

# Special Delivery



SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

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March/April, 2009

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, SARAH KILPATRICK, MD, PHD

The 2009 SMFM Pregnancy Meeting™ in San Diego was a great success.



Sarah Kilpatrick, 2009—2010  
SMFM President

We had one of the highest number of registrants ever (1800). We enjoyed the 86 oral presentations and nearly 750 posters. The science was fantastic, resulting in 18 fast track papers accepted to *AJOG* and 140 SMFM manuscripts submitted which are currently being reviewed. We have a very wide appeal as evidenced by our large number of international registrants and abstracts. Many of the abstracts addressed exciting, timely, and potentially translational, work. I am very proud of what the Program Committee led by Dr. Alessandro Ghidini accom-

plished. As the 2009 President of the Society I plan to focus on 4 things. The first relates to one of the Society's missions: to improve maternal and child outcomes. Our annual scientific meeting should always result in excellent science being published and we must work hard to facilitate the appropriate translation of science into practice. This effort is led by our publications committee and our recent success with joint documents with ACOG, *AJOG*, and *OG*. Every member can contribute to one or more of the steps of this mission: ask the questions, perform the research, publish the paper, help the publication committee, and practice great medicine. A second focus is also related to our mission of improving maternal care: more emphasis on the woman, on evaluating maternal morbidity and death. We will have additional educational efforts in these areas at the 2010 meeting. My

third focus is on continuing Mike Foley's inclusive spirit and encouraging more members to become involved with one of our expanded committees. We now have 12 committees with defined goals to help the Society and its members. I want your input. My fourth focus is on another mission of the Society: education and training. Specifically I want to improve the mentoring contacts between junior and senior (however defined) members including fellows. I know every current board member is committed to access and I am sure many, if not the majority, of Society members are as well. If you have ideas let me know. Finally, I am an avid reader of fiction and any of you who have a great book please email me at: (sarahk@uic.edu).



"OUR ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING SHOULD ALWAYS RESULT IN EXCELLENT SCIENCE BEING PUBLISHED AND WE MUST WORK HARD TO FACILITATE THE APPROPRIATE TRANSLATION OF SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE."

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# Special Delivery

## 2009 Meeting Award Winners



Dr. Tracy Manuck accepts the March of Dimes Award for the Best Research in Prematurity from Dr. Alan Fleischman, MOD Medical Director

THE SCIENTIFIC  
PRESENTATIONS  
WERE  
OUTSTANDING AND  
A SPECIAL  
CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR WINNING  
ABSTRACTS AND  
POSTERS



Dr. James Kurtzman accepts the award for Plenary Session I from 2009 Annual Meeting Program Chair, Dr. Alessandro Ghidini

As Dr. Kilpatrick mentioned, our Pregnancy Meeting™ was a huge success. All the postgraduate courses were well attended. Of special note, Fetal Cardiology, Diagnosis and Management had 326 participants; Targeted Approach to Fetal Anomalies had 385 participants and Critical Care Management in Obstetrics was standing room only with 276 participants. The scientific presentations were outstanding and a special congratulations to our winning abstracts and posters.

### The March of Dimes Award for the Best Research in Prematurity

*Tracy Manuck, MD*

The Relationship Between Polymorphisms in the Human Progesterone Receptor and Clinical Response to 17 Alpha-Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate for the Prevention of Recurrent Spontaneous Preterm Birth

### The Dru Carlson Memorial Award for Best Research in Ultrasound and Genetics

*Nicole Jastrow, MD*

Prediction of Complete Uterine Rupture by Sonographic Evaluation of the Lower Uterine

### Plenary I

Impact of a “rescue course” of antenatal corticosteroids Segment

(ACS): A multi-center randomized placebo controlled trial

*James Kurtzman, Thomas Garite, Reese Clark, Kimberly Maurel, The Obstetrix Collaborative Research Network*

### Plenary II (Fellows Plenary)

Magnetic resonance imaging of murine placental injury

*Tracy Tomlinson, Joel Garbow, Jeff Anderson, John Engelbach, D. Nelson, Yoel Sadovsky*

