Lunches:** Complimentary, plated lunch presentations. These independent presentations will be available via online registration as they are confirmed; however, they are not part of the program as planned by the SMFM Program Committee. Pre-registration is required and on a first come/first served basis.
- **Gaylord Texan Sit-down options:** Two restaurants within the hotel provide a sit-down lunch experience in less than an hour.
- **Downtown Historic Grapevine:** Located just 4 miles and an 8-minute taxi ride away, historic downtown Grapevine offers an eclectic mix of world-class cuisine. Click here to see all the options:
<https://www.grapevintexasusa.com/shopwine-dine/restaurants/?skip=0&sort=rankTitle®ionids=5>

As new lunch options are developed, we will notify registrants of any new opportunities that are added.

Why did we change our lunch options?

SMFM provides our members with the highest quality education and science, as well as opportunities to network, each year at the Annual Meeting. As a nonprofit organization, we aim to meet the needs to our members and keep costs as low as possible for attendees. Based on the rising costs of meeting necessities (ie. space and audiovisual) and meeting niceties (ie. boxed lunches), as well as feedback from our member survey, we have made some changes to the 2020 Annual Meeting. Since 2019, SMFM no longer provides lunch as part of registration for a course. As we have done in the past, we will continue to support the scientific registration fees for the Fellows.

Three Important Resources

As with previous meetings, there are two important resources that are provided to help you get the most out of your experience at our upcoming meeting in Texas:

1. **The 2020 SMFM Pregnancy Meeting Final Program.** Connect with SMFM leadership; learn about judging and awards; see the meeting schedule; read about the postgraduate courses, scientific forums, plenary sessions, poster presentations and luncheon roundtables; see what exhibitors are available to visit; navigate it all with a map of the venue.
2. **AJOG.** This special SMFM edition of the journal lists all of the abstracts that were selected for oral and poster presentations. Watch for this journal to arrive in the mail in January and use it to help you choose which presenting authors you would like to meet to discuss their research.
3. **The 2020 SMFM Pregnancy Meeting App.** This app gives you access to meeting schedules, site maps, exhibit hall information, access to connect with other attendees, and so much more.

Poster Printing

SMFM has partnered with MakeSigns to be the official poster printing service for The Pregnancy Meeting™. Use MakeSigns to print your poster and there is no need to bring it on the plane. The poster will be waiting at the Gaylord Texan near registration. Learn more [here](#).

User's Guide to the SMFM Pregnancy Meeting™

What to do and tips for getting the most out of your experience with SMFM, courtesy of Anthony Sciscione, DO. Dr. Sciscione wrote these tips with Fellows in mind.

Know the structure of the meeting so you can plan properly.

- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning are the postgraduate courses. HINT: Pick your courses early as they fill up quickly.
- Wednesday afternoon are the scientific forums. HINT: These are way less formal, but some can get crowded so pick the best one for you and arrive a few minutes early.
- Wednesday afternoon is the resident forum.
- Wednesday night is the opening reception. HINT: Free food and drink!
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning are the scientific sessions. Oral Plenary I is typically the most popular and often has the most interesting studies. HINT: Arrive 15 minutes early and get a seat.
- Thursday and Friday are the luncheon roundtables. HINT: Sign up early as these fill up as well. The registration fee includes lunch.
- Friday night is the All fellows mini-retreat. HINT: Free food and drink. This is a great time to meet or reconnect with your colleagues from across the nation.
- Saturday morning sessions. HINT: These are usually less well attended and a great opportunity to really interact with presenters.

Before the meeting, prepare.

- If you have a presentation - oral or poster - be completely finished at least a month before the due date. HINT: This is one of the most common mistakes I see fellows make, don't wait until the last minute!
- If you have a poster, make sure it is proofread by multiple people. Grammatical and spelling mistakes can be costly. HINT: Put your poster up as early as you can and be there 15 minutes BEFORE the session.
- If you have an oral presentation - congratulations. HINT: Practice, practice, practice.
- Arrange airfare and hotel rooms early. HINT: If possible, don't book your flight connecting through an airport that is an area where snow can close the airport.
- Review the abstracts ahead of time. HINT: Mark or highlight the posters that you would like to see. There are simply too many presentations and posters to get to all of them so be focused in what you are most interested in.
- Download the free "SMFM 40th Annual Meeting App" from your favorite app store. HINT: This will have a map, schedule, the abstracts and more.

At the meeting, take notes and connect with colleagues.

- Arrive early to the meeting allowing you to become comfortable with the venue. HINT: There are often people to share a taxi or Uber from the airport to save you some money.
- Check in with the SMFM registration desk right away; it is usually as you walk into the meeting venue. HINT: You often will get a bag with important announcements, a schedule of events, and more.
- Get the most out of your courses. HINT: Bring something, paper or iPad, to take notes.
- Review and pick the concurrent oral sessions the day before so you know where to go.
- Go directly to the poster sessions. HINT: Start in the back people tend to congregate in the front and near the entrance. Also, take notes on clinical things you would like to remember or for potential research projects.
- Need a job? HINT: There is usually an area for posting jobs.
- The meeting can be hard work and you should make time for yourself, do the Foundation's 5K or try yoga. HINT: Meeting with friends and faculty at the end of the day is a good way to catch up and have some fun.

After the meeting, follow-up.

- Check your notes as soon as you get back. HINT: Doing a group or divisional highlights of the meeting is very useful.
- Get right to work on any research projects that came from ideas generated at the meeting. HINT: Emailing ideas to yourself at the meeting is a good way to make sure you remember.
- If you had an oral or poster presentation you can submit to AJOG. HINT: The deadline is usually pretty tight. Check the AJOG website and select "SMFM" as the article type.
- Start thinking about next year's meeting.

Resources for Families

- **Childcare Services:** SMFM strives to be inclusive and to meet the needs of our members. For the second year in a row, we are proud to offer subsidized childcare services at our Annual Meeting. Registration for childcare services will be open until January 6, 2020 or until Kiddie Corp meets capacity, whichever comes first. This [online registration](#) deadline is in place so that Kiddie Corp can ensure they have the right staff and equipment in place. To register for childcare, please click [here](#). (Please note: this process is separate and apart from meeting registration.) For more details about how childcare will work, please see our [FAQ document](#).
- **Nursing Mother's Room:** Baby-wearing and feeding is welcome throughout The Pregnancy Meeting™. For those who prefer private space, we will have space for parents to pump or feed children. A live feed from the plenary session will also be available in the Nursing Mother's Room.
- **Social Media:** Join our members-only [Facebook group](#) to be the first to know about all-things SMFM. Use the hashtag #SMFM20 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for information specifically related to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Cancellation Policy

Registrants can change their registration selections online. A \$15 administration fee will be charged (on the day of the change) for any changes made to your registration selections that result in a refund.

If a full cancellation is needed:

- Cancellation prior to January 18, 2020 to receive a full refund, less a \$75 administrative fee.
- Cancellation after January 18, 2020 does not provide any refunds.
- Substitutions are permitted at no cost.

Please notify SMFM staff at EducationDept@smfm.org if a cancellation is needed or if you would like to transfer your registration to someone else.

Photo & Video Usage Policy

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and the Foundation for SMFM may use your image via photograph or video taken at SMFM meetings and events for marketing SMFM products, meetings and events. These images may appear in SMFM social media, electronic ads, and printed marketing materials. If you do not want your image used for SMFM marketing purposes, please contact [Kerri Wade](#).