



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHOSOMATIC OBSTETRICS AND  
GYNAECOLOGY (ISPOG)  
Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2014**

**Date:** Thursday 8 May 2014  
**Time:** 13.30  
**Location:** Fyne Room; Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre SECC.  
Exhibition Way, Glasgow (Scotland, UK) G3 8YW

**Present:**

1. Present  
Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland) Marieke Paarlberg (Netherlands) Pauline Slade (UK, Editor JPOG) Vivian Pramataroff (Germany) Barbara Maier (Austria) Dov Feldberg (Israel) Carlos Damonte Khoury (Spain) Levente Lazar (Hungary) Heather Rowe (Australia); Mr Leroy Edozien (BSPOGA Chairman Elect, representing Shaughn O'Brien UK); Mary Hepburn (observer UK);
2. Apologies  
Professor Jonathan Shaffir (USA); Professor Hoon Choi (Korea); Professor Shaughn O'Brien (UK); Dr Dalia Merari (Israel); Professor Klaas Wijma (Sweden, President Board of Fellows)
3. Minutes from the ISPOG Executive Committee meeting Berlin 2013.  
Accepted
4. Matters arising, not elsewhere on the agenda  
None
5. President's report

**International activities after Berlin:**

**USA:**

Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin were active in the NASPOG congress. Prof. Jonathan Schaffir will chair our SPOG Committee for FIGO 2015 in Vancouver. Good contacts with Marcé Society representatives were held there.

**France:**

The French Ob Gyn College CNGOF has agreed to have a Commission on Psychoanalysis and Psychosomatics similar to the Spanish Section of the national Ob Gyn Society (SEGO). I had a personal meeting with the president Prof Hedon and he confirmed they are progressing to finish organization in 2014.

**Portugal:**

ISPOG promoted a joint Symposium with the Portuguese Gynecological Society and the ESCHR that will take place in Lisbon this month.

**Croatia:**

A new POG Society was created recently and ISPOG welcomes them and offers support.

**Italy:** Chiara Benedetto is in good contact with the new President of the POG Society, Rosella Nappi; a joint conference between the Italian and Spanish POG Societies is being programmed for next winter; Andrea Genazzani, the president of the ISPOG Congress in Venice (2010) is in favour of recovering the link between the ISGE and ISPOG. Both actions will help to empower Italian SIPGO again.

**Spain:**

There had been a lot of activity in Spain. I was asked to be a member of the SEGO scientific committee. A national survey 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, and we have an on line course on POG within the SEGO Virtual Campus, which is linked to the South American Ob Gyn Societies. Organizing the Granada 2016 ISPOG international Congress. All member societies are kindly asked to send representatives for the Scientific Committee.

**South America:**

**Uruguay** has an official POG Society from 2014. I was invited to the rebirth of it in Montevideo in an excellent interdisciplinary congress in August 2013. Their President, Prof Justo Alonso is a member of the FIGO board representing South America and will support our educational offer for FIGO. Denise Defey is always promoting psychosocial activities within the Ob Gyn Services in South America.

**Colombia:** There is no society yet but ISPOG gave a Symposium in the FIGO-FLASOG regional Ob Gyn Congress in Cartagena in 2013 and through the SEGO we are encouraging the Ibero-american Ob Gyn Societies to have Psychosocial / psychosomatic sections or chapters.

**Brazil:** It is difficult to progress because Brazil is a huge country. The most important Ob Gyn society is Sao Paulo's. There was a symposium in Sao Paulo society congress of 2013 and it may happen again. Perhaps progress will follow with the help of the Portuguese and Spanish Ob Gyn societies and the on line courses in the Spanish SEGO Virtual Campus.

**Mexico:** The perinatal meeting in Cancun would be excellent encouragement for Mexicans to be involved in ISPOG. It was firstly accepted by the President of the Scientific Committee and we already have colleagues from Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Spain, Austria and Uruguay ready to give a Symposium there. Unfortunately no progress was accomplished so far. It seems we will have to wait for another opportunity.

**Arab Countries:**

Marieke Paarlberg and myself have been invited to a pan Arabic congress by perinatal psychiatrist in Lebanon at end of November. We will recover contacts with interested Egyptian colleagues. I am working for having a meeting on POG in Spain with the participation of Arabic Ob Gyn Societies

**Russia:** Dov Feldberg, the President of Israeli POG Society has arranged the participation of ISPOG in a Russian Ob Gyn congress in Yekaterinburg this year, I will attend.

