



**THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNECOLOGISTS FOUNDATION**



with

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY and

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

ANNOUNCE

jointly sponsored research training scholarships



**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND
GYNECOLOGY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION/
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNECOLOGISTS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
(ABOG/AAOGF)**



**THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL-
FETAL MEDICINE / AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP (FOUNDATION FOR SMFM/AAOGF)**

2023

History

The American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society evolved from a merger in 1981 of the American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, an organization founded in 1888, and the American Gynecological Society, founded in 1876. The goals of both organizations were similar, being to enhance knowledge in the field, encourage transmission of current knowledge, and the recruitment of talented individuals to Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Foundation (AAOGF) was incorporated in 1929, to serve as a mechanism to support the annual Joseph Price Oration and then to establish an annual Prize Award for a manuscript presented at the meeting. The resources of the Foundation have been enhanced significantly by bequests from the estates of Dr. James Kennedy in 1966, Dr. Walter Dannreuther in 1969, Dr. J. Bay Jacobs in 1989 and Dr. Henry L. Darner in 1996. To accomplish the mission, the primary focus of the AAOGF is the support of research training scholarships for individuals pursuing an academic career in the specialty. Since 1998 the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Educational Foundation has very generously contributed to the support of the scholarship program, and currently participates with the AAOGF in jointly funding one new scholar per year. The Foundation for the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (Foundation for SMFM) has offered scholarships to Maternal-Fetal Medicine trainees since 1992. In 2003, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the AAOGF agreed to jointly sponsor a scholarship to be awarded to an Obstetrician Gynecologist who has training and a commitment to performing research in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. In 2019, the GOG Foundation began funding the inaugural Career Development Award aimed at fostering clinical trialist development in Gynecologic Oncology. This award is offered every three years and will next be available in 2025.

The scholarships are specifically designated in recognition of the source of support for the various scholarships.

Call for Applications for ABOG/AAOGF and the Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholarships

The AAOGF and the Foundations of ABOG and SMFM (the Foundations) seek to identify future academic physician leaders in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology and to stimulate their scholarly development, through the support of advanced scientific training. The Scholarship Award is to be used in an academic Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the United States or Canada to provide **research training** and experience for a candidate of proven ability who exhibits significant talent, original thought, and evidence of dedication to an academic career. Research training may focus on basic or translational research, disease pathogenesis, clinical diagnostics, interventions and prevention, epidemiology and health services research.

The Awards

The total annual funding for each scholar is \$120,000. Sufficient funds to support travel to the annual fellows' retreat are included and must be set aside. The balance of funds may be used for salary, technical support, and supplies. The award that is co-sponsored by ABOG and the GOG Foundation is made under the direction of the AAOGF Scholar Committee. The co-sponsored SMFM award is under the direction of the Foundation for SMFM Scholarly Activities Committee.

The award is intended to fund three consecutive years of research and research training based on the proposed application. The initial award is for one year and is renewable annually for two additional consecutive years of research training, based on satisfactory progress of the scholar in meeting programmatic requirements and on the availability of funds. Only one year of the three funded years may be part of a subspecialty fellowship-training program. Indirect costs are not provided.

Recipients must agree to provide career development reports and follow-up after the conclusion of the scholarship on an annual basis and as requested.

It is expected that the scholarship training will be conducted at the same institution for the entire period of funding. Transfer of institutions or change of mentors during the period of funding must receive the prior approval of the respective Foundation. Changes in research focus from the original proposal must receive approval of the respective Foundation before second- and third-year funding is released. Unexpended funds must be returned to the sponsoring organization unless approval is granted for an extension of the training period.

Application Requirements

Candidates must have been awarded an M.D. (or D.O.) degree and must be eligible for the certification process of ABOG at the time of the award. This award is not intended to fund clinical training leading to specialty or subspecialty certification. However, applicants who are in their second year of an ABOG-approved fellowship can apply for funding through this mechanism to start their training in the third year of fellowship, as long as that year is devoted to the approved research project for at least 75% of the year. In any case, applicants who have completed or are undertaking subspecialty training must have completed such training or be in the second or third year of an ABOG approved training program at the time application is made. In addition, candidates for the Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF scholarship must be members or associate members of the SMFM. **Eligible applicants may use the same application materials in order to be considered for both the ABOG/AAOGF and/or the Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF awards and should state in a cover letter their desire to be considered for one or both awards as applicable.** Because of the desirability of early training in scientific principles, residency programs possessing the necessary flexibility and resources are urged to notify their residents of the availability of these scholarships.

