



**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)**

and

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

2017



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. The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Educational Foundation has very generously contributed over the years 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 2002, 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. 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 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, or epidemiology.

The Awards

The total annual funding for each scholar is \$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. The award is made under the direction of the AAOGF Scholar Committee. The award co-sponsored by the SMFM is also under the direction of the Foundation for SMFM Board.

The award is intended to fund three consecutive years of research training. 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 AAOGF and, in the case of a jointly sponsored award, the Foundation for SMFM. 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. 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 in the 3rd year of fellowship, as long as that year is devoted to research 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 AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM scholarship must be members or associate members of SMFM. **Eligible applicants may use the same application in order to be considered for both the AAOGF/ABOG and AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM awards, and should state their desire to be considered for either or both awards in a cover letter.**

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 research, 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 1, 2017. There is no application form; however, an application format is provided at the end of this announcement. The application must be countersigned by both the candidate and the Chair of the sponsoring department. 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 vita (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.
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. Since it is assumed that ongoing experience in a research project is an essential part of the training, this research project should be described in detail using an NIH grant format but should not exceed 6 pages, 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.
3. 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.
 4. 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 particulars of their past experience in mentoring and their time commitment to this undertaking, should be included. Finally, please make note of available research space, equipment and library materials as well as an account of prior training experience within the unit and the existence of other departmental support resources.
 5. A list of other research grants, training grants, or scholarships previously or currently held by the applicant. Please include a list of all applications for funding by the candidate that are currently pending review. Prior or current R01 or K-series grant recipients are ineligible for AAOGF-ABOG-Foundation for SMFM funding. Candidates who currently hold BIRWCH, WRHR, or other K12 awards are also not eligible. However, AAOGF-ABOG-Foundation for SMFM scholarship awards do not preclude applying for additional research funding from other sources (e.g., an NIH RO3, R21 or T32 award) the acceptance of which would not jeopardize continued funding or renewal of this award. Such applications are in fact encouraged and plans for pursuing such subsequent research funding should be addressed in the application. If the applicant has questions regarding their eligibility, they should contact the Scholar's Committee Chair.
 6. A budget should be provided. As noted, the award may be used for salary support of the scholar, purchase of equipment and supplies, technician 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.
 7. 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 is received by AAOGF and the Foundation for SMFM, if applicable.

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 research.
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 significantly new direction.
6. The accuracy and completeness of the application.
7. Preference may be given to applications from candidates training in areas currently under-represented in academic obstetrics and gynecology (e.g., urogynecology, family planning).
8. A personal interview will be required as part of the evaluation process, with half of the cost 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 via a telephone conference.
9. Underrepresented individuals in medicine (URM) candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.
10. Applications for the AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM award should focus on an area of relevance to the discipline of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Obstetrics or pregnancy-related fields.
11. 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 May 1 of the third year of award. All three reports should be countersigned by the faculty mentor and should include a monetary accounting of the funds awarded. The first and second year reports should detail the candidate's achievements and the projected plans for the succeeding year(s). 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 Scholar's Committee and the Foundation for SMFM if applicable. The recipient of the AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM award must send reports to both the Foundation for SMFM board and AAOGF.

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

Both AAOGF/ABOG and AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM 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 a paper about the work accomplished during the award period. This presentation is a requirement for successful completion of the scholarship. The AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM Scholars are expected to

submit abstracts concerning the work accomplished during the period of the award for peer review by the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine.

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

ABOG/AAOGF Award

Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD
Chair, AAOGF Scholar's Committee
Phone: (215) 662-3378
Fax: (215) 349-5512
Email: ccoutifaris@uphs.upenn.edu

Amy J. Chetelat, CAE
Administrative Director, AAOGF
Phone: (443) 640-1051 x103
Fax: (443) 640-1031
Email: amy@stringfellowgroup.net

The Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Award

Yoel Sadovsky, MD
Chair, Foundation for SMFM
Activities Committee
Phone: (412) 641-2675
Phone: (212) 305-2977
Email: ysadovsky@mwri.magee.edu

Michelle DiVito, R.N., MSN
Administrative Director, Foundation for SMFM
Scholarly Activities Committee
Email: md2432@columbia.edu

Submitting Applications: DEADLINE July 1, 2017

All applications must be received **electronically** by July 1, 2017. Send the application, recommendation letter, and mentor letter via e-mail to the appropriate individuals listed below.

