



Society for  
Maternal • Fetal  
Medicine



# Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Society of Family Planning Bridge Builder Award

**2020 Request for Proposals**

## **Purpose**

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and the Society of Family Planning (SFP) are committed to meeting the reproductive health care needs of women in the US at high risk for maternal mortality and morbidity, including their abortion and contraception needs. Given overlapping membership and shared areas of focus, SMFM and SFP are partnering to offer SMFM and SFP Bridge Builder Awards. These awards seek to cultivate a more dynamic relationship between SMFM and SFP's memberships and scholarship in order to improve research and clinical practice.

## Background

SMFM supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine and has a membership of more than 3,500 physicians, scientists, and women's health professionals. SFP, with over 800 members, represents clinicians, researchers, and other partners who share a vision of just and equitable abortion and contraception informed by science. As articulated in SMFM's [strategic map](#) and SFP's [strategic plan](#), both organizations view high-quality research as key to guiding best-practice care.

In February 2019, leaders from SMFM, SFP, and other organizations cosponsored a two-day [workshop](#) to discuss recommendations for assessment of risk, counseling, treatment, and access to reproductive health services for high-risk pregnant women. While workshop participants identified many recommendations, this collaborative effort also highlighted significant gaps in existing research. Through offering SMFM and SFP Bridge Builder Awards, SMFM and SFP hope to strengthen relationships among maternal-fetal medicine specialists and experts in contraception and abortion, with the long-term goal of increasing evidence-based reproductive health care for high-risk pregnant women in the US.

## Eligibility

Grants will be made to organizations on behalf of a named individual scholar. Grants are limited, without exception, to academic institutions and research organizations with nonprofit or tax-exempt status; for-profit organizations are not eligible.

These grants are open to individuals who:

- have completed a Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine,
- are a member of SMFM, and
- work and reside in the US.

## Award

The award totals up to \$23,500 per individual, described in detail below. In addition, awardees will receive complimentary membership to SMFM and SFP for two years during the award period (June 2020 – 2022) and complimentary registration, hotel, and travel to attend the 2021 SMFM Annual Meeting and 2020 and 2021 SFP Annual Meetings.

Scholars will receive \$15,000 to support their time conducting one to three scholar-identified activities, as well as a budget of up to \$8,500 to cover direct costs associated with these activities. Indirect costs are not permitted. Activities should be aimed at cultivating a more dynamic relationship between SMFM and SFP and building connections among the two memberships. These may include, but are not limited to, cosponsored conference sessions, networking events, online community building activities, development of inter-Society communication materials, or development of a working group with a shared focus (eg, research priority setting, medical education).

## Duration

The award period is eighteen months:  
June 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021.

## Review of applications

Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from SMFM and SFP. This collaborative group will make funding recommendations to be considered and approved by their respective grant decision-making bodies.

Each application will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

### 1. Commitment (40%)

- Does the applicant demonstrate a commitment to research and clinical practice at the intersection of SMFM and SFP's missions?

### 2. Potential (30%)

- Is the applicant well positioned to serve as a bridge builder between SMFM and SFP?

### 3. Scholar-identified activities (30%)

- Are the applicant's ideas for activities likely to contribute to a more dynamic relationship between SMFM and SFP?

Applicants will be notified if they have been selected for funding by **May 8, 2020**.

## Application components

1. **Online application form:** Includes contact and demographic information for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management if the applicant is funded.
2. **Summary (250 words):** Provide a summary of your educational and professional background. This information may be used in SMFM and SFP's newsletters and websites and for other educational and promotional purposes should the applicant be funded.
3. **Personal statement (2 pages):** Outline your academic training, professional goals, and past participation in SMFM and/or SFP. Explain why you are well positioned to serve as an SMFM and SFP Bridge Builder and what value you hope to contribute. Please also share your initial ideas for award activities.
4. **Budget and related justification for award activities (1 page):** Budget may not exceed \$8,500. Funds are intended to support direct costs associated with activities. SFP will administer funds related to these activities directly during the award period.
5. **CV of applicant.** Should not exceed 10 pages.

Required formatting: Font size must be at least 11 points and 1.5 line spacing must be used. Please upload 3-5 as a single PDF file. All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the [online application portal](#).

SMFM and SFP welcome the opportunity to provide clarification around or assistance with any components of the application. Please contact [Grants@SocietyFP.org](mailto:Grants@SocietyFP.org).

Application submission opens  
on **January 27, 2020** and closes  
**March 2, 2020**.