Leading Experts in High-Risk Pregnancy Launch a New Program Focused on Reproductive Health

January 16, 2020, Washington, DC – Among continued efforts to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) today launched the Reproductive Health Project for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The new project will focus on strengthening the role of maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists in providing reproductive health services, including abortion, to women at high-risk for medical complications during pregnancy.

The new Reproductive Health Project evolved out of a two-day workshop, in February 2019, convened by SMFM and co-sponsored by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Fellowship for Family Planning, and the Society of Family Planning. Entitled, “Reproductive Services for Women at High Risk for Maternal Mortality,” the workshop brought together leaders in obstetric care, family planning, and reproductive health law in February 2019.

Women with high-risk pregnancies are more likely to experience medical complications – for themselves, their fetus(es), or both – that can lead to increased morbidity and mortality. For example, many genetic anomalies render a fetus nonviable and can lead to a loss or stillbirth late in pregnancy. In other instances, the life of the woman may be at risk due to a complicated pregnancy, and abortion may be required to protect a woman’s life or health.

“Access to safe, evidenced-based, legal reproductive health services is critical to women’s overall health,” said Matt Granato, LLM, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of SMFM. “SMFM is particularly concerned with access to reproductive health services for high-risk women and will expand our educational and advocacy efforts to reduce barriers for high-risk women to obtain needed care.”

The Reproductive Health Project is an education and advocacy initiative and will be led by an advisory group of experts in maternal-fetal medicine, family planning, and patient advocacy. To learn more about SMFM’s expanded efforts in reproductive health, visit ReproForMFM.org.

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About SMFM
The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 3,500 physicians, scientists and women's health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high-risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit SMFM.org.