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Scientific abstracts featured research at the 2018 North American Forum on Family Planning

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Scientific Abstracts
Featured research at the 2018 *North American Forum on Family Planning*

The Society of Family Planning (SFP), Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), and the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) are delighted to host the eighth annual *North American Forum on Family Planning* (the *Forum*) in New Orleans, LA, from October 20–22, 2018. This dynamic multidisciplinary meeting is a stimulating opportunity for investigators in the areas of contraception, abortion, and sexual and reproductive health to gather to share research, learn, and develop new ideas. The *Forum* features presentations of unpublished research, clinical practice updates and thought-provoking breakout sessions that help us stay engaged with the most current evidence and give us the tools to make a difference in the medically, socially, and politically complex sphere of family planning. A record total of 312 scientific abstracts were submitted this year, and reviewed by a panel of 59 family planning experts. The *Forum's* Scientific Committee accepted 105 abstracts for poster presentation. The Committee selected 20 of the top-ranked abstracts for oral presentation, and is proud to present four outstanding abstracts in a plenary session for all attendees. These abstracts, described briefly below, detail research from diverse investigators using a spectrum of investigative methodologies, from basic laboratory science to nationwide integrated knowledge translation.

Our first plenary abstract addresses an important question in early abortion care. International recommendations about the administration of Rh-immunoprophylaxis for spontaneous or induced abortion in first trimester vary as there is limited evidence regarding the exposure of fetal blood cells to the maternal circulatory system. The threshold for Rh sensitization is 2 fetal blood cells per 100,000 maternal blood cells. While the Kleihauer-Betke test can be used to detect fetomaternal hemorrhage, it is not sensitive enough to evaluate the extent of fetomaternal hemorrhage in first trimester abortion to determine at what gestational age it is truly necessary to begin administration of Rh immunoglobulin. In their study, Horvath et al developed and validated a new test using flow cytometry to identify fetal RBCs in maternal blood, distinct from maternal F cells. This assay can reliably detect 1:100,000 fetal:maternal RBCs, which is 10 times more sensitive than currently available tests. They then conducted a pilot study

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