He also is in good relationship with the next FIGO President, an Indian Gynaecologist, so he will work to encourage an **Indian** POG society

**Links with other International Societies:**

Our Perinatology committee is in formation and we will have a joint symposium with the **WAIMH** and French **Marcé** societies in the WAIMH Edinburgh world congress in June. Barbara Maier and myself are participating.

We are preparing a good educational offer, workshops and symposium for FIGO Vancouver in 2015.

**EBCOG: ([www.ebcog.org](http://www.ebcog.org))**

We have offered to be one of the pillars of EBCOG and are progressing our educational offer for the European Ob Gyn Societies. The EBCOG and ISPOG Boards had a fruitful meeting in Glasgow and the (now) previous President of EBCOG (Prof Chiara Benedetto) and the new President (Prof Tahir Mahmood) are willing to

incorporate our advice in the European Standards of Care, Continuous Professional Development and Book for the Residents in Ob Gyn for the 33 member countries. We will work on the development of this collaboration and this will help also for our involvement and offer for **FIGO**.

**Growth of ISPOG:**

Most of the decisions and activities are discussed in Board Meetings through internet, which permit more productivity, ubiquity and ambassadorial activities.

The growth of the society will be progressed with more committees like the educational and perinatal POG, already established. The Board and Ex Co will propose amendments to ISPOG's Statutes and Rules to the next General Assembly in Granada.

6. Secretary General's report

Thanks to the meticulous record keeping of Pauline Slade and Angie Rollinson, the hand-over to the new Secretary General was smooth. Ms Bianca Scarlett is providing secretariat assistance. The change of office bearers and business address was communicated to authorities in Vienna. The membership database has been kept up-to-date. Thanks to country contact members for keeping us informed of any changes to contact details of member countries. There has been ongoing communication with Levente Lazar (Digital Secretary) regarding improvements to the website and setting up an ISPOG email address.

The Board has met regularly at approximately 2 month intervals throughout the year. Meetings are held via Skype which is a free and efficient means of linking up the board members in six different countries.

ISPOG is requesting that each member country contributes a short (3 minutes) video outlining the local society and recent activities. The intention is to make this available on the ISPOG website to promote the local societies and represent ISPOG and its global activities as fully as possible. This invitation is still open. A sample video from Austria is available on request and Levente Lazar will be glad to answer technical questions.

A significant achievement which builds on the prolonged work of the previous Secretary General Pauline Slade is the signing in December 2013 of the agreement with Informa Healthcare, the publisher of JPOG. The agreement is for reduced subscription access to the on-line version of the journal. The subscription represents very good value for money and provides access to all current and previous content of the journal. Details about access were circulated in April 2014. There appear to be some remaining problems with access and payment of subscriptions. We will keep you informed as this matter is resolved.

A formal process for application for reimbursement of costs associated with ISPOG ambassadorial activities has been instituted. Applications are approved by the Board and reimbursement is made on receipt of a summary report of the activity.

Correspondence:

World Association of Sexual Health

A request for ISPOG's endorsement of the World Association of Sexual Health Position Statement on access to adoption for same sex parents was received. The Board agreed that this is outside ISPOG's remit. The position paper is attached for consideration for endorsement by individual societies.

International Marcé Society

A request for ISPOG's endorsement of the Marcé International Society Position Statement 2013 "Psychosocial Assessment and Depression Screening In Perinatal Women". The Board provisionally endorsed the position paper. The document is attached for consideration by national societies prior to ratification of the Board's decision.

7. Treasurer's report

Barbara Maier presented the Treasurer's Report and audited statement of ISPOG's financial position. The report was accepted. ISPOG continues to be financially sound. Member countries have paid the €8 fee approved by the General Assembly in Berlin in 2013.

Member countries: It was recommended that a list of the numbers of each country society including those who are financial be presented at ExCo 2015. **Action BM**

Estimates were given by those present Australia 50, Spain 50, the Netherlands 130, Switzerland 60, Hungary 150, Austria 200, Israel 300. It was noted that 25 members have one vote.

