



2018 Quilligan Scholars: Reflections from 2018 SMFM Annual Meeting

As third year residents training in obstetrics and gynecology who are committed to careers in perinatology, it was a humbling and great privilege to be guests of the Foundation for SMFM at the 38th Annual Pregnancy Meeting.



Upon our arrival to Dallas, we were immediately welcomed by NASA alumnus Charlie Precourt and his daughter, Quilligan alumna Dr. Michelle Debbink, as they discussed insights from Mr. Precourt's career in aerospace and its application in maternal and fetal medicine during the SMFM Resident's Forum. We then spent the evening learning a little more about each other's paths to this career, and even more significantly, spending time in the presence of Drs. Quilligan, Queenan, and Platt. The opportunity to hear experiences and insights into their development of the field, and creation of some of its foundational innovations, including fetal monitoring, the biophysical profile, and prevention of Rhesus immunization, was a unique opportunity we will not forget. Our evening was enriched by visits from special guests including SMFM President Dr. Alfred Abuhamad and newly minted honorary member Dr. Hobbins, and several Quilligan Scholars Program alumni.



The next two days not only provided the opportunity to walk among giants, but to share scientific sessions, meetings, and meals with them as we were paired with mentors from the Society. This year's mentors included Drs. Kim Boggess, Allison Bryant, Alison Cahill, Aaron Caughey, Lisa Hollier, George Macones, Kate Menard, Mary Norton, Larry Platt, Laura Riley, George Saade, Jeanne Sheffield, Alison Stuebe, Jorge Tolosa, and Blair Wylie. Our time with these luminaries included varied and valuable experiences running the gamut from individual discussions of the science of the day and our backgrounds to watching as they coordinated major trials, committees, divisions and departments. Finally, due to the generosity of Drs. Platt and Queenan, we also shared in the celebration of the career of Dr. Dan O'Keeffe and his work developing the Society into the force that it is today.



Our cohort departed Dallas with our horizons broadened and with even more excitement for possibilities in a career focused on perinatal health. While we have significant diversity amongst us in our scientific and professional interests, we are unified by our passionate belief in the potential to change outcomes of generations through improvement in the health of mothers and children. None of these opportunities would have been possible without the generous support of donors to the Foundation for SMFM, the vision and unflagging leadership of Drs. Quilligan, Platt, and Queenan, Michele Prince's organizational prowess, the mentors' selfless sharing of time and expertise, institutional support from the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, or the efforts of the SMFM Program committee in putting together such an excellent meeting. We are forever indebted to you for this career-changing gift.



With gratitude,

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