



ISPOG

International Society of Psychosomatic
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHOSOMATIC OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
Meeting of the Executive Committee, 2015
MINUTES

Date: Monday 5 October 2015
Time: 1300-1700 hours
Location: Vancouver Convention Centre, West Building, Level 3, Room 306

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting opened at 1310 hours

2. Apologies:

Kamile Kukulcu (Turkey), Pauline Slade & Shaughn O'Brien (JPOG Editors, United Kingdom), Peter Szevérynyi (Hungary), Kiyoshi Takamatsu (Japan) and Klaas Wijma (Sweden)

Present

Barbara Maier (Austria); K Marieke Paarlberg (Netherlands); Dov Feldberg (Israel); Susan Carr (Australia); Heribert Kentenich (Germany); Jonathan Schaffir (USA); Shari Lusskin (USA); Vislava Globevnik Velikonja (Slovenia); Tak Kim (Korea); Justo Allonso (Uruguay); Leroy Edozien (UK); Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland); Carlos Damonte Khouri (Spain); Heather Rowe (Australia); Chiara Benedetto (last few minutes).

3. Minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee of the ISPOG Glasgow 2014

Moved CD Seconded HR **Accepted**

4. Matters arising not elsewhere on agenda

Proposal for reduced fees for trainee members of national member societies.

Debbie Tucker (NASPOG) has been advised that ISPOG does not have two membership categories. The €8 ISPOG fee is for ordinary (full paying) members and ISPOG fees should be calculated on numbers of full paying memberships. It was pointed out that only paying members have voting rights.

5. Condolences Lázár Levente 1974-2015

The ISPOG Executive Committee record the untimely death of our esteemed colleague and friend Dr Lázár Levente and recognise the outstanding contribution to ISPOG through his work as a Board member and through his development and management of the ISPOG website and electronic educational platform.

Moved CD Seconded HR **Accepted**

A minute's silence was observed.

6. President's report

Starting with the last Glasgow Ex Co Meeting Scotland 2014 May 7-10th Glasgow, EBCOG (European Ob Gyn Board and College) Congress.

Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin conducted a very interactive Workshop, we offered a Symposium, had our Ex Co Meeting (as reported in the ExCo 2014 Minutes) and held a very important meeting between both ISPOG and EBCOG Boards, and are now one of the Societies that gives support to EBCOG. Prof Chiara Benedetto (past) and Tahir Mahmood (present president) were very receptive and proposed that we add our views to the EBCOG Standards of Care Document, which we did. ISPOG will participate in the Continuous Professional Development, European Board Certified Exam and Book for the Residents in Ob Gyn for the 33 member countries.

We will work for having mutual participation in the next EBCOG and ISPOG International Congresses both in May 2016.

Portugal: May 28th Lisbon. European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESCRH) Congress.

Together with Sibil Tschudin and our Secretary General Heather Rowe we were speakers in a joint pre-congress Symposium together with the Portuguese National Gyn Society (SPG) and the local organizers after a link made through Johannes Bitzer, ex ISPOG President and immediate past ESCRH President.

The presentations were interdisciplinary and we had half of the time dedicated to open discussion concerning the biopsychosocial approach to contraception concerning a difficult case study of abortion counseling brought by Prof Tschudin.

Scotland: June 14-18th, Edinburgh, WAIMH (World Association for Infant Mental Health) Congress

Together with Prof Martin Saint André representing Prof Miri Keren (WAIMH President) we organized a joint symposium WAIMH- French Marcé-ISPOG, with an excellent participation and exchange of views that evidently shows overlapping fields of interest between the three societies.

The French case deserves some explanation: we have many French-speaking members, mainly gynecologists who are not assisting deliveries or performing gynecologic surgery, known as "Medical Gynecology". The Society is recognized but independent of the French Ob Gyn College (CNGOF). Now the French College has agreed to have a Commission on POG starting before the end of 2015

Spain: May: Madrid (National POG Congress). A neonatologist participated for the first time with the aim of starting a Psychosomatic Perinatology group that will be conducted by Prof Ernesto Gonzalez Mesa, local organizer of our next Congress in Málaga.

June: In Bilbao (Spanish National Menopause Congress) meetings took place with Prof Camil Castelo Branco, the chairman of CAMS (the Council of Affiliated Menopause Societies). He and Rod Baber (IMS president) have supported that ISPOG will give a session in the next World Congress on the Menopause, Prague 2016.