### Oral Concurrent Session 1

Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, recurrence in a second pregnancy, and subsequent cardiovascular events

*Jacob Alexander Lykke, Jens Langhoff-Roos, Elizabeth Triche, Edmund Funai, Baha Sibai, Michael Paidas*

### Oral Concurrent Session 2

Sex linked associations in placental dysfunction

*Ally Murji, Leslie Proctor, Andrew Patterson, John Kingdom*

### Oral Concurrent Session 3

Metabolomic profiling and the developmental origins of disease: A maternal high fat diet is accompanied by alterations in the fetal primate metabolome

*Kjersti Aagaard-Tillery, James Cox, Sarah Williams, Kevin Grove, Robert H. Lane*

### Oral Concurrent Session 4

Presence of misfolded soluble oligomers in urine of women with severe preeclampsia classifies preeclampsia as a protein conformational disorder

*Irina A. Buhimschi, Guomao Zhao, Margaret A. Baumbusch, Charles C. Glabe, Catalin S. Buhimschi*

### Oral Concurrent Session 5

Negative regulators of the host immune response: An unexplored pathway in pre-term birth

*Brianna Lyttle, Juan Gonzalez, Hua Xu, Ella Ofori, Michal Elovitz*

### Oral Concurrent Session 6

Adult treatment with neuropeptides: Delineating the mechanism of learning deficits prevention in fetal alcohol syndrome

*Maddalena Incerti, Joy Vink, Robin Roberson, Daniel Abebe, Catherine Spong*

### Oral Concurrent Session 7

Timing of antibiotic prophylaxis at cesarean- results of an RCT

*George Macones, Kirsten Cleary, Anthony Odibo, Gilad Gross, Sam Parry, Roxane Rampersad, David Stamilio*

### Oral Concurrent Session 8

The MFMU cesarean registry: Risk of uterine rupture in women attempting VBAC with an unknown uterine scar

*M. Ashley Hickman*

## 2009 Meeting Awards—continued

### Poster Session 1

Genetic background impacts on myometrial wound healing post-cesarean delivery (CD): A MRL/MPJ+/+ mouse model of uterine scarring

*Catalin S. Buhimschi, Joseph A. Madri, Nicoleta Sora, Guomao Zhao, Irina A. Buhimschi*

### Poster Session 2

Effect of postnatal stress on the altered fetal programming of vascular function

*Maged Costantine, Fran-*

*cesca Ferrari, Egle Bytautiene, Benjamin Byers, Phyllis Orise, George R. Saade, Monica Longo*

### Poster Session 3

In utero tobacco exposure epigenetically modifies placental metabolic gene expression

*Adi Abramovici, Melissa Suter, Lori Showalter, Cynthia Shope, Michael Varner, Kjersti Aagaard-Tillery*

### Poster Session 4

Impact of biomass cook smoke exposure on birth weight

*B.J. Wyllie, N. Singh, M.P. Singh, W.B. Macleod, K. Yeboah-Antwi, D.H. Hamer*

### Poster Session 5

Polymorphisms in toll-like receptors 1 and 2 and susceptibility to spontaneous preterm birth

*Joseph Biggio, Elena Lobashevskaya, Suzanne Cliver, Alice Goepfert, William Andrews, John Hauth*



Dr. Blair Wyllie receives her award for Poster Session 4 from 2009 Poster Chair, Dr. George Macones

## Foundation News

The SMFM Foundation is off to a great start in 2009. The SMFM Annual Meeting in San Diego allowed us to showcase new opportunities for our members. As many of you know, 2008 was our first year giving out Mini-Sabbatical grants to selected SMFM members to pursue research or enhance their clinical skills. This program will continue in 2009, with an additional grant opportunity for our SMFM Fellows-in-training to further their research interests or clinical skills. All members will receive an application for this program in the mail. The application is also available on the website. Applications for the Mini-Sabbatical program and Fellows Mini-Sabbatical program are

due May 30th, 2009. In honor of the late father of our Past President, Mike Foley, the SMFM Foundation has kicked off the In Lieu of Flowers program, raising funds for The Raymond T. Foley Obstetric Critical Care Fellowship Rotation. All members will be notified as to the details of the application process in the coming months. As always, the SMFM/AAOGF scholarship is a great success and we look forward to seeing the applications for the new scholar this summer.

The SMFM Annual Meeting also gave us an opportunity to involve members in the development of the Foundation. The silent auction and the live auction were

both incredibly successful, raising thousands of dollars for the SMFM Foundation. Some of the thirty-five members of the Founders Club had a chance to catch up and chat with current SMFM leadership at their annual luncheon. Also, our Corporate Council grew in numbers as more of our industry partners chose to strengthen ties with the SMFM. We are incredibly grateful for the support we get from our members and hope you will all consider applying for one of our programs.

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Dr. Laura Riley and Dr. John Queenan, Fundraising Co-Chair, check out the goods at the Foundation's 2nd annual silent auction.

## Special Delivery

### NIH-Sponsored Study of Women Carrying a Baby with Spina Bifida



“THE TRIAL IS DESIGNED TO COMPARE THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF PRENATAL VERSUS POSTNATAL CLOSURE OF MYELOMENINGOCELE”

The Management of Myelomeningocele Study (MOMS), a randomized, controlled clinical trial, continues to enroll pregnant women. Members of SMFM and other health care professionals can play an important role by helping to identify and refer candidates for this study funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The trial is designed to compare the safety and efficacy of prenatal versus postnatal closure of myelomeningocele. Approximately 150 women have been enrolled with another 50 needed. For the duration of the study, prenatal surgery for spina bifida is not available outside of the trial. Participating MOMS Centers are: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, and the University of California at San Francisco. The George Washington University Biostatistics Center serves as the Coordinating Center and performs the centralized screening.

Patients can begin the evaluation process as soon as the diagnosis is made. For the initial screening process, women or their health care providers should contact Ms. Jessica Ratay (see below). Ms. Ratay, a genetic counselor, can explain the trial at length and/or provide information on spina bifida. If a patient remains interested in participating and consents to be screened, her medical records will be reviewed for inclusion and exclusion criteria. Healthcare providers are also encouraged to contact Ms. Ratay for information about this fetal condition and the trial.

Qualifying participants are referred to a MOMS Centers for further screening where they are evaluated for eligibility and decide if they wish to enroll. If so, they are randomly assigned to either the prenatal or postnatal surgery group of the trial.

Participants in the prenatal group undergo surgery to repair the myelomeningocele between the 19th and 25th week of pregnancy and remain at the MOMS Center

until cesarean delivery at 37 weeks. Those assigned to postnatal surgery go home after randomization and return to the MOMS Center at 37 weeks for cesarean delivery and myelomeningocele repair. Follow-up evaluations are performed at the center on all infants at 12 and 30 months of age. All travel, food and lodging costs are covered by the research study.

To refer a patient or for information:

Contact the Study Coordinator, Jessica Ratay, MS, CGC at:

1-866-ASK MOMS (1-866-275-6667)

E-mail: [MOMS@bsc.gwu.edu](mailto:MOMS@bsc.gwu.edu)

Website:

[www.spinabifidamoms.com](http://www.spinabifidamoms.com)



### NIH to Award \$200 million in Challenge Grants

On March 4, the NIH announced details of \$200 million in new funding for Challenge Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These two-year grants will award up to \$500,000 per year to address high impact topics, with funding anticipated in October 2009. Pro-

posals are due by April 27, 2009.

“This is an opportunity in which areas of science are being targeted in very specific ways,” said Dr. Cathy Spong, Chief of the Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The NICHD has identified multiple topics for Challenge Grants. Topics of particular interest to maternal-fetal medicine specialists include:

- Behavioral interventions to improve adherence with health recommendations





## NIH Challenge Grants—continued from page 4

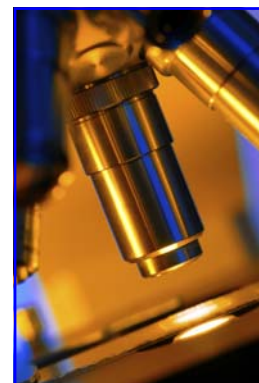
- Biomarkers to assess maternal and child health
- New approaches to identify factors that place women at risk for preterm birth
- Novel imaging technologies to determine fetal maturity
- Genome-wide associations studies of reproductive diseases and disorders

In addition to the Challenge Grants, the Recovery Act allocates \$7.4 billion to the insti-

tutes and centers of the NIH, with the goal of completing projects within two years.

