

# DAN O'KEEFE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Path to Transformational Leadership

Session 1: March 20 - 22

Session 2: October 23 - 25

2026



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*The Academy seeks to excite and equip MFM physicians for future leadership roles in and beyond the profession.*

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As a clinical expert, you often are required to be a leader—whether it's chairing committees or departments, overseeing research or safety projects, heading up divisions, or serving at a regional or national level. Many of us, however, have not been taught how to be effective leaders. It is not in our medical school, residency, or fellowship training. As a result, being in a leadership role can be a burden.

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is working to ease that burden through the Dan O'Keeffe SMFM Leadership Academy. Named for my long-time friend, mentor, and well-respected leader in MFM, the Academy has been developed in partnership with Idahlynn Karre, Ph. D., one of the leading educators, writers, and facilitators in leadership. Idahlynn Karre also has a special emphasis on the medical field.

I invite you to sign up for the Dan O'Keeffe SMFM Leadership Academy and take advantage of a unique opportunity to gain leadership training that will make your current position more manageable and rewarding and help advance your career. As a participant, you will engage with your peers and gain critical leadership knowledge and skills for today's healthcare environment.

Limited to the first 30 who register, the six-month learning and leading practicum includes five monthly electronic leadership conversations for individualized leadership development and two residential sessions held at the Ritz-Carlton in Denver, Colorado, on March 20 - 22 and October 23 - 25, 2026.

Mike Foley, MD

# ABOUT

The Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy is designed to engage MFM specialists in a unique professional development experience that frames leadership as building relationships, cultivating excellence, and sustaining energy for productive influence, agency, and motivation to enact positive change.

The Academy is built on the new science of leadership, which includes identifying and maximizing talents and strengths, developing high-performance teams, leading with influence, understanding self and the challenges of transformational leadership, building and sustaining relationships in pursuit of excellence, engaging in crucial conversations, managing conflict productively, leading successful proactive change, and establishing cultures of engagement and energy within workplaces and one's sphere of influence.

The Academy strives to build a culture that focuses on leadership as serving others, not leadership titles. In so doing, the Academy creates and nurtures a community of diverse healthcare leaders. MFM physicians at all career levels are encouraged to attend and pay attention to the personal development and wellness required for sustained long-term leadership in the complex world of healthcare.

Equally important work in the Academy includes attention to developing talent, focusing on strengths, building strong interpersonal relationships, leading with influence, and engaging in communication and crucial conversations in pursuit of individual, team, and organizational excellence. When you participate in the Academy, you join this vibrant community of MFM leaders. Your learning and development continue as a community member long after your Academy experience.

## The six-month Leadership Academy experience will address the following topics:

- The New Science of Leadership
- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership
- Leading from Strengths
- Authentic Communication and Conversations
- Leveraging Diversity and Nurturing Inclusion Through Leadership
- Articulating and Focusing on Standards of Excellence for Individuals, Teams, and Organizations
- Building and Sustaining Strong Relationships as a Leader
- Developing and Leading High-Performance Teams
- Leading with Positive Influence
- Engaging in Crucial Conversations
- Managing Accountabilities, Conflict, Toxicity, and Narcissism
- Leading Individual, Team, and Organizational Change
- Being a 360-degree Leader within Complex Organizations
- Creating and Nurturing Cultures of Positivity, Caring, Honesty, Trust, and Hope
- Developing Personal Strategies for Meeting the Challenges of Inspired Leadership
- Learning and Practicing Resiliency and Wellness Strategies to Avoid Burn-Out



# COURSE FACULTY



## Dan O'Keeffe, MD

A maternal-fetal medicine subspecialist with 30 years of experience in MFM practice. He is the former executive vice-president of SMFM and the founder of the Association of Maternal-Fetal Management, now called the SMFM Practice Management Committee.



## Mike Foley, MD

A business proposal is aimed at attracting potential clients with what a company sells. It's a document in either digital or printed form that explains product or service features, taking into consideration the lead's needs and wants.



## Vincenzo Berghella, MD

Director of the MFM Division and Fellowship Program at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He has authored over 670 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts and is the editor or co-editor of several medical textbooks. He is a past-president of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Editor in chief of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Associate Editor of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Idahlynn Karre, Ph.D.**, has spent her professional career as a professor, leader, administrator, speaker, consultant, and coach. With an award-winning professional career as a university professor, scholar, and author, she now devotes her time and energy to professional speaking, writing, and consulting for healthcare, colleges, universities, businesses, corporations, and professional associations worldwide.





# TESTIMONIALS



Seeing great leaders so committed to our growth as individuals and leaders is truly inspiring and empowering. The tools, wisdom, and knowledge given to us will have a beautiful and positive impact—not just on us, but it will definitely have a ripple effect far and wide to improve and empower the lives and leaders of those around us as well. I am also truly grateful for the friendships I've formed over just a few days, and I'm so excited to see all the great things all my friends from this course will continue to do for our society and their workplaces.

**Kavita Narang, MD** ”



The course is more than just leadership skills and introspection. I made incredible connections with other MFM physicians nationwide in different career paths, including academic medicine, private practice, and industry. It was wonderful to pick their brains about their career trajectories and work-life balance and glean other helpful advice. We created a group text message chain that's still going strong, and I've kept in touch with several people I met in the course. I left inspired to incorporate what I learned into my current work as a fellow and excited to think about ways to apply these skills in my future faculty career.

**Emily Fay, MD** ”



Having received the Fellow Scholarship to attend the SMFM Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy, I couldn't have imagined how much this program would change the course of my future. First, Dan, Mike, and Idahlynn are inspirational; I learned what kind of leader I want to be and the concrete steps I could take each day to reach that goal. Despite the years since I attended, I am reminded to use their meaningful advice most days. Furthermore, the relationships I made with my cohort have been long-lasting, expanding my network of MFM connections across the country. Finally, the program gave me the confidence to reach for leadership positions, knowing I had the skills to take them on, and I now hold the role of Vice-Chair of an SMFM committee, as well as leadership roles at my institution. I recommend the Academy to anyone either already in or looking for leadership. This dedicated time to examine how best to lead is irreplaceable.

**Rebecca F. Hamm, MD, MSCE** ”

# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PARTICIPANT TIMELINE

Those who have participated in the Dan O'Keeffe Leadership Academy over the years have had the opportunity to serve in a leadership capacity with SMFM, such as a Committee Liaison, Board Member, and on the Executive Committee.

## 2012-2013

**Brian Iriye, MD**

2019 President

**Joanne Stone, MD, MS**

2022 President

**Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MSc**

2024 President

## 2013 - 2014

**Vincenzo Berghella, MD**

2014 President

## 2014 - 2015

**Fadi Bsai, MD**

2023 Board Member

## 2016 - 2017

**Vineet Shrivastava, MD**

2024 Board Member

## 2017 - 2018

**Judette Louis, MD, MPH**

2020 President

**Dena Goffman, MD**

2024 Board Member

**Blair Wylie, MD**

2022 Board Member

## 2018 - 2019

**Stephanie Ros, MD, MSCI**

2024 Board Member

# REGISTRATION DETAILS

Course fees include the Leadership Development Manual, books, articles, and all training and development materials for the six days of residential seminars, five e-conversations, and six months of executive leadership coaching. Fees include continental breakfast and lunch on days one and two of the residential seminars. **The number of participants is limited, and registrations will be honored in the order they are received.** Attendees must participate in both in-person sessions (March and October 2026). Cancellations must be in writing and received in the Registrar's Office one week before the course. No refunds will be given after that time. A \$75 administrative fee will be charged for cancellations. **Questions? Contact SMFM Meetings Department at [events@smfm.org](mailto:events@smfm.org).**

## REGISTER ONLINE AT [SMFM.ORG/LEADERSHIP](https://smfm.org/leadership)

### Registration Rates

SMFM Members: 4,100

Non-Members: \$5,600

# FOUNDATION FOR SMFM SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship, initiated by the generous support of SMFM members to the Foundation, honors and recognizes Dr. Dan O'Keeffe's distinguished service to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine and dedication to excellence in healthcare leadership.

The Scholarship will be offered yearly to an outstanding physician and promising leader among third-year Fellows in the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. Applicants should be in their third year of MFM fellowship when the course begins in March 2026.

The Scholarship covers:

- Tuition fees for both sessions of the course (must attend both)
- Six-month practicum with electronic connections and learning
- Executive coaching for the duration of the course

The awardee, or their institution, is responsible for travel, accommodations, and incidental expenses.

Application Deadline: Monday, January 5, 2026

Decision Notices Sent: Early February

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

A block of rooms has been reserved for course attendees at a discounted, group rate of \$324/night. To enjoy this special rate, [use this link](#) or call +1 (303) 312- 3800 prior to Monday, February 23, 2026. Rooms may sell out prior to the deadline so please make reservations as soon as possible to ensure availability. Please identify your affiliation with the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine when calling.