Secretarial assistance to Treasurer: ISPOG payment of up to a maximum of €1,000 per year for secretarial assistance to the Treasurer was proposed. Dr. Nadja Fritzer is available to fulfil this role. The proposal was accepted and will be put to the General Assembly in 2016 for approval.

The budget for 2014-2015 will need to include an amount for upgrades to the website. LL will advise on quotes for several different options.

There will continue to be an allocation of a maximum of up to €1,000 each per year for the Secretary General and the Digital Secretary.

Amounts for ISPOG ambassadorial expenses can be claimed by Board members according to a standard process. An application with a budget on a standard form for the activity must be approved by two Board members in advance. Reimbursement will occur on receipt of a written report with receipts and approved by two Board members.

8. Reimbursement of travel expenses

A change to the ISPOG Standing Rules for reimbursement of travel expenses for Board members was proposed. The change will formalize the existing process. As agreed at the Rome ExCo, the expenses for the Digital Secretary and one joint Editor in Chief of JPOG will be reimbursed. The proposed change to the Standing Rules will be put to General Assembly in Granada in 2016.

9. Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology (JPOG)

Professor Pauline Slade (Co-Editor) presented a report.

At the previous meeting of ExCo in Berlin Pauline Slade and Sandy Goldbeck-Wood had only recently taken over as Joint Editors in Chief and this transition had been in progress. There had been delays in finalising contracts with Informa which had meant a 3 month phase of very little stewardship which had then taken some time to rectify. Over the past year we have been in the process of updating the editorial board, expanding the pool of reviewers and enhancing statistical review. The updating of the editorial board is ongoing; 84 new reviewers had been recruited and we have a panel of 7-8 statistical reviewers. The submission rate is stable and these have come from 37 different countries. About 50% of papers go out for review. Current initiatives include looking at developing the addition of patient voices to papers where possible, finding a book review editor and commissioning some special issues. Suggestions for special issues with guest editors were made which will be discussed with SGW. PS thanked everyone for their support with the Journal. It was proposed that an auto-reply at submission of papers to JPOG be placed on the journal submission website

(ScholarOne). This will describe ISPOG, and give the ISPOG website link and further information for starting new national societies.

In April 2014, the Editors sent out a call for topics for a special edition of JPOG. Prior to the meeting two ideas were submitted: Education (Jonathan Shaffir) and Chronic Pelvic Pain (Heribert Kantenich). Other ideas are welcome.

10. Update on 2016 Congress (Granada) and 2019 Congress (Seoul)

Granada: The Congress Chair invites national societies to nominate one representative on the Scientific Committee. Nominations will be required by end of June. National symposia are also invited. Vivian Pramataroff kindly agreed to communicate with Heribert Kantenich to ask him to send the schedules and organizing activities of the Berlin congress to Carlos Damonte to assist with planning for Granada.

A proposed conference theme was discussed "Wellbeing for patients and health professionals". Other suggestions are welcome. Please email suggestions to Carlos Damonte ([carlosdamontek@gmail.com](mailto:carlosdamontek@gmail.com)).

Seoul: No representative was present

11. New Societies in progress and South American Initiatives

Please see the President's Report

12. ISPOG ambassadorial activities

NASPOG Columbus Ohio April 2014 <http://www.naspog.org/index.php/annual-meeting> Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin presented a report of their recent attendance at the NASPOG annual meeting. ISPOG's relationship with NASPOG was consolidated. An ISPOG symposium at NASPOG New York April 2016 "Psychological approaches to treatment in pregnancy" was proposed.

European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 7-10 May 2014

<http://www.ebcog2014.org/component/content/?view=featured> Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin presented a pre-conference workshop entitled "Dealing with difficult patients". The workshop was well-attended (25 people) and well received. An ISPOG symposium "Psychosomatics in different obstetric and gynaecological conditions" will be chaired by Chiara Benedetto, EBCOG president, and Carlos Damonte and presented by Dov Feldberg, Pauline Slade, Barbara Maier and Heather Rowe.

European Society for Contraception and Reproductive Health Lisbon 28-31 May 2014.

<http://www.escrih.eu/events/esc-events/2014> A joint ISPOG/Portuguese pre-congress symposium "Psychosomatics in Gynaecology and Reproduction" will be jointly chaired by Johannes Bitzer (President ESC), Carlos Damonte Khoury (ISPOG President and SEGO Delegate) and Fernanda Aguas (SPG President). Participants are Carlos Damonte Khoury, José Martinez-de-Oliveira (SPG), Heather Rowe (ISPOG) and Sibil Tschudin (ISPOG).