At least 75% of the candidate's efforts should be spent in research training and the conduct of the proposed and approved research project, which may occur in facilities either within or outside of the sponsoring Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Collaborative efforts with other departments (e.g., Pharmacology, Molecular and Cell Biology, Genetics, Immunology, Biochemistry, or Epidemiology) would be a desirable part of the program.

Applications for the subsequent academic year will be accepted only if the application is received electronically by July 3, 2023. There is no application form; however, an application format is provided at the end of this announcement. The application must be countersigned by the candidate, the Chair of the sponsoring department, and the institutional Signatory Official. The following materials must be submitted for the application to be considered complete and be reviewed for funding:

1. A description of the candidate's qualifications, including a curriculum vitae (complete, not merely-NIH biosketch style), bibliography, prior training, past research experience, evidence of completion of residency training in obstetrics and gynecology or expectation of completion of residency training in obstetrics and gynecology prior to the start of the award. The basis for the sponsoring department's selection of the candidate should be clear, including any future plans for development and faculty appointment or placement. Short and long-term career development plans should be specified.
2. A comprehensive description of the proposed training program, including planned didactic experience, and formal didactic courses. The latter should include at least two formal graduate level courses in areas relevant to the scholar's area of interest. Applicants who have completed Master's degree or Ph.D. coursework have fulfilled this requirement and are not required to enroll in formal didactic courses, but are recommended to do so in order to advance their knowledge. Classes must include an exam and a passing grade documented by a letter signed by the course director. Additional components can include: structured conferences, specific laboratory responsibilities, and the extent of non-research related clinical responsibilities. This didactic plan should be consistent with the career development plan.
3. The research project should be described in detail using an NIH grant format but should not exceed 6 pages (with 0.5-inch margin), using number 11 Arial font, including all figures and tables but not bibliography. The goals of the training program and the means of evaluation of productivity and

success in meeting these goals must be clearly stated.

4. A description of departmental resources appropriate to the training, including the full-time faculty member responsible for serving as the training mentor, must be provided. The mentor's *NIH-style* biosketch (which should include a list of current NIH grants), a list of past trainees, and a letter of commitment are required.
5. The proposed mentor must provide a detailed mentoring plan that includes methods of assessment, expected milestones, and remediation plans if training targets are not met. In addition, a list of any other faculty members with whom the trainee will work, with particular emphasis of their past experience in mentoring and their time commitment to this undertaking, should be included. Finally, the mentor should make note of available research space, equipment and general resources as well as an account of prior training experience within the unit, and the existence of other departmental support resources.
6. A list of other research grants, training grants, or scholarships previously or currently held by the applicant. Please include a list of all applications by the candidate that are currently pending review. Prior or current R01 grant recipients are ineligible for the Foundation funding. Candidates who have had no more than 3 years of *prior* K-award training (e.g., institutional K12, K08) are eligible to apply, but candidates who *currently* hold BIRCWH, WRHR, RSDP or other K12 awards are not eligible. The Foundations scholarship awards do not preclude applying for additional research funding from other sources (e.g., an NIH R03, R21 or the like) the acceptance of which would not jeopardize continued funding or renewal of this award, as long as the minimum of 75% effort is protected for the approved Foundation research project. Such applications are encouraged and plans for pursuing such subsequent research funding should be addressed in the application. We also highly encourage our scholars to apply for a K-level or an R01 grant (or the like) as PIs. Once the K grant (or other career development award) or R01 is funded with the scholar serving as a PI, the support from the Foundation scholarship training program will end, irrespective of the % effort allocated to the K grant or to the other career development award) or R01 grant. If the applicant has questions regarding their eligibility, they should contact the Scholar Committee Chair.
7. A budget should be provided. As noted, the award may be used for salary support of the scholar, purchase of equipment and supplies, research assistant salaries and/or services and travel expenses related to research training. Planned expenditures should be listed under the following headings: salaries (by individual), supplies, equipment, services, and travel. *Please note that no indirect costs will be paid.*
8. Documentation of approvals from the Institutional Review Board (Human Subjects) and if applicable, from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee can follow NIH "just in time" approval rules. However, following granting of the award no funding will be released until full documentation of the necessary approvals are received by the Foundations.
9. Applications for the Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF award should focus on an area of relevance to the discipline of Maternal-Fetal Medicine or Obstetrics pregnancy-related fields. Applications for the ABOG/AAOGF award should focus on any specialty in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Evaluation of Applications

The evaluation of applications will be conducted by committee(s) and will be based on:

1. The scholarly, clinical and research qualifications/promise of the candidate, including evidence of the candidate's commitment to an investigative career in academic obstetrics and gynecology in the United States or Canada.
2. Qualifications of the sponsoring department and mentor(s) with respect to research experience, grant track record, prior research mentoring, adequacy of opportunity for appropriate collaborative relationships, facilities, and other appropriate resources.
3. The overall quality of the mentoring plan.
4. Ascertainment that 75% of time and effort of the candidate will be dedicated to the research training and the conduct of the research that was approved.
5. The quality of the research project, including evidence that the applicant is either performing an originally conceived project or taking on an area of interest of the mentor that represents a significant new direction.
6. The accuracy and completeness of the application.
7. An interview will be required as part of the evaluation process, with half of the cost of the interview (if applicable) to be borne by the sponsoring department. After an initial review, the most competitive applicants may be invited for the interview. The Committee may also elect to interview the mentor.
8. Investigators belonging to an underrepresented group of color are strongly encouraged to apply. For the purpose of this award under-represented is defined as someone whose racial or ethnic make-up includes the following: African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic/LatinX, Native American/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander or two or more races.
9. The Committee reserves the right not to make a selection if none of the applications meet the standards of the Committee for acceptance.

Monitoring of Scholars

The recipient of the award must submit an interim progress report by May 1 of the first and second years of award, and a final report by August 15 after completion of the award. All three reports should be countersigned by the faculty mentor and should include a monetary accounting of the funds awarded. The progress reports should include activity reports (see last page of this booklet – word versions will be provided) as well as a narrative summary of up to 2 pages, following the narrative section of the standard NIH format for annual grant renewal. The sections of the narrative report include:

1. What are the major goals of the project?
2. What was accomplished under these goals?
3. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

The progress report should detail the candidate's achievements and the projected plans for the succeeding year for the first- and second-year scholar reports. The reports should include any significant changes in departmental resources, which might affect the program, such as change of mentor or collaborators, altered funding, change of chairman, etc. Changes in the program that deviate from the original application require the approval of the AAOGF and the Foundation for SMFM. The recipient of the Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF award must send reports to awarding Foundations.

In the spring or early summer following receipt of the award, a member of the Foundations scholar committee will schedule a structured site visit for the respective scholar. The scholar must provide site visitors with a progress report prior to the visit. The scholar will receive specific metrics that must be addressed during the time of the site visit. The Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF scholar will also meet with representatives of the Scholarly Activities Committee at the annual SMFM Pregnancy Meeting to discuss progress.

The Foundations grants are separated into stages with a rigorous evaluation process between the stages. Stage I will conclude at the completion of the first site visit and review of the first progress report. The progress report and site visit must demonstrate that the scholar is meeting the specific research aims as outlined in the grant application, as well as meeting the mentor's milestones defined at the outset of the award. If the scholar has not made sufficient progress, funding may be continued for a limited period (e.g. 6 months) and the scholar given notice that improvements must be made. A scholar given a limited extension for remediation will be asked to submit an interim progress report and a repeat site visit may be required before authorization is given for additional funding. Stage II will consist of continuation of funding in year two and year three based on annual progress reports demonstrating sufficient progress toward completing the remaining project objectives.

Scholars are expected to attend an annual retreat in all grant years and the retreat following the completion of the year 3 award to present the progress of their work. Funds must be set aside from the award to support attendance at the retreat. Failure to attend the retreat may jeopardize renewal of funding.

Preparation and submission of an extramural grant request with the assistance of the scholar's mentor is viewed as an essential element of the training experience and is an expected outcome of the scholarship.

Following completion of the scholarship, the awardees will be invited to the annual meeting of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society (AGOS) to present the work accomplished during the award period. This presentation is a requirement for successful completion of the scholarship. The Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF scholars are expected to submit abstracts concerning the work accomplished during the period of the award for peer review by the SMFM.

All submissions and inquiries regarding the scholarship should be directed to:

ABOG/AAOGF Award

Angeles Alvarez Secord, MD, MHSc
Chair, AAOGF Scholar Committee
Phone: (919) 684-3765
Fax: (919) 684-8719
Email: angeles.secord@duke.edu

Shelby Smiley
Administrative Director, AAOGF
Phone: (443) 640-1059 x1253
Fax: (443) 640-1031
Email: ssmiley@stringfellowgroup.net

The Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Award

Samuel Parry, MD
Chair, Scholarly Activities Committee
Foundation for SMFM
Phone: (412) 641-2675
Email: parry@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Tina Seliber
Senior Program Manager, Scholarly Activities Committee
Foundation for SMFM
Phone: (202) 888-1426
Email: bseliber@smfm.org

Submitting Applications: DEADLINE July 3, 2023

All applications must be received **electronically** by July 3, 2023. To apply for the AAOGF/SMFM award, please upload application materials to SmarterSelect (<https://smr.to/p88578>). For the ABOG/AAOGF Award, please send the application, recommendation letter, and mentor letter via e-mail to the appropriate individuals listed above.

NOTE: Convert **all** word files to PDF and submit as one document.

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS FOUNDATION**

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Dee Fenner, MD
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Ann Arbor, MI

Margareta Pisarka, MD
At-Large Member
Los Angeles, CA

Ernst Lengyel, MD, PhD
At-Large Member
Chicago, IL

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Bryann Bromley, MD
Foundation Chair
Boston, MA

Sam Parry, MD
Chair, Scholarly Activities Committee
Philadelphia, PA

Kjersti Aagaard, MD, PhD
Houston, TX

Katherine Laughon Grantz, MD, MS
Bethesda, MD

William A. Grobman, MD, MBA
Columbus, OH

Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MSc
San Diego, CA

Mounira Habli, MD, MSCR
Cincinnati, OH

Leslie Myatt, PhD
Portland, OR

Ignatia Van den Veyver, MD
Houston, TX

Tina Seliber
Washington, DC

CURRENT SCHOLARS

Jacqueline Parchem, MD (2019-2023)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: University of Texas

Title of Research: Modulation of Neural Tube Development by Amniotic Fluid Exosomes

Bradley Corr, MD (2020-2023)

Award: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/AAOGF

Site of Research: University of Colorado

Title of Research: Classification of CTNNB1 Mutation for Biomarker Driven Treatment of Endometrial Cancer

Kristin D. Gerson, MD, PhD (2020-2023)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: University of Pennsylvania

Title of Research: Decoding the Cervicovaginal metabolome-microbiome interface: potential mechanisms of spontaneous preterm birth

Courtney Townsel, MD, MSc (2021-2024)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: University of Michigan

Title of Research: Placental Epigenetic Regulation of Fetal Opioid Exposure

Melissa Frey, MD (2023-2026)

Award: AAOGF/ American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Scholar

Site of Research: Weill Cornell Medicine

Title of Research: Randomized Controlled Trial of Facilitated Cascade Testing for BRCA1/2 Mutations

Molly McAdow, MD, PhD (2022-2025)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: Yale University School of Medicine

Title of Research: The Role of Plasminogen Inhibitors in Endothelial Dysfunction in Preeclampsia

Robert Hillman, MD, PhD (2022-2025)

Award: GOG Foundation/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: MD Anderson Cancer Center

Title of Research: Liquid Biopsy Detection of Structural Variant Breakpoints to Monitor Ovarian Cancer Clonal Evolution

Shuk on Annie Leung, MD (2022-2025)

Award: AAOGF/ American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Scholar

Site of Research: McGill University Health Centre

Title of Research: Development of a Point-of-Care Ultrasensitive Assay for the Identification of High-Grade Cervical Dysplasia and Cervical Cancer

Maria Florian-Rodriguez, MD (2022-2025)