A new online Course on POG has been published in the SEGO (Spanish Ob Gyn National Society) Virtual Campus. A national survey on the opinion and suggestions of the SEGO members (including Residents and midwives) on POG is taking place with excellent preliminary results indicating there is a demand for more psychosomatic and psychosocial education in all Spanish regions. Workshops are taking place in some hospitals, which are proving to be an excellent way of showing practical everyday use of POG skills.

National Spanish POG Congress in Málaga is the same dates as the International SPOG congress.

Brazil: (Sao Paulo 4 to 6th/Sept 2014)

In Brazil, 200 million inhabitants, there is a Federation of Ob Gyn Societies.

Sao Paulo State, 44 million inhabitants has the biggest Ob Gyn Society within the country, SOGESP; its congress Sept 2014 had 8500 registrations (biggest in the Brazilian history the president said) and I was one of four foreign speakers, and Psychosomatics was one of the "Top Themes"

Joseh Carlos Riechelmann, Ob Gyn, nowadays director of a group of hospitals in Sao Paulo area, is also a member of the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine. The next Congress is in August and he will act as a link between ISPOG and this Society. Riechelmann and Alexander Faisal Cury, already known by his activity in the area, (he chaired two symposia in Venice and Berlin ISPOG Congresses), are initiating an initiative to have a Brazilian POG Society.

France: Clermont-Ferrand, 25- 27th September 2014

The Colloque : LA CLINIQUE CONTEMPORAINE, was about the difficulty of working as a practicing doctor today, organized by Dr Marie Elizabeth Sanselme-Cardenas , a gynecologist – sonologist and psychoanalyst, founder of the Psychoanalysis and Medicine French Society

Russia: Ekaterimburg Sept30st-Oct 1st 2014

Because of the economic and cultural changes, Government and the Ob Gyn Societies encourage ART (Medically Assisted Fertility). Thanks to our Israeli Member Society President, Dov Feldberg, well known in Russia, I could explain the importance of POG in Ekaterimburg (third Russian City, very prosperous, 1,4 million people) and Viktor Radzinsky, Ob Gyn Professor in one of the two Moscow Universities, Peoples Friendship University).

Sochi, 5-7 Sept 2015 All Russian Ob Gyn Congress. As a result of this congress a Russian POG Society will be created in Moscow, a representative (George Totchiev) is already named and they want to join ISPOG. Very possibly a psychosomatic session will be included in a perinatology Congress in St Petersburg Feb 20th 2016.

Brussels: November 12th 2014

Launch of EBCOG's Standards of Care for Women's Health in Europe, in the European Parliament – The Standards of Care focus on the safety, care, dignity and treatment of women, ISPOG was there to reinforce the importance of our engagement in the process of introducing these psychosocially-oriented standards in the Health Education and Public Health Policies across Europe.

Lebanon: Beirut 27-29 Nov 2014

This Pan Arabic Psychiatric Conference had a Perinatal Symposium chaired by Josyan Madi-Skaff, Lebanese psychiatrist interested in the Perinatal Gynecology-Psychiatry interface and her request encouraged an informal first survey.

Our contact persons in some of the ISPOG member societies reported the local situation. Broadly speaking the majority of countries, including the developed ones do not have this interdisciplinary work on a regular basis, only as individual initiatives. The Perinatal Section of the World Psychiatric Association WPA and ISPOG will hopefully work together for a change to a more integrated practice in this field, something started with the link with Marcé and WAIMH.

The Lebanese National Ob Gyn Society president Prof Wadih Ghaname was interested in having a POG group of work within the society but so far there has been no progress in this sense. They will have a POG Symposium in their 2016 National Congress.

2015

The policy of encouraging the creation of new Societies and strengthening of existing ones went on and I have participated as an invited speaker in the following Congresses

Spain:

- a. Valencia. ASMI (Spanish WAIMH) Master in Perinatal Psychology Feb 2015. For the 3rd consecutive year together with a Neonatologist from ASMI we offer an overview of how to work with interdisciplinary colleagues. This work was shown in the Spanish Ob Gyn National Congress.
- b. Madrid 21st-22nd May 2015 Progress on Linking with IMS and EMAS, the two most important Menopause societies, in order to participate and advertise mutually in the next Congresses.
- c. Madrid 22nd May 2015. 12 de Octubre Hospital Madrid, interdisciplinary meeting around Fertility care and "designer babies", organized by the Spanish Psychoanalysis and Medicine Network. They will participate in Málaga 2016.
- d. Within the Bilbao SEGO National Congress 2015 we had a POG full day program, with the participation of OB Gyns, Psychiatrists, Neonatologists, Family Doctors and Chiara Benedetto, immediate past president of EBCOG.

