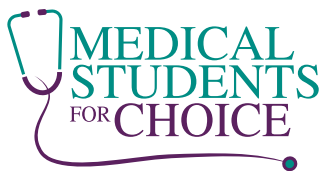
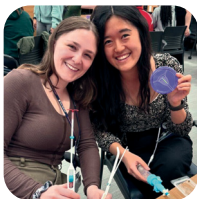


ANNUAL REPORT

2024



From Our Board President



In times of division, the work of MSFC becomes increasingly important. Intervening at a critical time in the development of future doctors, MSFC offers training in abortion care and reproductive justice more broadly, in the absence of formalized training that is often lacking in medical curricula.

My name is Jennifer, and I'm the current MSFC President and a fourth-year medical student. Where I train, abortion is legally protected, though challenges around accessibility and misinformation still exist. Globally, abortion and reproductive rights remain in flux. In recent years, we have seen several countries pass legislation that inch us along further in abortion rights, such as in the UK this year, where the House voted to end criminalization of those seeking abortion outside of legal pathways in England and Wales, and in Mexico in 2023, where abortion delivered in healthcare was decriminalized. Simultaneously, we have seen access and legal restrictions move backwards. It remains a learned fact that gained progress can be lost, and continued advocacy, training and resources are needed to make true reproductive justice and bodily autonomy a reality. I believe collective action and collaboration are essential in moving us forward.

Relying on existing systems to build on reproductive justice is predicated on the assumption that said systems are functional, which remains an assumption that stands unstably at best. Essential in reproductive justice and liberation for all is a decentralisation of American and white powers and uplifting the grassroots voices coming from folks most marginalized globally. MSFC continues to strive for a decolonizing approach to our organization, through shared leadership models, pursuing global bilateral partnerships, and increasing support for chapters in abortion restricted areas. By offering funded learning opportunities, MSFC aims to remove socioeconomic status as a factor in who gets trained in abortion care.

Through building a more representative cohort of healthcare practitioners, we move towards a more inclusive and safer reproductive health space.

We continue to move forward and identify next steps for implementing MSFC's current strategic priorities.

- We have built upon partnerships with other reproductive justice organizations and continue to grow our program of experienced student leaders.
- Through the actions of our strong staff base, we have been revisiting ways to engage with MSFC alumni. This includes working with alumni on expanding the Reproductive Health Externship and reaching out to alumni for presentations at our next Conference on Family Planning.
- Supporting chapters through abortion restrictions has been a strong focus of MSFC, tackling this through Abortion Training Institutes (ATIs), Reproductive Health Externships (RHEs – some in partnership with Dynamic Doctors Uganda [DDU]), and Training to Competence Externships (TCEs). In addition, we continue to advocate for the enforcement of abortion standards in training.
- In striving to reduce U.S.-centrism and imperialist perspectives, we have recruited more international board members, fostered the RHE-DDU program, and supported international chapters. While MSFC's international presence has grown, gaps remain. In the coming year, we will continue to develop plans for increasing our engagement and support for medical students in regions where reproductive justice is actively threatened by violence and the displacement of people.

It remains an honor to work alongside everyone at MSFC, including our staff, board of directors, and all the students and partners that make our network what it is. I am grateful for the opportunity to witness the passion of all our members as we move our strategic priorities forward together.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Zhang'.

Jennifer Zhang
President 2025-2026, Board of Directors
School of Medicine at the University of British Columbia

From the Executive Director



Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) remains essential to maintaining and expanding access to abortion. I am extremely proud of the work we do to ensure our chapters acquire the knowledge and skills needed to provide excellent patient-centered care. As the world witnesses serious threats to science-based education, cuts to funding for research and innovation, and alarming attacks on the profession of medicine, MSFC's mission to support future abortion care providers and advocate for reproductive justice globally remains our guiding star.

