

Dr. Mandeep Sura
Queenan Travel Award
2020 SMFM Meeting

I received an incredible opportunity to travel thousands of miles from Nairobi, Kenya to Grapevine, Texas to attend SMFM's 40th Annual Pregnancy Meeting through the Queenan Fellowships for Global Health Travel Award. Getting to Dallas was a flawless process as the correspondence with the Foundation for SMFM's staff was so

efficient. Meeting the Foundation team was great, and they immediately made me feel at home and very comfortable. I would like to acknowledge Lolita Hampton and Michele Prince and my heartfelt appreciation goes out to them.

The Travel Award covered the cost of my visa, airfare, meals, and stay at the conference venue, The Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center. The hotel was absolute luxury and gave me the added benefit of not having to struggle to find my way around in new surroundings.

The Travel Award also allowed me to present my poster "Effect of umbilical cord milking versus delayed cord clamping in preterm neonates." It was a privilege to be able to present my work to such prominent professionals and receive feedback and suggestions that have been invaluable towards my manuscript draft, as well as conceptualize ideas for future research. The meeting was unlike anything I had ever attended. I had the opportunity to learn a lot at the workshops, lectures, as well as poster sessions. I interacted with many MFMs, students, faculty, other Foundation awardees – everyone was humble and encouraging.

There was a certain buzzing atmosphere around the conference that made every minute very exciting. The passion was palpable. This energy was further amplified as I got to attend the red-carpet event where Dr. Mary D'Alton was honored, as well as get better insight and appreciation of everything the Foundation for SMFM has accomplished. I felt very privileged to attend this function and I can honestly say 'there's something special about SMFM'.

I have taken home many positive messages and will share what I have learned. Without the Travel Award, this experience would not have been possible, and I am very grateful to the Queenan Fellowships and the Foundation for SMFM for one of the most memorable experiences for me as a young aspiring MFM.



Dr. Sura, center, with Dr. Vincenzo Berghella and Michele Prince at SMFM 2020