

2016 Quilligan Scholars: Reflections from 2017 SMFM Annual Meeting



The second year of the Quilligan Scholars Program offered new and exciting ideas and opportunities for us. During our first year, we sought, and our mentors provided, advice on how best to match our goals and strengths with those of potential fellowship matches, what to seek out in a fellowship, and how to hone our research ideas. This year, however, we made another important step in our development as young MFMs.



Having matched into the specialty, we arrived at this Annual Meeting with new eyes, focused on how we could best approach the clinical and research challenges of fellowship while also contributing to the life and work of the Society itself. Through our days with our mentors, we discussed balancing clinical and research demands of fellowship with opportunities for continuing mentorship in our programs and beyond, and important challenges that remain for us to help answer in the field. Our mentors provided this guidance while also sharing their stories of balancing professional challenges with life beyond the hospital.



As we advance in our clinical careers, we find ourselves with increasing appreciation of the resources, research, clinical guidance and advocacy efforts of the Society. Our mentors offered invaluable connections with SMFM leadership, as well as ideas to kick start our involvement in the Society through committees and research to give back to this phenomenal organization. We have also relished the opportunity to know Drs. Quilligan, Queenan and Platt better and to see how they have all dedicated so much of their lives to improving care for pregnant women.

Universally, we felt that the Foundation's two-year Quilligan Scholars Program provided us with more time to develop professionally and personally within SMFM. After meeting with our mentors, we feel better-positioned to give back to the Society and to the Foundation as we grow in our roles as fellows and ultimately as faculty. We are tremendously grateful for the support and opportunities that the Foundation for SMFM has provided.

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