The U.S. medical education landscape is bleak. State governments have joined the federal government to demand that universities either abandon their commitment to equity and diversity or face the cancellation of critical funding. Far too many medical schools have complied in advance. They are not only erasing public commitments to advance human rights, but they are also welcoming anti-science student organizations like Medical Students for Life. Some have even gone so far as to override student government votes to recognize this anti-science organization, thus granting them the ability to openly advocate for dangerous and untested schemes like abortion "reversal" treatment while also claiming that abortion is never medically necessary. Medical education in the U.S. is regressing at an alarming rate, but MSFC student leaders continue to advocate for their right to receive a medically accurate and science-based education.

MSFC staff continue to organize trainings and conferences that fill in the gaps and enable abortion training for medical students and residents. We have increased the number of in-person training options and doubled our capacity

to meet growing demand. We regularly add and update chapter resources to help members stay on top of the rapidly changing legal landscape while also learning about the impact those changes have on quality of care and patient outcomes. Political power may change hands, but medical education should hold firm to science and evidence. MSFC is proud to bridge the gap between what some medical schools have decided to teach versus the comprehensive modern education our members deserve. MSFC's Reproductive Health Externships (RHEs), Abortion Training Institutes (ATIs), the Conference on Family Planning, and student organizing combine to support future physicians in the U.S. and globally.

We also continue to work with partners like the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) to protect legal access to abortion, which is necessary for abortion training as well as public health. In 2022, Michigan voters enshrined abortion rights in the state's constitution. MSFC was a plaintiff in CRR's lawsuit against Michigan over the state's targeted restrictions for abortion providers, and early in 2025, the Michigan Court of Claims permanently struck down those restrictions. MSFC is thrilled for our members and alums in Michigan, and we were honored to play a role in expanding abortion access for Michiganders.

Guided by our mission and rooted in our commitment to advocate for reproductive justice, MSFC is prepared to meet and overcome all challenges. MSFC has connected future physicians with abortion and family planning training for over 30 years, and we will continue to do so in the future.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela Merritt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Pamela Merritt
Executive Director

Conference on Family Planning

The annual Conference on Family Planning (CoFP) provides attendees with the unique opportunity to network with expert faculty, receive high-quality evidence-based clinical education not typically offered in medical school curricula, enhance their technical skills by participating in interactive hands-on training simulations, and engage with other pro-choice medical students and residents who are passionate about abortion care and family planning.

In 2024, the Conference on Family Planning (2024 CoFP) was held in person on December 7th and 8th, 2024, in Denver, Colorado, under the theme “**Bridging Divides, Sparking Connections: The Power of Community**” which focused on the purpose of engaging our members with the pro-choice community and sparking new connections to bridge divides in reproductive health, equity, and justice through medical student education, training, and advocacy.

This conference welcomed **209 conference attendees**, including **109 medical students representing 56 medical schools** and **8 residents representing 5 residency programs**. A total of **68 medical students received hands-on training in Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA)**, while **66 medical students received hands-on training in IUD placement**. And **20 MSFC alumni participated in the conference** as board members, faculty, and exhibitors.

The keynote speaker was Sarah Warbelow, Vice President of Legal with the Human Rights Campaign. The keynote address, “**Dobbs’ Spreading Tentacles: The Impact on the LGBTQ+ Community**,” provided an overview of the red flags raised in the Dobbs decision with respect to LGBTQ people and explored the recent legal and cultural landscape, applying Dobbs to gender affirming care and family planning. The plenary address “**Who Is the Patient? Understanding Fetal Personhood after Dobbs**” featured **Jessica Mason Pieklo** and **Imani Gandy** of **Rewire News Group**. Their session explored how the Dobbs decision amplified the threat of fetal personhood, where the issue stands in the courts and legislatures, implications on the delivery of care, and

what paths forward exist. The **MSFC Chapter Success Stories session** and **Student Poster Presentation session** highlighted the vital work of MSFC chapter members in alignment with our mission.

