

November 2014

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ISPOG



President's report



Dear ISPOG members:

As planned, ISPOG Board members have been active and present in the following important meetings:

Austria: In February 12-13th: Vienna:

Our Immediate past president, Marieke Paarlberg gave presentations in the Conference on Cesarean Section organized by our former treasurer Prof Beate Wimmer Puchinger

USA: In April 6th-9th. Columbus. Ohio. Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin, our President Elect, gave presentations on Education and handling of difficult clinical challenges and PTSD following childbirth in the NASPOG National Congress. NASPOG President, Prof. Jonathan Schaffir will chair our ISPOG Committee for FIGO 2015 in Vancouver where we will have our next ExCo Meeting and offer a workshop and a Symposium. We aim to give visibility to our North American affiliate so that the ACOG and SOGC, the Ob Gyn National Societies of the USA and Canada, recognize the importance of psychosocial knowledge, communication skills, and all we may provide as part of the everyday practice of the women's healthcare givers.

Another important feature was the meeting with the American Marcé Society representatives: ISPOG has endorsed the International Marcé Society's Statement about Psychosocial assessment and depression screening in perinatal women (as discussed at the ExCo 2014 and followed up after). There will be participation of the International Marcé Society in our Granada 2016 ISPOG Congress, and a 'Consortium for perinatal mental health and transcultural studies in underprivileged countries' could be another product of this first official exchange.

Scotland May 7-10th Glasgow, EBCOG (European Ob Gyn Board and College) Congress.

Marieke Paarlberg and Sibil Tschudin conducted a very interactive Workshop on 'Dealing with difficult patients', we offered a Symposium, had our Ex Co Meeting (as reported in the ExCo 2014 Minutes) and held a very important meeting with the EBCOG entire Board showing our Education Platform in POG and expressing our willingness to be one of the pillars of the 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 and Book for the Residents in Ob Gyn for the 33 member countries.

We will work for having mutual participation in the 2016 EBCOG and ISPOG International Congresses although unfortunately there is some overlap in the dates.

Prof Chiara Benedetto and I agreed to have a bi national Italy – Spain POG meeting in 2015.

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.

As ISPOG President, I and Spanish delegate Prof José Martinez de Oliveira and Prof Fernanda Aguas (former and present SPG Presidents) exchanged information and suggested procedures on POG Education and inclusion in both national OB Gyn Societies. The presentations were diverse and very interesting. 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 MARCE-ISPOG, with an excellent participation and exchange of views that evidently shows

overlapping fields of interest between the three societies. Strengthening this liaison will influence POG knowledge among health care providers for women and their babies.

In the francophone area, this will be added to the work of the French POG Society lead by Sylvain Mimoun and increase the French speaking countries' contribution to ISPOG.

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 will have a Commission on POG similarly to the SEGO (the Spanish Ob Gyn National Society). I had a personal meeting with the president Prof Hedon in EBCOG Glasgow and he confirmed there is a progress in this sense. The Marcé representatives in the Edinburgh congress and the Association of Medicine and Psychoanalysis are important contributors to this new possibility of POG reaching the rest of Gynecologists and trying to convey the idea of Psychosomatics as a normal basic skill for all women healthcare givers, and not only a subspecialty.

Spain: Madrid, National POG Congress and Bilbao, National menopause Congress.

In Madrid a Neonatologist participated for the first time with the aim of having a psychosomatic Perinatology group.

In Bilbao I had a meeting (Spanish National Menopause Congress) with Prof Camil Castelo Branco, the chairman of CAMS (the Council of Affiliated Menopause Societies). He and Rod Baber (IMS president) are confident that the IMS Board will approve ISPOG to host a session in the next World Congress on the Menopause. I met also Prof Faustino Perez Lopez, Spanish representative of the EMAS (European Menopause and Andropause Society) and offer to participate in the EMAS Congress Madrid 2015 with a Workshop and /or Symposium.

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.

Concerning **ISPOG Congress Granada 2016**, all member societies are kindly asked to send to our Secretary General as soon as possible, the names of each national representatives and proposals for national symposia in English or the local language (like we had in Venice 2010 and Berlin 2013). By the end of 2014 we would like to launch the 2nd announcement with the names of all the components of the International Scientific Committee.

Carlos Damonte Khoury
President of ISPOG

Forthcoming congresses:

➤ **6th World Congress of IAWMH**
2015-(March 22-25, 2015 - Tokyo, Japan
<http://www.congre.co.jp/iawmh2015/>

➤ **23rd World Congress on Psychosomatic Medicine**
August 19-22, 2015 Glasgow, Scotland
<http://www.icpm2015.com>

➤ **XXI FIGO World Congress**
October 4- 9, 2015-Vancouver, Canada
<http://figo2015.com/>

➤ **18th International Congress of the International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology**
19-21 May, 2016, Granada, Spain