Japan : Tokyo 22-25th March 2015 (IAWMH Congress)

The International Association for Women's Mental Health Tokyo March

Almost the entire Board were present and participated in a program of presentations, meetings and other activities.

We were warmly welcomed by our Japanese colleagues Professor Hideo Honjo and Professor Kiyoshi Takamatsu. The Japan POG symposium entitled 'Problems of modern working women/ How are they going to challenge it?' was an excellent demonstration of the strength of the JSPOG and their commitment to multidisciplinary approaches to women's mental health in Japan.

We went on with our links with the IAWMH executive, the director of the Women's Mental Health Section of the World Psychiatric Association, and the WAIMH President. It was resolved to pursue mutual promotion and support joint ventures including Position Papers and a joint special issue of JPOG on perinatal mental health. In the meantime we don't have an ISPOG Perinatal Committee, the Sec Gen will keep the links.

ISPOG's **Symposium** entitled 'Communicating about difficult topics in obstetrics and gynaecology', chaired by Professor Toshiko Kamo (Japan) and Dr Heather Rowe (Australia) included Prof Pauline Slade UK; Dr Heather Rowe, Dr Reiko Ohkawa (Japan), Dr Carlos Damonte Khoury (Spain); Prof Jane Fisher (Australia) and Dr Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland). It finished with a case-based workshop discussion.

Dr Vivian Pramataroff (Germany) presented the **Workshop** 'A Balint Group at Work', which was very well attended and received.

Italy. Torino may 29th 2015 Italian-Spanish POG encounter.

Chaired by Chiara Benedetto (Immediate Past President of EBCOG) and myself, this meeting encouraged the rebuilding of the Italian POG Society, SIPGO. Prof Rosella Nappi the nowadays SIPGO President will recover the internal promotion of POG activity, be active in our Málaga Congress and will be the contact person between our organization and the international Society of Gynecological Endocrinology ISGE.

Utrecht, the Netherlands

On June 11th, 2015, the scientific meeting of the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) was held at the University Medical Centre Utrecht, the Netherlands. Sibil Tschudin and Marieke Paarlberg gave two workshops of 3 hours. They had such a positive feedback that was given again as a pre-congress course here in Vancouver.

I also attended the EBCOG Council meeting the following day, discussed collaborations with members of the EBCOG and ENTOG Boards and advertised ISPOG for the National Ob Gyn Societies that do not have a POG Society yet.

7. Secretary General's report

It has been a busy 17 months since my last report in Glasgow. The Board of Officers has met regularly by Skype and has been involved in numerous activities with the aim of raising ISPOG's profile internationally, contributing psychosomatic perspectives to other relevant professional bodies, encouraging national societies and assisting new POG societies to form (we owe a debt of thanks to Carlos Damonte Khoury for his tireless efforts in this regard), and attending to the day-to-day running of the society.

Passing of Dr Lázár Levente

On behalf of the members of ISPOG, flowers and a card were sent to his widow Dr Eva Lázár-Cseke and her children. A link to his memorial Facebook page was set up on the ISPOG website. Condolences were received from Dalia Merari (Israel), Susan Carr (Australia), Jonathan Shaffir (USA), María Rosa Crespo García (Meet & Forum Madrid), Kiyoshi Takamatsu (Japan), Chiara Benedetto EBCOG (Italy), Klaas Wijma (Sweden) and Leroy Edozien (United Kingdom).

Website

The sudden death of Levente led to a large vacuum on the Board because he was very active and generous with his time. He provided extensive expertise to ISPOG at no cost. We undertook some necessary detective work to gain access to the ISPOG website and were generously assisted by a relative of Dr Marieke Paarlberg. We transferred the hosting to a UK company (*Literate Systems*) and Bianca Scarlett has undertaken day-do-day management since. This has involved substantial additional work which will be reflected in an increased cost for Secretariat this financial year. There is a need to migrate the website to a simpler platform so that maintenance is an easier and less time-consuming task. Bianca Scarlett is seeking access to the ISPOG Facebook account. A replacement Board member with the necessary skills is being sought to manage ISPOG's online presence in the future.