Conference program sessions addressed issues of advocacy, medical ethics, abortion training and access post-Dobbs, pregnancy and abortion criminalization, and self-managed abortion. Attendees were able to network and share ideas with medical students from MSFC chapters throughout the US, as well as connect with current abortion providers, residency programs, and pro-choice organizations at the speaker panels and exhibit tables.



I loved being able to network with other medical students, hear from abortion providers but also hear from people outside of the medical community. I feel like I learned so much and got a lot of insight on how to be a better doctor for my patients.

2024 Conference Attendee



Abortion Training Institutes

In 2024, MSFC HQ hosted one in-person Abortion Training Institute in Philadelphia, PA, and two Virtual Abortion Training Institutes held via Zoom. Notably, **CNN Digital Video** was invited to observe the in-person Abortion Training Institute. With the consent of attendees, they conducted interviews and recorded footage for a segment on abortion training in the post-Dobbs landscape.

MSFC’s In-person Abortion Training Institute (In-person ATI) provides medical students with an intensive, weekend-long educational opportunity to learn about abortion and family planning in a small group environment using didactic and interactive sessions with self-paced, hands-on training simulations. The In-person ATI program includes **values clarification, abortion in the first and second trimesters, advocacy training, and a provider panel**. Medical students have the opportunity to engage with abortion providers who have familiarity and experience with the unique challenges of providing abortion care in abortion restrictive and hostile states throughout the U.S.

Eligibility for the In-person ATI was limited to medical students attending schools in the following abortion-hostile states: **Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.** All accepted students received full funding, including travel reimbursement, meals, and lodging for the duration of the event.

MSFC's Virtual Abortion Training Institute (Virtual ATI) was condensed from the weekend-long in-person event to a one-day virtual event. The Virtual ATI program includes **values clarification, medical and surgical abortion in the first trimester, advocacy training, and a provider panel.** Medical students have the opportunity to engage with abortion providers who have familiarity and experience with the unique challenges of providing abortion care in abortion-restrictive and abortion-hostile states throughout the U.S. Accepted students receive an **MSFC training kit** with supplies to practice dilation and MVA (manual vacuum aspiration) techniques on a papaya model.

A combined ATI application process was used, and **63 applicants** responded, all of whom were accepted and selected to participate according to their preferences; however, two applicants opted to decline their spots. Of the 63 accepted medical students, **42 attend medical schools in the abortion-hostile** states listed above. Of the 61 medical students who accepted their spots, 57 attended, and those who did not attend cancelled due to exposure to Covid-19 or due to unexpected events.



I am extremely grateful to MSFC and their donors for allowing us to take advantage of this opportunity. A lot of us, even in non-restrictive states, barely have any discussion of abortion during school. This can permeate into training. Not only does this make me feel more competent and prepared to have these hard discussions with my future patients and provide compassionate, safe, nonjudgmental care, but it also provides opportunities to form relationships with students who think like me, pursue advocacy opportunities, and connect us with mentors who can answer questions for us when they arise. I feel empowered and inspired after today to be the best healthcare provider I can be and to provide all my future patients with the care that they deserve.

2024 ATI Attendee



Regional Meetings: Arizona Chapters

In March 2024, medical students from across Arizona came together for a statewide meeting hosted by the MSFC chapter at the **University of Arizona.** The event brought together students from five medical schools across the state for an afternoon of abortion education and organizing. The University of Arizona invited **Dr. Jennifer Lincoln** to speak about how to advocate for abortion access from within any and every medical specialty. Even in a hostile state, medical students are showing up to make sure they can best serve their patients and communities.

Dr. Lincoln's lecture reminded students that abortion care is health care and that providing comprehensive, evidence-based counseling is not only legal, but it's an ethical responsibility of all physicians. The message was especially impactful given Arizona's increasingly hostile legal landscape, where abortion access continues to be restricted through confusing, harmful laws.