Details of the NICHD Challenge Topics and grant application procedures are available at the NICHD's web site:

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/recovery/>

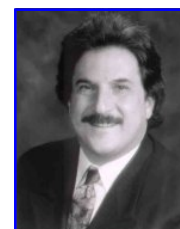


## Committee Spotlight—Education Committee

One of the twelve standing SMFM committees, the purpose of the Education Committee is to develop and maintain the educational activities of the Society as described in the SMFM bylaws. These educational objectives shall be designed to meet the needs of the members, associate members, trainees, and the public at large. In an effort to reach and include more members into the strategic planning of the Board and to take advantage of the depth and breadth of our membership, this committee, chaired by Lawrence Platt MD, has recently developed several subcommittees—each consisting of 6-12 members. If you have thoughts or comments which you would like to share, feel free to contact Dr. Platt, or any of the subcommittee chairs listed below. Please look for announcements from these subcommittees over the coming months.

Committee	Chair	Email
Education Committee	Lawrence D. Platt	<a href="mailto:LPlatt8496@aol.com">LPlatt8496@aol.com</a>
Subcommittee	Subcommittee Chair	Email
Postgraduate courses	Lawrence D. Platt	<a href="mailto:LPlatt8496@aol.com">LPlatt8496@aol.com</a>
Simulations	Andrew Satin MD	<a href="mailto:Asatin2@jhmi.edu">Asatin2@jhmi.edu</a>
Patient Safety Initiatives	Kim Gregory MD, MPH	<a href="mailto:Gregory@cshs.org">Gregory@cshs.org</a>
Ultrasound	Alfred Abuhamed MD	<a href="mailto:abuhamaz@evms.edu">abuhamaz@evms.edu</a>
Patient Education	Wendy Hansen MD	<a href="mailto:Wfhans2@email.uky.edu">Wfhans2@email.uky.edu</a>
Fetal Assessment	Isabelle Wilkins MD	<a href="mailto:iwilkins@uic.edu">iwilkins@uic.edu</a>
Genetics	James Goldberg MD	<a href="mailto:jgoldberg@fetaldx.com">jgoldberg@fetaldx.com</a>
Outreach (Safety net, rural, international)	Helen Feltovich MD	<a href="mailto:Hfeltovich@gmail.com">Hfeltovich@gmail.com</a>
Update Series (clinical pearls)	Andra Hohler James, M.D., MPH	<a href="mailto:james031@mc.duke.edu">james031@mc.duke.edu</a>

THE PURPOSE OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY AS DESCRIBED IN THE SMFM BYLAWS



Dr. Larry Platt, Education Committee Chair

## Coming Soon

Look for the May/June issue of Special Delivery in mid-May. We will be attaching a survey to get your thoughts on content for future issues, see what transpires at AIUM and more....

**Your editors for this issue:**

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## Register Now for the SMFM Spring Coding Course May 28—29, Phoenix, AZ

In the complex world of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, it is imperative that each individual involved in the practice have a keen understanding of proper coding and reimbursement. After attending this course, registrants will be able to:

- Understand Proper Usage of the New Diagnosis Codes
- Reporting Non Face-to Face E&M's
- Importance of Modifier Usage
- Capturing Revenue in the Inpatient Setting
- Overview of Antepartum Testing
- Incident-to Services
- Split/Shared Billing
- Top Reason You Fail an Audit
- Why Auditing Your Practice is Important
- And much more....

This is a great opportunity not only for you, but also for your administrative staff, to acquire a better understanding of MFM coding. Correct coding results in quicker reimbursements, better rates for procedures, and increased income for your practice. Codes and coding procedures are continually updated so even if you have attended this course previously, you are encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register go to the Meeting section of: [www.SMFM.org](http://www.SMFM.org)



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**[www.SMFM.org](http://www.SMFM.org)**

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