ISPOG Additions to EBCOG Standards of Care

At the invitation of Professors Chiara Benedetto and Tahir Mahmood, contributions to the EBCOG Standard of Care were made. The Standards were discussed at the European Parliament in November 2014 with ISPOG President Damonte Khoury in attendance.

Endorsement of Marcé position paper

Following the decision of ExCo in Glasgow, ISPOG endorsed the International Marcé Society's Position Paper on psychosocial screening in the perinatal period.

The journal JPOG

A contract for 2015-2016 was negotiated with InformaHealth and signed on 31 October 2014.

Taylor & Francis publishing house has since acquired InformaHealth, including JPOG. The conditions of the contract remain unchanged, including the reduced-rate online journal subscription fee for ISPOG members. There has been a smooth transition under the guidance of Dr Jutta Mackwell, Managing Editor, Medicine & Health Science Journals. We have worked closely with her to make changes to both websites to reflect the relationship between JPOG and ISPOG and to make the subscription process simpler and clearer.

The transition is now almost complete and country contacts will be notified of specific changes in due course. Individuals with JPOG accounts have already been notified.

Ambassadorial activities

The board remains committed to promoting ISPOG in other relevant professional societies. An invitation to all national societies seeking members to submit proposals to present papers in ISPOG symposia was sent.

ISPOG has presented workshops or symposia or both in a range of conferences including EBCOG Glasgow May 2014; ESC Lisbon May 2014; a joint Marcé-ISPOG symposium at the World Association of Infant Mental Health Edinburgh June 2014; the International Association of Women's Mental Health Tokyo March 2015. Members who have presented include Carlos Damonte-Khoury (Spain), Marieke Paarlberg (The Netherlands), Sibyl Tschudin (Switzerland), Heather Rowe (Australia) Pauline Slade (UK), Dov Feldberg (Israel), Barbara Maier (Austria), Jane Fisher (Australia), Reiko Ohkawa (Japan).

During the IAWMH congress in Tokyo March 2015 very cordial and productive meetings were held between the ISPOG Board (CD MK ST and HR) with executive members of the International Marcé Society, World Association for Infant Mental Health and IAWMH where collaboration and mutual promotion and cooperation were agreed.

Yesterday we held a pre-conference workshop at FIGO entitled 'Dealing with difficult patients' facilitated by Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin and assisted by Linda Herberich and Heather Rowe. We had advised the FIGO congress secretariat that there was a cap of 50 participants. However, more than 70 participants had registered and paid but only 25 attended, which is about the right number for successful interaction.

Two symposia are scheduled in the main FIGO program organised by Jonathan Shaffir. Presenters are Carlos Damonte-Khoury (Spain), Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland), Barbara Maier (Austria), Justo Alonso, (Uruguay), Shari Lusskin (USA), Heribert Kantenich (Germany), Susan Carr (Australia), Meir Steiner (Canada).

Symposia and workshops are planned for ESC Basel May 2016, EBCOG Istanbul May (now in torino Italy) 2016 and International Menopause Society Prague September-October 2016. Planning is in process for the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health Melbourne October 2016. The International Association for Women's Mental Health Dublin will be held in Ireland in March 2017.

Members are very welcome to become involved in these activities either by joining a planned symposium or by proposing a new one or another conference. Suggestions are welcome. Justo Allonso (Uruguay) has proposed an ISPOG symposium at the next World Congress on Perinatal Medicine in Asuncion, Paraguay 2016.

Newsletters

Two newsletters have been sent to national societies. The November 2014 issue was edited by Levente and is available on the ISPOG website. The June 2015 issue was edited by Heather Rowe and designed by Bianca Scarlett. The June issue will be available on the website after the website upgrade.

We welcome items of interest and news from national societies in order to make the Newsletter newsworthy and of interest to members.

Flyer

The ISPOG promotional flyer was updated and re-printed. The pdf file is attached to the Minutes.

2016 18th International ISPOG Congress in Málaga

Active promotion and advertising through other societies has been undertaken as well as liaison with the conference organisers and national societies submitting symposia.