NOTE: Convert **all** word files to PDF.

Applications or correspondence for the AAOGF/ABOG Award should be sent to the following only:

Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD
Chair, AAOGF Scholar's Committee
Phone: (215) 662-3378
Fax: (215) 349-5512
Email: ccoutifaris@uphs.upenn.edu

Amy J. Chetelat, CAE
Administrative Director, AAOGF
Phone: (443) 640-1051 x103
Fax: (443) 640-1031
Email: amy@stringfellowgroup.net

Applications or correspondence for the AAOGF/Foundation for SMFM Award should be sent to the addresses below:

Michelle DiVito, RN, MSN
Administrative Director, Foundation for SMFM
Phone: (212) 305-2977
Fax: (212)-305-2171
Email: md2432@columbia.edu

Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD
Chair, AAOGF Scholar's Committee
Phone: (215) 662-3378
Fax: (215) 349-5512
Email: ccoutifaris@uphs.upenn.edu

Amy J. Chetelat, CAE
Administrative Director, AAOGF
Phone: (443) 640-1051 ext. 103
Fax: (443)-640-1031
Email: amy@stringfellowgroup.net

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

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Philadelphia, PA

AAOGF Scholar's Committee

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Columbus, OH

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President, AGOS
Salt Lake City, UT

Jeffrey Peipert, MD
St. Louis, MO

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Mary E. D’Alton, MD
Foundation Chair
New York, NY

Yoel Sadovsky, MD
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Pittsburgh, PA

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Galveston, TX

Sam Parry, MD
Philadelphia, PA

Cathy Spong, MD
Bethesda, MD

Michelle M. DiVito, RN, MSN
New York, NY

CURRENT SCHOLARS

Rebecca C, Arend MD (2015-2018)

Award: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/AAOGF

Site of Research: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Title of Research: Treatment of Ovarian Cancer with W/B-catenin inhibitors

K. Joseph Hurt, MD PhD (2015– 2018)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: University of Colorado, Denver

Title of Research: Hydrogen sulfide regulation of Myometrial contractility and parturition

Jose Alejandro Rauh-Hain, MD (2016-2019)

Award: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/AAOGF

Site of Research: Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Gynecology

Title of Research: Trends in First-line Treatment and Spending on Care for Woman with Epithelial Ovarian Cancer

Jennifer Bushman Gilner, MD, PhD (2016– 2019)

Award: Foundation for SMFM/AAOGF Scholar

Site of Research: Duke University Health System

Title of Research: The Role of Regulatory T Cells in the Maternal-Fetal Rejection Phenotype of Preterm Birth

Anne Van Arsdale, MD, MSc (2017-2020)

Award: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology/AAOGF

Site of Research: Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Title of Research: Mapping HPV Integration in precancerous cervical lesions

FOR A LIST OF FORMER SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS VISIT THE SCHOLAR PAGE AT
WWW.AAOGF.ORG

Application Format – COVER PAGE

Applicant:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution: _____

Mentor:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution: _____

Dept. Chair

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Institution: _____

Topic/Title:

Signature (Applicant): _____

Signature (Primary Mentor): _____

Signature (Division Director): _____

Signature (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
 - C. Career plans (1/2 page)
- II. 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 and research training.
 - B. Mentor(s)
 - i. Should include a statement of commitment to the candidate's program and training
 - ii. Should describe mentoring plan and evaluation including proposed means of evaluating productivity
 - iii. NIH style biosketch
- III. Description of training program (2-3 pages)
 - A. Formal course load
 - B. Structured conferences
 - C. Laboratory responsibilities
 - D. Non-research related clinical responsibilities
- IV. Resources (1 page)
 - A. Space
 - B. Equipment
 - C. Other departmental support resources
- V. Research proposal (Section A-D 6 pages)
 - A. Abstract
 - B. Specific aims
 - C. Background and significance
 - D. Experimental design and methods
 - E. Selected Bibliography
- VI. Budget*
 - A. Personal salary support
 - B. Purchase of equipment and supplies
 - C. Technician salaries
 - D. Services
 - E. Other items (specify)

- i. *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.

- VII. Documentation of approvals (Just in time format)
 - A. Institutional Review Board (Human Subjects)
 - B. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee