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**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHOSOMATIC
OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY**



ISPOG NEWSLETTER

June 2012

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1. Introduction

Dear members of ISPOG. This newsletter is meant to inform you about the recent developments in ISPOG. The last newsletter has been written in August 2011. Since then the ISPOG Board Officers and some more ISPOG members have been again very active in several ways.

2. New national Societies

North American Society of Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology (NASPOG)

Since January 2012, the NASPOG (Mexico, United States and Canada) are back in ISPOG again. In April 2012, an ISPOG delegation has attended the NASPOG congress in Providence, Rhode Island, USA. It was a very interesting congress. And the bond between NASPOG ISPOG representatives has been tied again. At the International ISPOG congress in Berlin 2013 (www.ispog2013.com), NASPOG will be represented.

Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology group in Argentina

Recently, a POG group is established in Argentina. They will function as a working group within the largest Ob/Gyn society of Argentina, the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Organisation of Buenos Aires (SOGIBA, see <http://www.sogiba.org.ar/>). The SOGIBA Board (President Prof. Juan Carlos Nassif) approves the formation of this group within SOGIBA, which will be under the guidance of Dr. Alicia Lapidus and Dr. Eugenia Trumper. President-elect Carlos Damonte and ISPOG President Marieke Paarlberg have visited the SOGIBA congress in Buenos Aires in June 2012 and helped to link SOGIBA and the people of the POG group. In Berlin 2013, this group will be represented as well.

Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology group in Brazil

At the moment, a POG group is established in Brazil. The Sao Paulo organisation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SOGESP), the greatest Ob/Gyn organisation of Brazil (and the main part of the FEBRASGO, which is the Brazilian ObGyn organisation), will (just like in SOGIBA) create a POG society under its wings. The Chair will be Dr. Alexandre Faisal Cury. Approving SOGESP leaders are Prof. César Fernandes and Prof. Paulo Giraldo. President-elect Carlos Damonte and ISPOG President Marieke Paarlberg recently have made appointments about this at the SOGIBA congress in Buenos Aires. In August, ISPOG's ExCo member Sibil Tschudin, will be an invited speaker at the SOGESP congress in Sao Paulo, where she will talk about the further formation of this Brazilian POG group.

3. Elaborating contacts

Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology group in Uruguay

President-elect Carlos Damonte and ISPOG President Marieke Paarlberg have visited ISPOG representative Denise Defey in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is the head of a very active group of Perinatal Mental Health workers who are active in ISPOG. We are very glad that we have already 20 members, thanks to the inspiring and restless work of Denise Defey. ISPOG will continue building bridges, so that the Ob/Gyns feel included in ISPOG. Carlos Damonte and Marieke Paarlberg, as President-Elect and President of ISPOG have held 2 lectures each in the University Hospital Pereira Rossell in Montevideo, which is the largest perinatal hospital in

Uruguay. This hospital is closely attached to the OPS, Sanitary agency of the WHO in South America.

However, the contacts between the Uruguayan gynaecologists and this POG group had not been worked out very well yet. Head of the Hospital Pereira Rossell in Montevideo Prof. Justo Alonso has declared that he is willing to support Denise in forming a more professional Uruguayan POG group. Also Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Preventive Medicine Dr. Claudio G. Sosa Fuertes has declared his willingness to support her.

Contacts with Russia

Prof. Johannes Bitzer has close contacts with gynaecologists in Kazan, Russia. They are very interested in developing a national society. At the end of August, beginning of September 2012 there will be a congress in Kazan. Johannes Bitzer will be present there and organises a small ISPOG conference. Heribert Kentenich, or otherwise another German ISPOG member from his group, will be present there as well, in order to ambassador for ISPOG.

4. Educational Board

In Providence, April 2012, the attending ISPOG members have had a fruitful conference on how ISPOG should put further the Educational Activities. We all agreed on how important this is. Sibil Tschudin and Carlos Damonte, chairs of this conference, will report further on the detailed aspect of this. All participants agreed on a proposal for ExCo to create an Educational Board.

The European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) is very much interested in our activities in the educational field. The current President of the EBCOG is Prof. Chiara Benedetto, very well known and member of ISPOG. Represented in the working group for Standards of Care is Prof. Johannes Bitzer. So there is a tight cross-link between the two organizations which we could use in this respect. Part of EBCOG, there is the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG), representing 10.000 residents in ObGyn. Therefore, it is important to crosslink with this organization.

Another important organization for us is FIGO, which is the world organization of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. They are also very much interested in our educational possibilities. In this respect, there will be an ISPOG symposium with this subject October 12, 2012, in Rome at the FIGO congress (www.figo2012.org).

We will come back on this issue, since we believe, that it is going to be a major pillar of ISPOG, in addition to the Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

5. Firm Ibero-Spanish internet bridge established between Spanish Ob/Gyn organisation (SEGO) and Latin America

Carlos Damonte had already arranged with SEGO (the Spanish Ob/Gyn organisation) that the Spanish POG group will get an internet platform in the new Educational Internet Platform of the SEGO. In Buenos Aires, June 2012, it was approved by the leaving SOGIBA President Prof. Roberto Elizalde and his President-Elect (now the new President) Prof Juan Carlos Nassif, that the organisation of the Buenos Aires gynaecologists (SOGIBA, consisting of 7-8000 gynaecologists) will cooperate with SEGO to use the same internet educational platform, a formal agreement of cooperation has been signed between SOGIBA and the Spanish SEGO (Carlos Damonte was officially thanked because of having acted as a bridge between both organizations). In this respect the Spanish language barrier can be lowered. This is to reflect all the huge amount of psychosocial work done around women health assistance in this subcontinent, not all of the hard workers know or want to publish in English, but, if good

initiatives or interesting articles appear on this website or platform this might be picked up for encouraging translation and publication at the ISPOG website and/or the JPOG.