2019 19th International ISPOG in Seoul

We have maintained communication with our South Korean colleagues.

2022 20th International ISPOG Congress

A call for expressions of interest for hosting the 2022 ISPOG congress was circulated to member countries.

Communications with national societies

Updates, newsletters, calls for payment of membership dues (March and July 2015), calls for host countries for 2022 congress, calls for nominations for office bearers. We rely in country contacts passing on our communications to their members and **keeping Bianca Scarlett up-to-date with contact details of the contact person.**

It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with such a dedicated and committed group of colleagues.

8. Treasurer's report

Prof Barbara Maier presented the Treasurer's Report. The accounts were last audited in March 2015 for the period January to December 2014. ISPOG continues to be financially sound. Member countries paid for 2015: Spain (31 members); Japan (201); South Korea (102); Netherlands (118); Germany (693); Italy (63); Israel (25). Some countries have not yet paid because local 2015 membership fees are not yet due.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Prof Maier has tendered her resignation from the position of Treasurer, which has been accepted by the Board. She will be replaced temporarily by Prof Beate Wimmer-Puchinger until a new Treasurer can be appointed at the General Assembly in Malaga 2016. Thank you to Prof Maier for her contribution to ISPOG and to Prof Wimmer-Puchinger for taking responsibility for the Treasurer's duties at short notice.

9. Website

a) Website upgrade

Upgrading the website has been recommended in order to make it easier to use. Two similar quotes have been received (*Techmark*, Australia AUD 3740; *Literate Systems* UK £1700-2000. Decision to be made by Board based on convenience and ease of use of proposed platform.

The meeting resolved to accept either quote on the Board's advice

b) Proposed discussion platform

Deferred because of website upgrade

10. Update on Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology (JPOG)

Report from Joint Editors-in-Chief

1.0 Current Status of JPOG editorial team

The last year has been a phase of change as Sandy Goldbeck –Wood left as Joint Editor in Chief in Dec 2014. After advertisement and discussion with ISPOG, we have been delighted to welcome Shaughn O'Brien, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University of Keele School of Medicine, who joined in May 2015. We were also joined in December 2014 by Helen Spiby, Professor of Midwifery at University of Nottingham. We now are at full complement again and have a strong editorial team ably supported by our excellent managing editor Ms Ingrid Boedker.

Alongside editorial changes, the publication has been taken over by the Taylor & Francis arm of Informa. The link person with the publisher is now Dr Jutta Mackwell, with whom we meet in person biannually to progress the journal.

1.1 Editorial Board

The editors have overseen an updating of the Editorial Board. This has seen the appointment of 3 new members and the retirement of 12 old members. The current board is as follows and meets every three years at the ISPOG conference.

Yael Benyamini, Tel Aviv, Israel

Johannes Bitzer, Basel, Switzerland

Christoph Brezinka, Innsbruck, Austria

Stephanie Brown, Parkville, Australia

Beverly Chalmers, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Deborah da Costa, Montreal, Canada

Robert Edelmann, London, UK

Fabio Facchinetti, Modena, Italy

Jane Fisher, Melbourne, Australia

Myra Hunter, London, UK

Heribert Kentenich, Berlin, Germany

Toine Lagro-Janssen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Cristina Maggioni, Milan, Italy

Dalia Merari, Tel Aviv, Israel

Lex Peters, Leiden, The Netherlands
Jany Rademakers, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Martina Rauchfuss, Berlin, Germany
Helen Spiby, Nottingham, UK
Donna Stewart, Toronto, Canada
Bernhard Strauss, Jena, Germany
Rik van Lunsen, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Klaas Wijma, Linköping, Sweden

2. Journal Issues

2.1 Impact Factor

The impact factor is now 1.89. This is the first time this has been calculated since PS and SGW took over as editors and we are delighted to report that this indicates a 50% rise.

2.2 Submissions

In 2015 to date there have been 90 original submissions from 27 countries. Acceptance rate is around 24%.

2.3 New developments

Articles of particular interest will be selected for press release and tweets.

Special issues covering menopause and premenstrual syndrome are planned over the next 18 months where there will be guest editors, invited contributors and free topic specific submissions. The special issue on menopause will be guest edited by Myra Hunter and Leroy Edozien. The deadline for submissions will be 15 February, 2016.

We wish to increase the number of systematic or narrative reviews and therefore intend to invite reviews.