Despite the challenges and being in an abortion-hostile state, medical students are showing up to make sure they can best serve their patients and communities. Students left the meeting more informed to push back against stigma and stand up for their future patients. It's important for doctors to talk about abortion access as part of comprehensive counseling for our patients, no matter where they work and practice.



Dr. Jennifer Lincoln's lecture with Arizona MSFC Chapters.

Student Activism for Abortion Access

In April 2024, the MSFC chapter at the **University of Connecticut** had the honor of receiving the **Ellen Paradise Fischer Award for Activism in Action** for their work in reproductive justice. Based at UConn Health in Farmington, the chapter is made up of around 30 members. The award was given by **Reproductive Equity Now**, an organization that is dedicated to advancing reproductive justice and eliminating barriers to safe, legal abortion care for all in New England. The UConn chapter received the award for the work they have completed through their partnership with the **REACH Fund**, Connecticut's abortion fund.

UConn MSFC President Claire Surkis shared that the group was deeply honored to receive this recognition. In addition to fundraising efforts, the chapter has worked alongside Reproductive Equity Now to provide testimony at the Connecticut state legislature and hosted several educational events focused on IUD insertions and aspiration abortion procedures.



UConn Medical Students for Choice members accept the Ellen Paradise Fisher Award for Activism in Action at the Reproductive Equity Now 2024 Gala in Boston.



UConn Medical Students for Choice chapter members with Liz Gustafson (left), Reproductive Equity Now CT state director.

"We partnered with the Wesleyan Doula Project this year and got seven of our medical students trained as abortion doulas, and so we are thrilled about that," Surkis said. "What that entails is having some of our med students go into clinics to provide emotional support for patients who are going through their procedure."

Looking ahead, the chapter aims to grow its reach and create more opportunities for fellow medical students to engage in reproductive justice work, especially through hands-on education and partnerships.

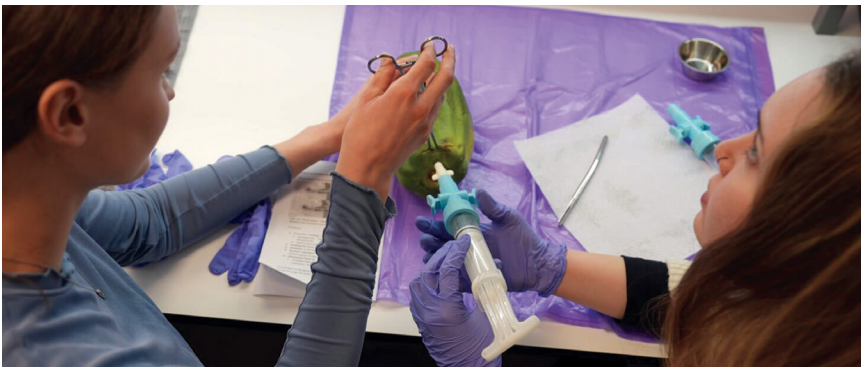
"The goal that we have going forward that we haven't been able to achieve yet is trying to get more education about reproductive justice in the med school curriculum, because we think it's really, really important," Surkis said. "We're essentially a bunch of medical students who really care a lot about reproductive justice and want to see reproductive justice in our community and in our clinics and try to educate our peers about these things".

Student Challenges

While growth is still underway, we ensure that students share the challenges they face while organizing and training. Below are some of the recurring difficulties identified, which will inform our approaches moving forward. Please read below for examples of specific chapters and what they are facing.

- In **Houston**, a medical school is facing difficulties with their administration, which has suddenly canceled any campus chapter events. Chapter members are starting a petition, and we will monitor the situation for escalation. MSFC HQ connected them with the Abortion Defense Network to help build partnerships and resources.
- At the **Medical University of South Carolina**, abortion education has been significantly reduced in the curriculum. The chapter has continued to host events, including a Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) workshop, an IUD workshop, and several lectures on abortion access and advocacy in South Carolina, and in the early stages of working on curriculum reform.”
- In **Washington D.C.**, a medical school faced difficulties recruiting leadership and organizing events in 2024. MSFC HQ shared the safety guide and additional resources and arranged a strategy call with former chapter leaders.

