

Women's Council

ASRM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



Kelly Pagidas, M.D.

It feels like just yesterday that we all attended the Women's Council Breakfast at the ASRM 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. It was truly one of the most memorable and inspiring breakfasts that I have attended in the past decade. It was ground breaking as we introduced the inaugural Women's Council Distinguished Service Award. I had the honor and privilege to have presented it to an amazing woman, Dr. Maria Bustillo. Please read Dawn Gannon's article in this newsletter to get more details about the event and Dr. Bustillo's accomplishments.

However, I want to take a moment and reflect on that historic event. The pulse in the audience shortly after the award presentation was beyond words. All I can say is WOW! It was amazing to see groups of women race to the front of the podium to celebrate Dr. Bustillo's glory and participate in what I believe to be the only group picture of the Council's membership, leadership,

Message from the Chair

and awardee in the history of the Council. The group picture went viral and exemplified the camaraderie and leadership of women across disciplines. October 20, 2015, will go down in the history books of the Women's Council as a day to celebrate our female leaders. Thank you to all who were part of that vibrant moment and for all that you do to make sure women's voices are heard.

Continuing in the spirit of celebration and on behalf of the Council, I would also like to take a moment and acknowledge National Women Physician's Day held February 3, 2016, in honor of the 195th birthday of the first female physician, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. We celebrate this day in honor of all the talented and dedicated women physicians who touch so many lives.

On another note, I want to update you on the progress of the Council during the past year. In the previous newsletter, we identified key strategic goals to be pursued in 2016. Our first initiative was building our membership, both in numbers and breadth of specialties. I am thrilled to report that our membership has increased by six percent since the Annual Meeting. Our second initiative hit the ground running, which was the introduction of the Women's Council

Award Program as noted previously. Additionally, initiatives for the coming year include exploring avenues of fundraising to expand our resource base for projects that would benefit the membership and the development of education forums/programs for career development.

We continue to have a presence on social media under the great leadership of Terri Davidson. To date, our Facebook page has almost 200 members. We want to hear from you beyond the annual breakfast meeting; the reason for our continued existence is our membership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us; follow us on Facebook; and we hope to see you at the Women's Council Breakfast at the ASRM 2016 Scientific Congress & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On behalf of the Women's Council, thank you for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Kelly Pagidas, M.D.
Women's Council Chair, 2014-2016
Division Director and Program Director,
Reproductive Endocrinology and
Infertility,
Department of Obstetrics and
Gynecology and Women's Health,
University of Louisville

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The purpose of the ASRM Women's Council shall be to promote career development for women, stimulate interaction across disciplines, and provide networking and mentoring opportunities, while encouraging and supporting women in their chosen fields.

Inaugural Distinguished Service Award Presented



2015 ASRM Women's Council Breakfast, with Maria Bustillio, M.D., inaugural Distinguished Service awardee. Photo courtesy of Lee Rubin Collins, J.D. and Sean Tipton.

October 20, 2015 was a historic day for the ASRM Women's Council.

Surrounded by many friends and colleagues, Maria Bustillio, M.D., was presented with the inaugural Distinguished Service Award during the Annual Breakfast Meeting.

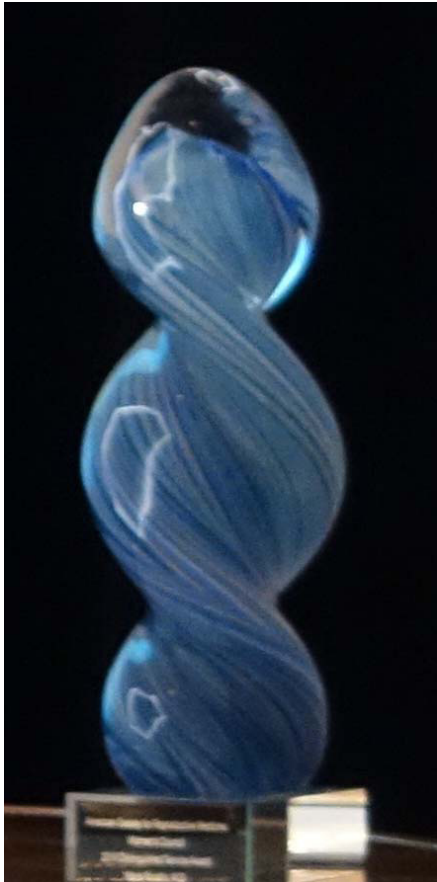
The award was developed to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the women of ASRM and, specifically, women of the Women's Council. It provides an opportunity to publicly recognize the countless volunteer hours and efforts of women who have made a significant difference in advancing women and women's issues within the ASRM and the fertility community.

In accepting her award, Dr. Bustillio contrasted the humble beginnings of the Council as a babysitting service for the few women attending the meeting in 1982 to that of the Council today, with almost 60 of the 151 members in attendance. While acknowledging the great strides that have been made since the Council's inception, she noted there are still barriers to cross and encouraged those in attendance to continue to lead the charge.

In keeping with her dedication and unwavering commitment to the Council, Dr. Bustillio immediately donated the cash award back to the Awards Program.

Thank you, Dr. Bustillio, for your passion and generosity. Once again, congratulations on the award!

Nominations Now Being Accepted for the Women's Council Distinguished Service Award



We are now accepting nominations for the 2016 Distinguished Service Award. The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding service by members of the Women's Council who have made important contributions in promoting women's health or career development for women; stimulating interaction across disciplines; fostering networking and/or mentoring efforts; or encouraging and/or supporting women within the community within their chosen field in support of the Women's Council mission.

Criteria

- Awardee must have provided service or taken action to significantly advance the mission of the

Women's Council within ASRM for a number of years.

- Awardee must be a current or previously active member of the Women's Council.
- Awardee cannot be a current Women's Council Executive Committee member, or have served as chair of the Women's Council within the last two years.
- The committee will select one (1) awardee annually, chosen by simple majority vote.

Procedure

Nominations for this award are open to all ASRM Women's Council members in good standing, and must be submitted via [this link](#) to the Chair on or before May 1st. A one-page letter of nomination with the nominee's name, title, and reason for nomination should be provided. The Women's Council Awards Committee will request a CV from the nominee, and supporting information gathered by the Committee may be considered. The Awards Committee will meet and make a recommendation to the ASRM Executive Committee within 30 days of the close of nominations. The Women's Council will announce the awardee by July 1st. The award will be presented during the Council Breakfast Meeting at the ASRM 2016 Scientific Congress & Expo.

Manner of Recognition

Recipient will receive a \$250 award, paid registration to the next ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo, and a plaque to commemorate the honor.

The honoree does not have to be present at the ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo in the year in which it is bestowed in order to receive the award, but may identify an individual to accept on her behalf.

Please follow [this link](#) to submit your nomination today. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Pagidas, M.D. at kellypagidas@gmail.com.

THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

How do I identify a mentor? When do I need a career coach? How do we best capitalize on these relationships and apply them in my workplace?

We often find ourselves grappling with these questions. We are excited to share that we are presently working on a new ASRM eLearn® module that will help address professionalism issues experienced by our members as they pertain to these topics.

We are actively securing funding for the project and hope to bring it to production shortly so that members can benefit from learning objectives and experiences of participants through the ASRM eLearn® platform.

Stay tuned!

*Erika Johnston-MacAnanny, M.D.
Chair-Elect, Women's Council
Assistant Professor and Medical Director
Wake Forest Center for Reproductive Medicine*

About the **ASRM Women's Council**

The Women's Council was started as a special interest group within ASRM to provide an opportunity for women who work in many different disciplines (mental health professionals, nurses, physicians, embryologists, etc.) to meet, network, share ideas and help each other with their careers and career decisions. The Women's Council initially concentrated on making the "voice of women" heard at ASRM.

The Women's Council, at every opportunity, suggested the names of very qualified women for leadership roles. With this help, women have assumed leadership positions in a number of the Special Interest Groups and Professional Groups, led roundtables, symposia and postgraduate courses, and have even served as president of ASRM, roles traditionally dominated by male members 20 years ago.

More than 30 years later, the Council focuses on fostering interaction across disciplines, and provides opportunities for networking and mentoring. The Women's Council breakfast, held yearly at the ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo provides a much-needed opportunity for face-to-face networking and professional development.

NETWORKING WITH THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL

For many ASRM members, their only connection with the Women's Council is at our annual breakfast or, perhaps, contact through the mentoring program. But that is changing with the help of social media. In 2013, we started a LinkedIn group; and in 2015, we created a Facebook group. We encourage both members and non-members to join each group and become engaged by posting relevant information and news.

So HOW do you do this and what should you post?

First, here are the links:



or search for the Women's Council, which is a subset of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Ask to join either group and –*voilà* – you will become a member!

Now, WHAT should you post?

- News about the infertility field that you feel would be interesting or beneficial to other members
- News about colleagues that you would like to share
- Professional news about yourself that deserves recognition, such as the receipt of an award or special honor
- News about relevant educational programs
- Short surveys or questions if you wish to glean responses and engage with a cross-section of the participants
- Articles about general career development and women in the workforce

However, you should not use either forum for self-promotion or other types of information that would be considered advertising.

We encourage you to join the Women's Council on social media to expand your network and engage your colleagues!