3. JPOG and the Malaga ISPOG conference

We hope there will be:

- i) a JPOG stand from the publishers
- ii) An Authors workshop with input on writing for journals in general and presentations from the editors, publishers and a round table for questions.
- iii) We are trying to negotiate JPOG publication of abstracts but need further information
- iv) We intend to invite prize winning presentations to submit a full paper (with review but with a label acknowledging the ISPOG prizewinning status of the presentation)

4. ISPOG Chronic Pelvic Pain Protocol Update

We are pleased to say we are very optimistic that a version of this will be published shortly.

5. Requests from the editorial team to the ISPOG Exec Board: *Suggestions from those present were collected for The Editors and will be sent to The Editors*

- (i) Additional statistical reviewers-
- (ii) Suggestions for topics for review articles and offers or nominations of authorship
- (iii) Any other suggestions

Pauline Slade, Shaughn O'Brien, Helen Spiby and Ingrid Bodeker 30/9/15

The meeting expressed its congratulations and support for the excellent work of the Editorial Team

11. Update on 2016 Congress Málaga

Dr Damonte presented a short video about the conference venue, Malaga local attractions and the list of symposia already submitted. The closing date for symposia is 15 October. Dr Damonte reported that there has been a good response to the call for national and other symposia and confirmed that all speakers will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs but that conference registration will be free. The draft scientific program was presented. Symposia have been proposed from 13 countries, several societies and about special interest topics. Proposals for keynote speakers were offered.

There was discussion about the program, the budgetary restrictions, and suggestions for keynote speakers. It is estimated that approximately €1500 will cover the travel and accommodation costs of one keynote speaker. **On behalf of Israel, Prof Feldberg kindly offered to subsidise the costs of one keynote speaker. Other offers are welcome.**

12. 2019 Congress Seoul

A/Prof Kim Tak presented information about Seoul, the Korean Society and Dongguk University, the proposed congress venue in the centre of Seoul. The theme is yet to be decided. A further presentation will be given in Málaga with the draft program and potential keynote speakers. The proposed dates are 9-12 May 2019.

There is a need to attract people from the regions – Korea, NZ, Japan, Australia, China, etc. Professor Tony Chung (Hong Kong) regularly attends ISPOG congresses and is an important bridge with China.

Fostering the relationship between the ISPOG Board and the Seoul conference organising committee to enable regular updates will be important. Contact will also be through national societies and person to person.

13. 2022 Congress expressions of interest

Professor Leroy Edozien presented an expression of interest on behalf of BSOPGA (United Kingdom). He outlined the attributes of Manchester and Glasgow, the two cities being considered. BSPOGA will make the decision and inform ISPOG in Málaga. Each city has an international airport, there will be financial and technical assistance from the Marketing Bureau and sponsoring opportunities. The decision will be made by members of BSPOGA. PSSPOGA (specialist society of RCOG) will be involved as a sponsor.

14. New Societies in progress

Slovenia Dr Vislava Globevnik Velikonja attended the meeting as an observer and presented information about Slovenia and the history of the POG society. The Slovenian SPOG will be re-formed at a congress in March 2016. A request for ISPOG support and an invitation for ISPOG to participate in a plenary session and workshop at this conference was extended. Dr Damonte warmly welcomed the Slovenian POG Association to ISPOG.

Russia is forming a society from the end of 2015 and it is hoped that a representative will be present at next ExCo. Thanks to Prof Feldberg for his efforts. There is much interest and Professor Victor Radzinski from Moscow University, known to Prof Feldberg, is willing to start the society.

Greece: Assoc. Prof. Konstantinos Dafopoulos (OBGYN) has expressed interest in starting a Greek society but to our knowledge there is no further progress to date.

Croatia: We are in contact with Vesna Gall but did not hear from her about attending this ExCo meeting.

New Zealand Dr Susan Carr (Australia) reported that ASPOG is seeking support from colleagues for New Zealand to join the Australian POG.