While this is not an exhaustive list of all the challenges medical students face, some important lessons have informed how the future of this work looks at MSFC. Despite struggles to work within the limitations of current medical school administrations and facing leadership challenges, it is encouraging to see chapters continue to prioritize long-term work.



Voices of our Student Leaders

Throughout the year, chapters work to bring students together for training and learning opportunities. These events are crucial during times of uncertainty, as they help educate students about new practices and policies and continue to provide training. With MSFC chapters hosting 2676 events in 2025, we saw a significant increase from the previous year. Below are a few examples of events held by MSFC.

FLORIDA

The **University of Florida College of Medicine** hosted a vasectomy talk and workshop where the facilitator discussed the relative costs of vasectomies vs. tubal ligations, among other queries the medical students had. This was followed up by performing the NSV workshop.

GEORGIA

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership hosted a reproductive rights update and Q&A with a facilitator who led them through the history of reproductive rights in the US and Georgia, as well as what students can do to advocate for reproductive rights in GA. Students also wrote postcards to their elected officials in support of access to reproductive healthcare.

TEXAS

The **University of Texas Medical Branch** hosted a virtual talk on ‘State Power in Texas’ and the ‘Fight for Access to Sexual and Reproductive Care.’ A scholar-activist hosted the talk to discuss the political climate in Texas. Columbia MSFC collaborated with the Family Medicine Interest Group to host an event on the various types of IUDs and their insertion procedures, as well as conducting an IUD workshop.

OHIO

Ohio State University hosted Dr. Maria Phillis, who gave a talk about the history of abortion laws in the U.S. and how policy has changed in the past few decades.

RHODE ISLAND

Brown University held a “Why I Provide Panel” in which local providers answered questions about providing abortion care. They shared personal experiences, challenges, and motivations for doing this work in a turbulent political climate.

Media and Outreach

Throughout 2024, MSFC made multiple significant media appearances that helped spread our story to a broader community. Being able to share our story with a wider audience has been beneficial in deepening the understanding of what medical students face with restrictions on abortion training.

Below are descriptions of some key places where MSFC's work has been highlighted and how this has resulted in a broadening of the community and increased support for medical students seeking training. With the current climate restricting abortion training, making sure that folks understand that abortion access is not solely legislation, but also access to training, is a vital piece of this work.

CNN Digital Video: With permission from our participants, CNN featured one of MSFC's Abortion Training Institutes in a video session explaining the work that we do and why medical students are critical to the future of abortion care. This feature provided significant visibility to MSFC, which is especially beneficial, as not every medical student is aware that these training opportunities are available.

Everybody's Fight: An In Bloom Series: Do No Harm: This Paramount Plus documentary outlines a variety of changemakers and justice seekers fighting for access to reproductive healthcare in a post-Dobbs United States. This documentary features **MSFC Executive Director Pamela Merritt** and tells the story of her activism. Being highlighted by such a significant platform was an excellent way to share our story with a broader audience and showcase Pamela's place in this movement.

While we continue to see MSFC leadership and medical students featured and quoted regularly in different media, these are some of our largest platforms on which we've been featured. Which, in turn, has benefited how we can disseminate our story.



2024

BY THE NUMBERS

275 chapters in **25** countries held **2,676** educational events for their classmates and communities.



31 chapters engaged in curriculum reform efforts.

117 attendees joined us at the Conference on Family Planning.



57 students attended our **3** Abortion Training Institutes to safely learn about abortion.

93 medical students and residents received funding to get training in clinical settings through the Reproductive Health Externship.



MSFC provided chapters with supplies for **2,676** training workshops on vacuum aspiration abortion, IUD insertion, and No-Scalpel Vasectomy.

