Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy
The Path to Transformational Leadership
The Academy seeks to excite and equip MFM physicians for future leadership roles in and beyond the profession.

As a clinical expert, you often are required to be a leader—whether it’s chairing committees or departments, overseeing research or safety projects, heading up divisions, or serving at a regional or national level. Many of us, however, have not been taught how to be effective leaders. It is not in our medical school, residency, or fellowship training. As a result, being in a leadership role can be a burden.

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is working to ease that burden through the Dan O’Keeffe SMFM Leadership Academy. Named for my long-time friend, mentor, and a well-respected leader in MFM, the Academy has been developed in partnership with Idahlynn Karre, Ph.D., one of the leading educators, writers, and facilitators in the field of leadership. Idahlynn Karre also has a special emphasis on the medical field.

I invite you to sign up for the Dan O’Keeffe SMFM Leadership Academy and take advantage of a unique opportunity to garner leadership training that will make your current position more manageable and rewarding and help advance your career. As a participant, you will engage with your peers and gain critical leadership knowledge and skills for today’s healthcare environment.

Limited to the first 35 who register, the six-month learning and leading practicum include five monthly electronic leadership conversations for individualized leadership development and two residential sessions held at the Ritz-Carlton in Denver, Colorado, on October 13-15 and March 1-3, 2024.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Mike Foley, MD
About the Academy

The Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy is designed to engage MFM specialists in a unique professional development experience that frames leadership as building relationships, cultivating excellence, and sustaining energy for productive influence, agency, and motivation to enact positive change.

The Academy is built on the new science of leadership, which includes identifying and maximizing talents and strengths, developing high-performance teams, leading with influence, understanding self and the challenges of transformational leadership, building and sustaining relationships in pursuit of excellence, engaging in crucial conversations, managing conflict productively, leading successful proactive change, and establishing cultures of engagement and energy within workplaces and one’s sphere of influence.

The Academy strives to build a culture that focuses on leadership as serving others, not leadership titles. In so doing, the Academy creates and nurtures a community of diverse leaders within healthcare. MFM physicians at all career levels are encouraged to attend and pay attention to the personal development and wellness required for sustained long-term leadership within the complex world of healthcare.

Equally important work in the Academy includes attention to developing talent, focusing on strengths, building strong interpersonal relationships, leading with influence, and engaging in communication and crucial conversations in pursuit of individual, team, and organizational excellence. When you participate in the Academy, you join this vibrant community of MFM leaders. Your learning and development continue as a community member long after your Academy experience.

The six-month Leadership Academy experience will address the following topics:

- The New Science of Leadership
- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership
- Leading from Strengths
- Authentic Communication and Conversations
- Leveraging Diversity and Nurturing Inclusion Through Leadership
- Articulating and Focusing on Standards of Excellence for Individuals, Teams, and Organizations
- Building and Sustaining Strong Relationships as a Leader
- Developing and Leading High-Performance Teams
- Leading with Positive Influence
- Engaging in Crucial Conversations
- Managing Accountabilities, Conflict, Toxicity, and Narcissism
- Leading Individual, Team, and Organizational Change
- Being a 360-Degree Leader within Complex Organizations
- Creating and Nurturing Cultures of Caring, Honesty, Trust, and Hope
- Developing Personal Strategies for Meeting the Challenges of Inspired Leadership
- Learning and Practicing Resiliency and Wellness Strategies to Avoid Burn-Out
Idahynn Karre, Ph.D., has spent her 45-year professional career as a professor, leader, administrator, speaker, consultant, and coach. With an award-winning professional career as a university professor, scholar, and author, she now devotes her time and energy to professional speaking, writing, and consulting for healthcare, colleges, universities, businesses, corporations, and professional associations worldwide.

Dan O'Keefe, MD, is a maternal-fetal medicine subspecialist with 30 years of experience in MFM practice. He is the former executive vice-president of SMFM and the founder of the Association of Maternal-Fetal Management, now called the SMFM Practice Management Division.

Mike Foley, MD, is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Sera Prognostics and Professor and former chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arizona – Phoenix and the chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Banner–University Medical Center Phoenix. A past president of SMFM, he is the lead editor of Obstetric Intensive Care: A Practical Manual and is a co-editor for Critical Care Obstetrics.