15. Nominations for vacancies on ISPOG Board

All positions will become vacant at the General Assembly in Malaga 2016

- a) President Elect: 3 year term
No nominations yet
- b) Secretary General: 3 year term eligible to be re-elected once
Dr Heather Rowe will stand for re-election
- c) Treasurer: 3 year term eligible to be re-elected once
Prof Maier will not stand for re-election. Nomination from German Society Dr Vivian Pramataroff-Hamburger.
- d) Members at Large:
 - o Digital secretary
To work with Secretary General; no nominations yet
Professor Feldberg agreed to investigate a possible replacement for the digital secretary. Someone with O&G specialist knowledge and interest in digital communication to work in conjunction with a technical expert is ideal.
 - o International relations
To work with Immediate Past President, nominated by Israeli POG Professor Dov Feldberg
 - o Education
To work with President, nominated by NASPOG Dr Jonathan Shaffir

Another call for nominations will be sent out with a deadline to be defined.

16. Committees

- a) Education
An Editorial Board was established to oversee content for Web of Knowledge but progress has been interrupted by Dr Lázár's death.
- b) Perinatology
 - Dr Carlos Damonte reported that ISPOG has already begun to link with WAIMH and the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health. Psychiatrists, nurses and midwives will be able to act as a bridge between ISPOG and these societies.
 - Lots of people are involved in this area already; for example, working mostly through, Denisie Defey (Uruguay) 30 years a psychologist, a psychosocial group was established mostly consisting of psychologists. They have introduced into pre-graduate School of Medicine a preparation for O&G practice. It is an education program in perinatal psychology.
 - World congress on Perinatal Medicine in Madrid. Ana Bianchi from Uruguay who is attending is trying to form a chapter of perinatal medicine if all agree. Committee to link with these societies; need societies to agree to have a psychosocial part of their society. Uruguay is the leading country in South America
 - CD proposed that Prof Justo Alonso, Board Member of FIGO, President of POG Society of Uruguay become a member of the ISPOG perinatal committee; other members will also be invited.
- c) Fundraising
Professor Dov Feldberg reported that the results of the work of this committee will be announced in Malaga; donations and invitations are welcome.

Workshops on psychosocial topics presented at other conferences can become a source of revenue for ISPOG in the future. Drs Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin have presented most of workshops to date but they suggested that others could also become involved as Workshop Facilitators. **It was proposed that ISPOG offer 'Train the Trainer' facilitator training, perhaps first in Malaga.** Other potential workshop topics suggested were: anger management for doctors; management of complications and mistakes. It was suggested that involvement be broadened to include nurses and family doctors in addition to OBGYNs and psychiatrists.

17. Invitation from European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESC)

That ISPOG become an affiliate member of ESC

Affiliated members are considered as 'normal' ESC Members with the same rights. However, they profit from a 50% membership fee reduction (only 30 euro instead of 60 euro). They will receive electronic access to the European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care (with IF).

There are no special obligations for your society, except that the membership fees must be collected by your secretariat and paid in bulk to the ESC, together with contact details (name, address and email) of the members and you must have a minimum of 10 members in the group. You can also opt for a 2 year affiliated membership period: from 1 January 2015 till 31 December 2016. The fee for the 2 year affiliated membership equals the normal fee for regular members per year (60 Euro).

Discussion highlighted the difficulties for ISPOG of the necessary responsibility for collecting fees and the practical problems arising from the fact that ISPOG is based on country rather than individual membership. **It was resolved that the offer should be declined and re-considered during the next term after Málaga.** Dr Tschudin will discuss this with Professor Bitzer.

18. News from national societies

Brief reports from national representatives

Austria

Prof Barbara Maier: the 'Gen Y' congress in Vienna is planned for the end of July 2016 in conjunction with the Medical Women's International Association. ISPOG members are invited to attend. www.mwia.net

The Netherlands

Dr Paarlberg: There is a well-established APOG academy 2-day course with workshops, interactions and keynote speakers for training for 50% residents and 50% consultants (n=50 attendees). The next course is planned for early March 2016. Research was conducted with gynaecology residents about secondary victimization. Results were remarkable and will be presented in Málaga. A peer-support network has been established through the Dutch O&G College. The national POG society holds a yearly symposium. The Board now includes some young, active and energetic colleagues.

Israel

Prof Dov Feldberg: The program of the Israeli annual meeting in 2015 included topics on termination of pregnancy at advanced gestational age and a keynote speaker from Texas abortion clinic. For the next meeting in March 2016, surrogacy keynote from New York and panel discussion. Dr Tschudin and Prof Kantenich have been invited to speak about POG aspects of fertility preservation. Research is being conducted to investigate POG aspects of drug treatment during pregnancy and lactation. The society has had input into guidelines prepared by the Israeli Ministry of Health based on work of gynaecologists and psychiatrists who are expert in teratology and proposed speaker on this topic from Toronto to speak in Malaga.

