

SMFM Pregnancy Meeting FAQs

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Why is the 2019 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas?

We weigh several factors when choosing Annual Meeting cities. First, we must choose a city 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 narrow.

We also want the city to be relatively easy to access with an airport that can accommodate a number of non-stop 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 Las Vegas, we agree to multi-year contracts which also helps to keep those costs down. This is why you may see us return to cities 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. For 2019, Las Vegas fits the bill.

If you have additional questions about city selection, please contact [Terri Mobley](#).

Why does SMFM have industry sponsorships?

SMFM works with industry partners in several areas of the annual meeting. 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.

New Lunch Options

The 39th Annual SMFM Pregnancy Meeting™ is offering some new lunch options Monday – Wednesday. All registrants are asked to select from the following options so that we get an accurate count and are sure to meet everyone's needs.

- Industry Sponsored Luncheon Roundtables offer a complimentary plated lunch that can be enjoyed as attendees listen to an industry speaker on a topic that has been approved by the SMFM Program Committee. (No additional registration cost)
- Sponsored Learning Lunches offer a plated lunch that can be enjoyed as attendees listen to an MFM speaker (No additional registration cost)
- Box Lunch (\$40 additional fee at registration)
- No Lunch/Not Attending (for those not attending on that day or dining elsewhere)

We will notify registrants of any new opportunities that are added.

Three Important Resources

As with the 2018 SMFM Pregnancy Meeting™, there are three important resources that are provided to help you get the most out of your experience at our upcoming meeting in Las Vegas:

1. **The 2019 SMFM Pregnancy Meeting Final Program.** You will receive the final program when you check in to get your badge at the meeting. This program provides a wealth of information, allowing you to 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 2019 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; no need to bring it on the plane! The poster will be waiting in Las Vegas 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 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. They include lunch.
- The late-breaking research sessions will be presented on Thursday and Friday morning.
- 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 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 39th 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/Lyft from the airport to save you money. If you don't think you see someone, look for people carrying a poster.
- Check in with the SMFM registration desk right away. It is located in the Caesars Palace Conference Center on the Promenade level near the Milano Ballrooms. HINT: You often will get a bag with important announcements, a schedule of events, and more. Make sure you read the announcements!
- 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 app also has "jobs" section.
- The Meeting can be hard work and you should make time for yourself. Participate in 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:** We are offering childcare services at the Annual Meeting. This is a pilot program, sponsored by UT Health McGovern Medical School and subsidized by SMFM. It is limited to 18 children per hour on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will be open until January 11, 2019. To register for childcare, please click [here](#). For more details about how this 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 a room dedicated for mothers to pump or feed children. For the first time ever, we will also use the Nursing Mother's Room as a place to soothe a crying baby or just to burn off some energy for a rambunctious toddler. A live feed from the plenary sessions will also be available in the Nursing Mother's Room.
- **Connect with Other Families:** Las Vegas local and SMFM President-Elect, Dr. Brian Iriye, has established a new [online community](#) to share things to do in Las Vegas. Join the community and he will begin to provide suggestions for family-friendly activities for those traveling with children. The community can also be used as a place to connect with other families, plan joint activities or swap babysitting services.
- **Social Media:** Join our members-only [Facebook group](#) to be the first to know about all-things SMFM. Use the hashtag #SMFM19 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for information specifically related to the 2019 Annual Meeting.