

## 2025 SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign

# Building a Stronger Foundation for the Future





“SOAP is really the reason I opted for a career in Obstetric Anesthesia. I went to my first SOAP meeting as a resident in anesthesia and was impressed with the extraordinarily high level of expertise and commitment among SOAP’s members. There has never been a more important time to be an obstetric anesthesiologist. Maternal health and well-being are in the balance, with rising morbidity and mortality rates in the US. SOAP is the national and international forum through which obstetric anesthesiologists can harness solutions for better maternal care. Research and clinical care are a continuum; clinical shortfalls drive research innovation, while cutting-edge research defines the best clinical practice. SOAP has a critical role in supporting high-quality research and disseminating it into best clinical practice for its members.”

*Michaela Farber, MD*

## The SOAP Endowment Fund,

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 1968, supports research and education in Obstetric Anesthesiology and Perinatology. Spurring the creation of new knowledge over the last 55 years, the Endowment Fund has supported the SOAP Young Investigator Grant, the SOAP Gertie Marx Education and Research Grant, the SOAP Diversity and Inclusivity Grant, the SOAP-FAER Mentored Research Training Grant, and the SOAP Research Network. With a large gift from the Gertie Marx Estate in 2004 and subsequent sound financial management, the value of the Endowment at the end of 2022 stood at \$2.3 million.

The SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign is an effort to grow the Endowment in order to achieve the vision of safe and equitable care for women and newborns everywhere based on the highest caliber science. The Campaign seeks to build a sustainable funding source for advancing obstetric anesthesia knowledge, defining the value of the obstetric anesthesia expertise, and sharing that expertise directly with patients. Campaign funds will be invested, and the in-perpetuity proceeds used in three focus areas: 1) individual-led research, 2) society-led research, and 3) patient-facing education. The goal of the Fund Campaign will be to raise \$1.5M, bringing the size of the Endowment Fund up to more than \$3.5M. This is the first Endowment Fund Campaign in SOAP’s history.



“Support from the SOAP community has been foundational to my career as a clinician-investigator. At an early stage in my career I was awarded a grant from SOAP that funded work-related to the genetic epidemiology of preeclampsia. I’ve also benefited tremendously from intellectual engagement with fellow SOAP members who have helped me to sharpen my research ideas. SOAP is a wonderful community that supports people developing research careers that have a real impact on the health of mothers and their babies.”

*Brian Bateman, MD*

## THREE CAMPAIGN FOCUS AREAS:

### Individual-Led Research

The highlight of the first focus area is the SOAP-FAER Mentored Research Training Grant (MRTG), where each dollar contributed by SOAP is matched by an additional dollar from the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research (FAER). With an established track record of success in supporting successful research, FAER will also partner in this endeavor by sharing access to important mentoring resources and infrastructure. The inaugural recipient of the SOAP-FAER MRTG in 2023 was Dr. Andrea Ibarra, a SOAP member since 2021. As we learn more about the effects of the peripartum experience on mental health, she will be completing a project titled “The Longitudinal Cognitive Evaluation Before and After Delivery Among Women with Preeclampsia.”

This grant is currently offered only every other year. If successful, the SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign will allow this grant to be offered every year.

### Society-Led Research

The highlight of the second focus area is the SOAP General Anesthesia (GA) Registry, supported by the SOAP Research Network. The Registry will identify factors that go into the decision to administer GA for cesarean delivery, which has many downstream consequences for both mother and baby and work towards establishing a set of best practices based on Registry data. Over 50 centers have been enrolled so far. The GA Registry model has the potential, going forward, to include additional process and outcome measures that can help define the value of obstetric anesthesia expertise in a way that less granular models such as the Multicenter Perioperative Outcomes Group (MPOG) cannot. If successful, the SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign will provide funding to scale this model by strengthening inter-institutional linkages and building a research alliance for the future.

### Patient-Facing Education

The highlight of the third focus area is Educational Material designed specifically for patient use. As SOAP seeks to secure its place as the voice of obstetric anesthesia, designing highly accessible educational material becomes a high priority. An example is the infographic designed by SOAP to address the concern regarding autism and labor analgesia, which was made available to both members and the public in both English and Spanish and posted on the SOAP website and social media. If successful, the SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign will build financial capacity to produce more materials and run more campaigns intended to reach and empower patients with evidence-based information.



“Without a doubt, the SOAP/Gertie Marx Education and Research Grant has been the most important catalyst propelling forward my academic career. The award was an investment not only in me, but in the future of our subspecialty, facilitating rigorous research into how we can best teach and engage the next generations of learners with a project involving the development of a serious game to teach and evaluate novice anesthesia residents to perform general anesthesia for emergency cesarean delivery. It was the first time that I had been able to receive the kind of academic time necessary to devote to serious research. All clinician scientists will tell you that mandatory academic time represents the light, the water and fertilizer essential for growing academic careers. I would not have achieved the successes I have to date without SOAP’s early support, and for this I will forever be grateful.

*Allison Lee, MD*



## **SOAP HAS A LONG HISTORY OF HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH BY ITS MEMBERS:**

Research on specific maternal risk indices has led to accrediting organizations requiring labor and delivery risk stratifications in accredited maternity centers.

Research on postpartum hemorrhage has informed the adoption of hemorrhage bundles in maternity hospitals worldwide.

Research on low-dose neuraxial techniques and innovative delivery systems such as programmed intermittent epidural boluses, has reduced the risk of maternal hypotension and improved satisfaction with labor analgesia.

Research on timing of labor analgesia related to the duration of labor and mode of delivery led to the joint ACOG-ASA statement that maternal request is a sufficient indication for initiation of neuraxial analgesia.

### **WHY NOW?**

There is currently a national crisis in maternal safety, particularly highlighting the issue of health care disparities. SOAP's vision is safe and equitable care for women and newborns everywhere. A true SOAP visionary, Gertie Marx named the SOAP Endowment Fund as the beneficiary of her estate in 2004, providing the start of a solid foundation to support research and education. Even with substantial growth based on careful investment, there is a need to boost this capital base as SOAP starts to take on more ambitious projects. Building on Gertie Marx's legacy, SOAP seeks to take another leap forward by launching this Endowment Fund Campaign, the first in its history.

### **HOW DOES IT IMPACT ME?**

While SOAP has grown its community of diverse members to broaden its impact, research remains foundational to SOAP's identity and mission. The SOAP Endowment Fund supports both research and education, and does so based on its core values of care, excellence, professionalism, respect, diversity, and inclusivity. Although research may not be an area of personal interest for you, the knowledge and innovation it drives will ultimately benefit your daily practice, and, in turn, your patients. Raising the visibility of the subspecialty to the public also benefits all providers of obstetric anesthesia. And all donations to the SOAP Endowment are tax deductible.

Klaus Kjaer and May Pian-Smith  
*2025 SOAP Endowment Fund Campaign Co-Chairs*

**“S**OAP provided me with access to a supportive community of obstetric anesthesiologists and women's health professionals allowing me to connect with other experts in the field. Through SOAP's resources and opportunities, I was able to participate in meaningful research projects focused on eliminating suffering and improving mental health in special populations. Without SOAP, I would not have known how much obstetric anesthesiology contributes to maternal and neonatal health and safety.”

*Grace Lim, MD*