Australia

Dr Susan Carr: The recent annual ASPOG conference was held in Melbourne successfully and the next meeting is to be held in Hobart Tasmania on 29-30 July 2016. All ISPOG members are very welcome to attend and will be invited to speak (www.aspog.org.au).

Germany

Prof Heribert Kantenich: Reported that the good news is that the annual conference is well attended; most recently held in conjunction with Switzerland and Austria. The next meeting is to be held in Hamburg in 2016. The German Ministry of Health and Ministry of Family guidelines will include German society input. National OBGYN societies includes the POG societies in everything. However, the membership of the Society is shrinking (from more than 1000 in the recent past to about 700 now) and young people are not being attracted. Thirty years ago opposition to biological medicine was seen

as an important means of resisting past practices but now POG is just part of 'daily medicine' which can be addressed independently of ISPOG. The mandatory requirement for residents to attend an accredited course (20 hours theory; 20 hours verbal interaction technique and 30 hours practicum) is good but is costly and leads to resistance to POG. The focus in the science has moved to the brain and is now done by neurologists and psychiatrists and not done by psychosomatic OBGYNs. POG does not lead to publications in high impact journals. Attracting young people remains an important problem to be addressed.

(MP suggested a round-table and invite young people to establish what is necessary to attract them. Quality of POG research needs to be improved and conducted in multi-disciplinary teams).

Proposal to have pre-congress meeting in Málaga to plan a strategy to address this problem.

North America

Dr Jonathan Shaffir: a welcome invitation for NASPOG to attend ACOG on 14 May has been received which results in a conflict with attendance at ISPOG in Malaga; decision yet to be made about who will go where. The annual NASPOG meeting will be held on 8-10 April 2016 in New York City and is being organized by Shari Luskin President of NASPOG. ISPOG members are warmly invited. n=100members.

United Kingdom

Prof Leroy Edozien: Britain discussed resistance to POG in Britain but that a breakthrough came with BSPOGA being recognised as a specialist society of RCOG, meaning that 2-4 times per year the College attends meetings with other specialist societies and there are POG symposia at RCOG congresses; for example annual Professional Development Meeting in November, British congress and RCOG joint meeting in 2016. The *biopsychosocial factors in obstetrics and gynaecology* book to be published by CUP in 2016 will raise the profile of BSPOGA. An Advanced Skills Training Module on POG is being developed. A recent editorial in BJOG promoted a biopsychosocial model of care and listed advances in the last couple of years to promote the psychosomatic approach. Symposia and workshops planned in last 12 months will help to get people mobilized; important to train trainees; more difficult to influence older practitioners. For the purposes of ISPOG n= approximately 30 regular paying members; difficult to estimate – people encouraged to join at meetings but renewals do not follow. Difficult to get subscriptions if people can't see much value but if there is a lot of action, for example perinatal mental health group at RCOG membership might grow.

South Korea: 200 members. No further updates.

Switzerland: Continuing with annual conferences and training programs. The President is from the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Italy: Prof Chiara Benedetto, immediate past president of EBCOG offered to remind Prof Rosella Nappi, Italian POG Society President, to contact ISPOG with a view to reforming the Italian society.

Strengthening external relations with international professional organisations and national POG groups, Professor Dov Feldberg (Israel) met with Professor Victor Radzinsky, President of OBGYN Society of Russia, who is very interested in POG. Dr Damonte was invited and attended Ekaterinburg and the Fertility Congress in 2014 and Pan Russia Ob Gyn Congress in Sochi in 2015. There are 40,000 OBGYNs in Russia. Hoping for the best. People are working now towards an Indian FIGO President Elect, who is already a key name. Professor Feldberg will meet this person at FIGO tomorrow to establish a link with India where there are many educated doctors interested in POG.

19. Report of the Board of Fellows

No report

20. Any other business

None

21. Date and venue of next meeting

Prior to the Congress in Malaga. Date, time and venue to be advised.

Close of meeting

1715 hours

Signed



**Dr Carlos Damonte Khoury
President**

Signed



**Dr Heather Rowe
Secretary General**

16 November 2015