

Quilligan Scholars Program Review
Statement from the Foundation for SMFM Board of Directors¹
July 6, 2021

In September 2020, a group of current and past Quilligan Scholars requested that the name of the program be changed. This request was made based on concerns regarding allegations of coerced sterilization of women at Los Angeles County Hospital, which came to light in the 1970s during the period that Dr. Quilligan led the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

After empaneling an independent ad hoc committee² to study and recommend a course of action, and after inviting comment from all Society members, the Foundation for SMFM's Board of Directors held extensive discussions. Central to these discussions were the Foundation's purpose and our values.

By definition, the emphasis of our programs is on the *present* and *future* of our Society and its members – they support the efforts of our current members and help prepare the next generation of maternal-fetal medicine sub-specialists. While the Foundation is working to achieve these goals

- a. We cannot and should not forget those who founded and helped shape our sub-specialty – their leadership and accomplishments have set the course, and we should continue to learn from their examples.
- b. Nor can we forget or deny the documented history of racism, medical violence against women, and reproductive injustice in the United States and other countries.
- c. We must be willing to learn from the past to be better in the future.

The Board of Directors has accepted the ad hoc committee's advice by:

- a. Renaming the program "The Foundation for SMFM Resident Scholars Program"
- b. Recognizing Dr. Quilligan's many contributions to our field by including an attribution to him in the program description
- c. Recommitting to the core objectives and spirit of the Scholars program and expanding to include teaching regarding the history of medical racism, eugenics, reproductive health and justice, ethical leadership, and professionalism.

The Board of Directors reaffirms our commitment to annually select a diverse group of scholars based on their potential as future leaders and on their ability to maximize the benefits available through the program.

Since the program's inception, Dr. Quilligan has been committed to the success of the program's goal of identifying future leaders in maternal-fetal medicine among current obstetrics and gynecology residents and supporting them through mentoring and educational opportunities during their final two years of residency. He continues to support the program and its goals.

Additional information regarding the circumstances, processes and rationale for these decisions is available at the following link. It is our hope that all SMFM members will recognize the spirit of reconciliation, honor and justice that have guided these challenging decisions.

[Summary Document Regarding Program Name Change Request](#)

If you are unable to access this link directly, you can copy and paste it into your web browser

¹**Board of Directors, The Foundation for SMFM (foundation@smfm.org):** Brian Mercer, MD (Chair, Foundation for SMFM); Kjersti Aagaard, MD, PhD; Bryann Bromley, MD; Mary D'Alton, MD; William Grobman, MD, MBA; Donna Johnson, MD; Judette Louis, MD, MPH; Divya Mallampati, MD; Eva Pressman, MD; Yoel Sadovsky, MD; and Joanne Stone, MD.

²**Ad Hoc committee:** Deborah Driscoll, MD (Committee Chair); Terri-Ann Bennett, MD; Joseph Hurt, MD, PhD; Lauren Lynch, MD; Sarah Kilpatrick, MD, PhD; Ali Kliment, JD (counsel to the committee); Michelle McGowan, PhD; and Alan Tita, MD, PhD.