World Association of Infant Mental Health Edinburgh 14-18 June 2014.

<http://www.mi-aimh.org/events/WAIMH-Edinburgh> Carlos Damonte will co-chair and Barbara Maier will present in the symposium "Bridging the gap between prenatal and infant mental health practices: A joint ISPOG, Marcé and WAIMH symposium".

FIGO Vancouver 4-9 October 2015. <http://figo2015.com/> Jonathan Shaffir (Immediate Past President NASPOG) has agreed to chair the ISPOG symposium at FIGO and called for presenters and titles (O, G, sexual medicine). The deadline for submission of symposia (four papers or three plus discussion) is 1 September 2014. The Board will send out a call for papers and decide on inclusions; Sibil Tschudin will liaise with Jonathan Shaffir. Sibil Tschudin and Marieke Paarlberg will present a half-day workshop.

International Association for Women's Mental Health Tokyo March 2015.  
<http://www.congre.co.jp/iawmh2015/> An ISPOG symposium will be chaired by Heather Rowe. A call for papers for an ISPOG symposium will be sent out. The deadline for submission of symposia is 15 July.

Members are reminded that ISPOG is unable to pay expenses of participants in symposia.

13. Educational activities

a) Editorial Board

The list of members of the proposed Editorial Board will be finalized by the end of May; ST will re-distribute the list and invite all editors to confirm their willingness to review documents in the field assigned to them. Then they will be provided by Levente Lazar with information about access to and handling of the editorial part of the ISPOG website.

b) Educational activities by internet

This matter was discussed under item 14

14. Webmaster-Digital Secretary

a) ISPOG website. Levente Lazar discussed recent improvements to the ISPOG website including increased functionality, new sections, rapid update of information etc. Some limitations remain and the possibilities for a new provider were discussed. LL will present the options with costings to the Board for consideration.

A proposal to employ someone to do copy editing of material prior to uploading onto the ISPOG website was supported. Pauline Slade will contact Ingrid Boedker to establish whether she is willing to do this work and the hourly rate.

b) Education platform

Levente Lazar presented an overview of the new internet platform for ISPOG's educational activities. It is purpose-built for the sharing of articles, presentations and other educational material that will be freely available worldwide. All material will be reviewed by section editors of the Editorial Board before release. The meeting expressed heartfelt thanks to Levente for the enormous contribution to ISPOG of his work on this initiative.

15. 2022 conference – expressions of interest

A call for venue and organising society for the 2022 ISPOG congress was announced. According to the ISPOG Standing Rules, countries with a national society are eligible to host an ISPOG congress. Expressions of interest, which should include tentative composition of the Organising Committee and the available infrastructure, should be submitted to Bianca Scarlett ([admin@aspog.org.au](mailto:admin@aspog.org.au)). Bids will be reviewed by the Executive Committee in Vancouver in October 2015. The determination will be made at the General Assembly in Granada in 2016.

16. News from national societies

Reports about national conferences and workshops were received from Australia, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, and UK.

National societies are welcome to advertise their local conferences, including presentations and other activities, on the ISPOG website. This is a good way to attract visitors to your country and increase the profile of POG to an international audience.

17. Report of the Board of Fellows

Klaas Wijma, President of the Board of Fellows and the official representative for the Board of Fellows in the Executive Committee was unable to attend the meeting. He sent his apologies and warmest regards to the Executive Committee. The committee would welcome new representatives from national societies. Please send suggestions to Bianca Scarlett.

18. Fundraising sub-committee

Dov Feldberg and Beate Wimmer-Puchinger have established contact and will report

to the next ExCo meeting.

19. Other business

A proposal for reduced fees for trainee members of national member societies was discussed. This will be considered by the Board who will report to the next ExCo meeting


20. Date and venue for next ExCo FIGO 4-9 October FIGO Vancouver, Canada

<http://figo2015.com/>. The precise time and location of the meeting will be advised.

21. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 1730 hours

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Damonte Khoury', written in a cursive style.

Carlos Damonte Khoury  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Rowe', written in a cursive style.

Heather Rowe  
Secretary General

16 July 2014