Continuing Medical Education
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of Global Learning Collaborative (GLC) and SMFM. The GLC is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Global Learning Collaborative designates this enduring material for a maximum of 32 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Testimonials

Vincenzo Berghella, MD
My time at the Dan O’Keeffe Leadership Academy was life-changing. I discovered my #1 strength is being a learner, and that knowledge defined the next ten years of my career. Since then, I have become Editor of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Editor-in-Chief at AJOG MFM, Editor at the Cochrane Review, published new editions of Obstetric Evidence Based Guidelines and Maternal Fetal Evidence Based Guidelines, and published hundreds more peer-reviewed manuscripts. I declined innumerable invitations to do more administrative work (e.g., Chair, Dean, etc.) and focused on pursuing my passions and strengths, not my weaknesses. First and foremost, I wanted to discover new ways to improve outcomes for mothers and babies and not be defined by titles or what others wanted of me but by what I like to do.

Emily Fay, MD
The course is more than just leadership skills and introspection. I made incredible connections with other MFM physicians nationwide in different career paths, including academic medicine, private practice, and industry. It was wonderful to pick their brains about their career trajectories and work-life balance and glean other helpful advice. We created a group text message chain that’s still going strong, and I’ve kept in touch with several people I met in the course. I left inspired to incorporate what I learned into my current work as a fellow and excited to think about ways to apply these skills in my future faculty career.

Rebecca F. Hamm, MD, MSCE
Having received the Fellow Scholarship to attend the SMFM Dan O’Keeffe Leadership Academy, I couldn’t have imagined how much this program would change the course of my future. First, Dan, Mike, and Idahlynn are inspirational; I learned what kind of leader I want to be and the concrete steps I could take each day to reach that goal. Despite the years since I attended, I am reminded to use their meaningful advice most days. Furthermore, the relationships I made with my cohort have been long-lasting, expanding my network of MFM connections across the country. Finally, the program gave me the confidence to reach for leadership positions, knowing I had the skills to take them on, and I now hold the role of Vice-Chair of an SMFM committee, as well as leadership roles at my institution. I recommend the Academy to anyone either already in or looking for leadership. This dedicated time to examine how best to lead is irreplaceable.
Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy Participant Timeline

Those who have participated in the Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy over the years have had the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity with SMFM, such as a Committee Liaison, Board Member, and on the Executive Committee.

2012-2013
Brian Iriye, MD
2019 President

Joanne Stone, MD, MS
2022 President

Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MSc
2023 President-Elect

2013 - 2014
Vincenzo Berghella, MD
2014 President

2014 - 2015
Andrea Greiner, MD
Served on Health Policy and Advocacy Committee

Fadi Bsht, MD
2023 Board Member

2016 - 2017
Vineet Shrivastava, MD
2023 Board Member

2017 - 2018
Judette Louis, MD, MPH
2020 President

Dena Goffman, MD
2023 Board Member

2018 - 2019
Stephanie Ros, MD, MSc
2023 Board Member
Registration Information

Course fees include the Leadership Development Manual, books, articles, and all training and development materials for the six days of residential seminars, five e-conversations, and six months of executive leadership coaching. Fees include continental breakfast and lunch on days one and two of the residential seminars. The number of participants is limited, and registrations will be honored in the order they are received. Attendees must participate in both in-person sessions (October 2023 and March 2024). Cancellations must be in writing and received in the Registrar’s Office one week before the course. No refunds will be given after that time. A $75 administrative fee will be charged for cancellations. Questions? Contact SMFM Meetings Department at events@smfm.org.

Register online at smfm.org/leadership

To register by mail, return this form to:
SMFM Registrar | 409 12th ST, SW | 601 | Washington, DC 20024

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Address

Phone

Email

Method of Payment (Check one)

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Master Card
☐ American Express ☐ Visa

Credit Card Number

Expire Date Security Code/CVV

Registration Type

☐ SMFM Members: $3,750
☐ Non-Members: $5,000

Signature

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Ritz-Carlton Denver at a discounted group rate of $299/night. To enjoy this special rate, use this link or call +1 (303) 312-3800 before Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Rooms may sell out before the deadline. Please make reservations as soon as possible to ensure availability. Please identify your affiliation with the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine when calling.