Innovations in abortion research and practice:
Lessons learned and future directions

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Membership numbers, by year
The majority of members are clinically trained and based in the US

**Membership benefits:**
- Stay up to date with scientific and clinical developments
- Connect with others invested in family planning
- Serve on SFP-committees, review grant proposals
- Take part in mentorship and career development opportunities
- Receive reduced conference registration fees
Proposals and grants

Between 2007-2017:
• Received 1,024 proposals
• Awarded 305 grants ($22.5 million)
• 2018 awards just announced!

Grants:
• 38% focus on abortion; 41% on contraception
The North American Forum on Family Planning

- Premier family planning conference of over 1,200 clinical and social scientists, and other partners
- Started in 2012
- Attendees hear about new research
Clinical practice guidelines (CPGs)

• First published in 2008
• 18 published to date
  • 13 focused on abortion provision
  • 5 focused on contraception provision
• Collectively cited 495 times
Join us!

Apply for grants
• New RFP in Spring, 2019

Become a member
• Apply online, applications rolling

Attend the 2018 Forum
• October 20\textsuperscript{th}-22\textsuperscript{nd} in New Orleans

Engage with our CPGs
• Open access at Contraception

Questions? Email info@societyfp.org
MARE Guidelines for research about medical abortion

Mary Fjerstad, NP, MHS
MARE= Medical abortion reporting of efficacy

Why were these guidelines created?

Results of medical abortion studies were inconsistent:

- Varying definitions (or unclear definitions) of failure or success
  - No persistent sac at follow-up
  - Types of medical abortion failure were not defined (ongoing pregnancy, patient symptoms, heavy bleeding, heterogeneous intrauterine material seen on follow-up ultrasound)
- Timing of medication doses unclear
- No stratification of gestational age
Goal of the recommendations:

Standardize early medical abortion efficacy reporting to facilitate comparison of outcomes between studies.
MARE recommendations:

Definition of successful medical abortion: successful expulsion of intrauterine pregnancy without need for surgical intervention.

Outcome: Define types of medical abortion failure
• Ongoing pregnancy: a viable pregnancy at follow-up (a retained gestational sac is not a continuing pregnancy)

Uterine aspiration for:
• Incomplete abortion/ bleeding/ cramping
• Patient symptoms
MARE recommendations:

Many other recommendations for:

- Title and abstract
- Eligibility criteria
- Sample size
- Randomization
- Allocation concealment/ blinding
- Statistical methods
- Discussion
Standardized definitions and reporting medical abortion efficacy will help us understand efficacy across studies and regimens.