Award: AAOGF and Burroughs Wellcome Fund Physician-Scientist Career Development Award to Promote Diversity

Site of Research: UT Southwestern Medical Center

Title of Research: Cellular Senescence as an Underlying Mechanism for the Development of Pelvic Organ Prolapse

Melissa Wong, MD (2023-2026)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: Cedars-Sinai

Title of Research: Using Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning) to Build an Integrated Real-Time Delivery Predictor

FOR A LIST OF FORMER SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS VISIT THE SCHOLAR PAGE AT
[www/aaogf.org](http://www.aaogf.org) and <https://foundationforsmfm.org/>

Application Format – COVER PAGE

Applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email

Institution:

Project Title:

Mentor

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email

Institution:

Dept. Chair

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email

Institution

Signatures

Applicant:

**Primary
Mentor**

**Division
Director:**

Chair:

APPLICATION FORMAT (Please use Fonts – Arial 11)

- I. Cover Page
- II. Candidate qualifications
 - A. Complete curriculum vitae with bibliography, past research experience
 - B. Record of other research and/or training grants or awards - past and pending
- III. Letters of support and commitment (must accompany application)
 - A. Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
 - i. Should include the basis for the sponsoring department's selection of the candidate and future plans for development and placement
 - ii. Should also confirm that at least 75% of the candidate's efforts will be spent in research training and the research project that was approved.
 - B. Mentor(s)
 - iii. Should include a stated commitment to the candidate's program and training
 - iv. Should describe mentoring plan and evaluation including proposed means of evaluating productivity, and how it fits the career development plans
 - v. NIH style biosketch
- IV. Description of training program (2-3 pages)
 - A. Formal course load
 - B. Structured conferences
 - C. Laboratory responsibilities
 - D. Non-research related clinical responsibilities
- V. Resources (1 page)
 - A. Space
 - B. Equipment
 - C. Other departmental support resources
- VI. Research proposal (Section A-D 6 pages not including bibliography)
 - A. Abstract and specific aims
 - B. Significance
 - C. Approach (including a timeline)
 - D. Selected Bibliography
- VII. Budget*
 - A. Personal salary support
 - B. Purchase of equipment and supplies
 - C. Technician salaries
 - D. Services
 - E. Other items (specify)
 - vi. *Total annual funding to scholars will be \$120,000. Sufficient funds to support travel to the annual fellows' retreat must be set aside. The balance of funds may be used for salary, technical support, and supplies.
- VIII. Documentation of approvals (Just in time format)
 - A. Institutional Review Board (Human Subjects)
 - B. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

AAOGF/SMFM SCHOLAR PROGRESS REPORT

Scholar Name:

Institution:

Project Period:

Report Period:

Mentors(s):

Project Title:

Accomplishments

1. What were the major goals and objectives of the project? (List by Aim)

2. What was accomplished under these goals? (List by Aim)

3. What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives?

Mentor's report

Please include a brief report from the scholar's mentor.

Changes/Problems

1. Changes in approach and reasons for change (List by Aim)

--

2. Actual or anticipated problems or delays and actions or plans to resolve them

--

3. Changes that have a significant impact on expenditures

--

4. Significant changes in use or care of human subjects, vertebrate animals, biohazards, and/or select agents

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Project-related publications

List publications for the past twelve months. All abstracts and manuscripts relevant to the project must acknowledge SMFM-AAOGF funding. **Please attach PDFs of all submitted manuscripts and abstracts.**

Articles submitted

Article citation - include all authors, title, journal and publication info (year, volume, pages)	Status (submitted, in revision, in press)

Abstracts submitted

Abstract citation (authors, title of abstract, conference name, location, month/year)	Date submitted	Status

Research and career development

Completed and pending/planned coursework

Course title and institution	Status (planned/ ongoing/completed)

Other courses/conferences/workshops attended

Date(s)	Workshop/Conference Title	Location

Presentations, awards or other recognition

Date(s)	Description

Grants submitted

Please attach PDF of specific aims and budget for each submission

Funding agency	Grant title	Funding period	Salary support	Date submitted	Status

Project Outcomes (only required for Final Project Report)

Provide a brief summary of results in lay terminology. Please exclude confidential proprietary information.

Signatures

Scholar:

Mentor: