Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

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FROM THE 2007 SMFM PROGRAM CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, welcome to the 27th Annual Meeting, The Pregnancy Meeting. As always, San Francisco offers a terrific venue for our meeting. Not only is it a fun city with terrific and varied food, shopping, culture, recreation, sports and site-seeing, it is also a wonderful metaphor for the meeting itself. San Francisco offers surprises, diversity, the opportunity to explore many new experiences or to delve deeply into only a few, and way of encouraging visitors to question their assumptions—just as our meeting this year will do.

The scientific presentations have been selected from a record number of submitted abstracts—1,205. Ninety-three primary reviewers in teams of four per abstract reviewed and scored each abstract. From these, the top eighty-six were selected for plenary presentation. We had space for 706 posters. Twenty-seven senior reviewers, in panels of four, then reviewed each abstract that was on the cusp of being chosen either for a plenary presentation or being rejected altogether and the final selections were then made based on this rigorous peer review. I have tremendous gratitude to our reviewers who worked hard, in short time frames, to select the best science for our meeting. My thanks also to Dr. Brian Mercer who is the Poster Chair for this meeting.

The "meeting before the meeting" this year is rich as well. Dr. Mark Landon has helped the Society to expand the options for the Scientific Forums which meet on Wednesday afternoon and to refine the processes around these important sessions.

Prior to the start of the actual Scientific Program on Thursday, attendees will be able to choose from seven different optional postgraduate courses. Dr. Alessandro Ghidini organized these this year based on feedback from attendees over the past few meetings regarding topics and speakers that you would like to see included. The diversity of the specialty is well represented among the topics and speakers. In addition, we are continuing to explore how to best build on the relationship between SMFM and NASOM, and again welcome NASOM's participation in the Medical Complications course. The Maternal-Fetal Medicine Foundation (MFMF) will also sponsor a Nuchal Translucency Credentialing course at the conclusion of the meeting on Saturday afternoon.

Six round table luncheons are planned, with discussions by leaders in our field. Seating is limited, so please be sure to sign up in advance on the meeting registration form for the session you wish to attend.

There are many people to thank for making this meeting as well run, organized, and seamless as possible for the attendees. In addition to their leadership in the posters and postgraduate courses, Dr. Mercer and Dr. Ghidini have also led the way in operationalizing the online submission of presentations using the SpeakerVision program.

The real superstars of course are Pat Stahr, Julie Miller, and Terri Mobley, members of the SMFM staff who can take the most rudimentary concepts of the meeting planners, and give them legs. Their talents with this, and their passion for our Society, are incredible gifts to each of us. Please take time to thank them personally.

I would also like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to be the Program Chair this year. This has been a great ride and I'm honored to be the point person for a fabulous Program Committee who really did the heavy lifting. In particular, I'd like to thank our President, Dr. Roger Newman, for having a vision for our Society this year and for his consistent and thoughtful guidance in articulating it at this meeting.

Enjoy the meeting!

Nancy Chescheir, MD
Program Chair

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