Foundation Supporters

2024

Anonymous

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Thank you to each and every donor who contributed to MSFC this past year. We could not continue this work without your generosity and support.

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2024 - 2025

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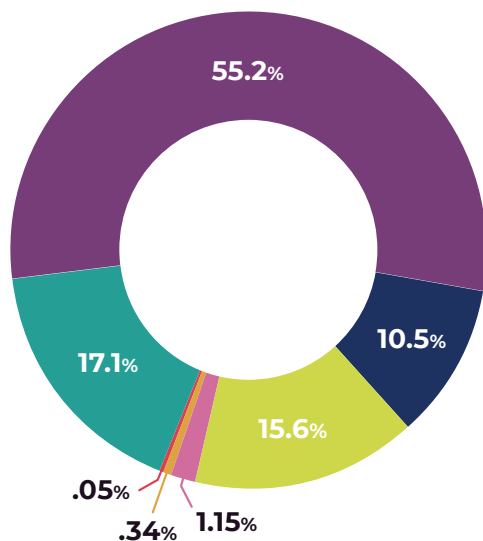
Melissa Torres-Montoya, JD, MPH
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Financial Statement

2024

INCOME

Individual and Trust Contributions	\$ 424,199
Foundation Grants	\$ 1,366,582
Investment Income	\$ 258,853
Net Gain/(Loss) on Investments	\$ 386,376
Meetings Registrations	\$ 28,399
In-Kind Donations	\$ 8,475
Other Income	\$ 1,253



Total Income

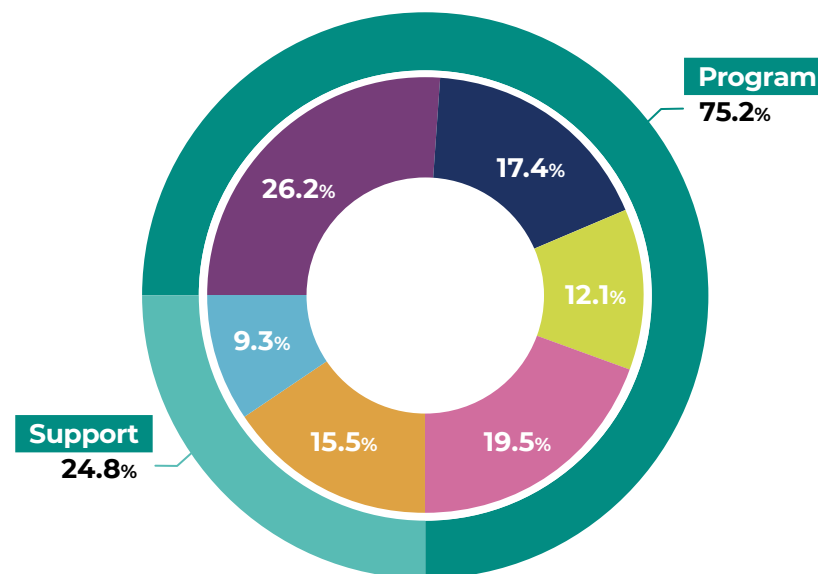
\$ 2,474,137

Total Net Assets

\$ 6,958,851

EXPENSES

Student Organizing	\$ 443,996
Conferences and Meetings	\$ 295,041
Reproductive Health Externship	\$ 204,752
Outreach and Communication	\$ 330,270
Management and General	\$ 262,219
Fund Development	\$ 157,231

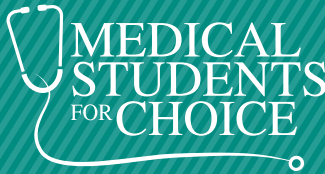


Total Expenses

\$1,693,508

THANK YOU!

We are profoundly grateful to our dedicated partners, supporters, and incredible medical students who fuel boundless energy into advancing our mission. Your ongoing support in promoting reproductive health education, expanding access, and defending reproductive freedom is essential to our work. Thank you for standing with us and helping create lasting change.



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