Carlos Damonte has suggested the SEGO to act as a **digital POG platform in Spanish and Portuguese** for the FLASOG (Latin American Federation of Ob/Gyn Societies). In Paraguay, June 2012, this has been proposed at the FLASOG. And we are enlightened, that this proposal of the digital Iberoamerican POG platform has been so well received, that it has been included in the FLASOG agenda.

For 2013, an Iberoamerican Congress was proposed by Colombia, and Carlos Damonte has been proposed for the Scientific Committee in Psychosomatics by the SEGO President. This means, that there is going to be an official psychosomatic area in the first Iberoamerican Congress and that the ISPOG President of 2013-2016 will be there.

The Executive Board of the **Sao Paulo Obstetric and Gynaecological Organisation (SOGESP)**, also consisting of 7-8000 gynaecologists (and the main part of the FEBRASGO, which is the Brazilian ObGyn organisation), are also very interested in participating in this network. Portuguese and Spanish people can read each other's languages quite easily.

Also Prof. Justo Alonso from Uruguay expressed his interest in this initiative.

6. Linking with other international organizations

IAWMH

The International Association of Women's Mental Health (IAWMH) will have its 5th International Congress in Lima, Peru, March 2013 (for more information see: <http://www.iawmh2013.com/>). ISPOG and NASPOG will organise a symposium together. This may also help to tie the bonds between the Latin-American countries and ISPOG.

7. Keep in touch with ISPOG members

Newsletter

In a world-wide organisation, it is difficult to keep in touch with each other and with the interests we are sharing. Therefore, this is the second newsletter within one year.

Website

Our ISPOG website (www.ispog.org) has been renewed. It still needs input and we are working on that. Both the educational platform and other input will try to inform all the members as good as possible. It is still under construction, but we all can create input for the website. Our Secretary General Pauline Slade (p.slade@sheffield.ac.uk) and her Secretary General Assistant Angie Rollinson (a.rollinson@sheffield.ac.uk) may be contacted about this. They work together with webmaster Lázár Levente (lazar_levente@hotmail.com) in order to put this properly on the web. Online registration is already possible. Please keep in mind, that in countries where a National Society exists, the registration is through your National Society.

Pamphlet

ISPOG has produced a pamphlet. It can be downloaded from the website and will be distributed with this newsletter.

JPOG

The Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology is our main scientific canal to inform each other about recent scientific developments.

8. ISPOG symposium at FIGO 2012

At the FIGO congress in Rome, October 7-12, 2012, ISPOG will be present with a symposium titled: 'Teaching psychosomatics around the world; an ISPOG symposium'. The ISPOG symposium will be on Thursday October 11, 13.45-15.15 hr.

ExCo meeting 2012

The time of the meeting will be 13.30 to Wednesday October 10, 2012, 13.30-17.30 hr in the Centre of Rome. The actual place is not known yet, but will be announced to the ExCo members as soon as possible.

Items for the agenda should be submitted to Pauline Slade (via Angie Rollinson a.rollinson@sheffield.ac.uk) by 25th July 2012

9. Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology

New Editors for the JPOG in 2013

We are glad, that we have found new excellent Editors for the JPOG: Prof. Pauline Slade (our current Secretary General) and Dr. Sandy Goldbeck-Wood, gynaecologist and experienced editor in the past. Of course the Executive Committee will finally decide on this (although the ISPOG Statutes and Standing Rules do not mention this circumstance), but with no other applicants available we are very happy that JPOG will be in professional ISPOG hands for the next coming years. At the General Assembly in Berlin the official takeover will be carried out.

E-subscription JPOG almost arranged

There is almost an agreement with Publisher Informa Healthcare that E-subscription to the JPOG at a reduced rate is possible. At the ExCo in October more news about this will be reported.

10. New ISPOG Board Officers needed

We will need new candidates for President Elect (since Carlos Damonte will become President in 2013), Treasurer (since Beate Wimmer-Puchinger will reach the end of her second term in 2013), and Secretary General, since Pauline Slade will become Editor-in-Chief, which is too demanding to combine with her position as Secretary General. A call for applications has been sent out by our Secretary General.

11. Congress calendar for ISPOG in 2012-2013

FIGO congress with ISPOG symposium and ISPOG ExCo meeting

Rome, Italy

October 7-12, 2012

<http://www.figo.org/image/figo-rome-congress-2012>

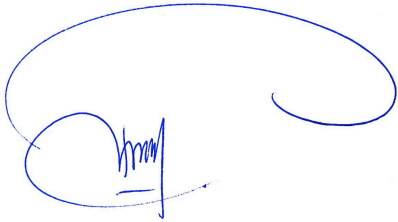
17th International ISPOG congress

Berlin, Germany
May 22-25, 2013
<http://www.ispog2013.de>

5th congress of the International Association of Women's Mental Health (IAWMH)
Lima, Peru
March 4-7, 2013
<http://www.iawmh2013.com/>

12. Concluding

On behalf of the ISPOG Executives, I wish you all the best and a lot of inspiration for the coming period. I hope to meet you at one or more of congresses mentioned above,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop at the top, followed by a smaller loop and a vertical stroke with a horizontal crossbar at the bottom.

K. Marieke Paarlberg
ISPOG President