



## **2018**

Dr. Rice, as President of the American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society (AGOS), along with the Executive Committee and Council, committed themselves to advancing federal funding for women's health research, a key initiative in AGOS' new strategic plan and an issue so important to similar and related organizations. In November of 2018, Dr. Rice visited with Dr. Diana Bianchi, Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). During that meeting, Dr. Bianchi strongly suggested that obstetrics and gynecology consider developing a single unified "One Voice" strategy focused on increased NIH funding for women's health research. While many organizations in the field have each achieved some success on their own advocating for increased federal funding, Dr. Bianchi believes we would be much more effective if we built a coalition committed to coordinating existing efforts around this vitally important issue. AGOS, as the oldest obstetrics and gynecologic organization and as an organization of leaders from all key women's professional organizations, is ideally suited to lead this effort.

## **2019**

In 2019, under leadership of Dr. Rice, the Women First Research Coalition (WFRC) was established.

The steering committee existed of:

AGOS: Laurel Rice

ASRM: Christos Coutifaris; Hugh Taylor (alternate)

SGO: Jason Wright; Neil Horowitz (alternate)

AUGS: Nazema Siddiqui; Jennifer Wu (alternate)

SFP: Stephanie Teal; Tessa Madden; Cori Schreiber (alternate)

SMFM: George Saade; Yoel Sadovsky; Katie Schubert

Lobbyists: Katie Schubert; Erin Kramer

ACOG: Lucia DiVenere; Rachel Tetlow (alternate)

Special Advisor to Committee: Ted Anderson

The steering committee had been busy developing this "One Voice" strategy, details of which are summarized in a White Paper. Key activities included a Women First Research Retreat held in February of 2019 with the NIH and key women's health representatives. A subsequent Women First Research Coalition Summit was held in May of 2019 during the ACOG Annual Meeting. During this meeting the mission statement was refined, plans to write a White Paper and create a video detailing the rationale for increased funding in women's health were finalized, and a



strategy to engage Congress and NIH leadership was developed. They held a second coalition meeting during the 2019 AGOS Annual Meeting on September 12, 2019.

## **2020**

On January 6, 2020, the WFRC engaged Cavarocchi • Ruscio • Dennis Associates (CRD Associates) to provide government relations services to the coalition. Erika Miller, Stefanie Rinehart and Michaela Hollis are the contacts are CRD Associates working directly on WFRC. The following organizations provided support: AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN GENERAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING • SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE INVESTIGATION.

## **2021**

In 2021 the WFRC renewed their agreement with Cavarocchi • Ruscio • Dennis Associates (CRD Associates) to provide government relations services to the coalition. Erika Miller, Stefanie Rinehart and Michaela Hollis remain the contacts working directly on WFRC. The following organizations provided support: AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS • AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL & OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY • AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE • AMERICAN UROGYNECOLOGIC SOCIETY • INFECTIOUS DISEASE SOCIETY FOR OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY • NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PEDIATRIC AND ADOLESCENT GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC SPECIALISTS IN GENERAL OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY • SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING • SOCIETY OF GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY • SOCIETY FOR MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE • SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE INVESTIGATION.