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  **2021 WINTER NEWSLETTER**  

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We are pleased to bring our members the winter edition of the ISPOG Newsletter.

### **Message from the ISPOG President**

On behalf of the Board of Officers and the Executive Committee, I delightfully write this message to mark the commencement of ISPOG's diamond jubilee year. Sixty years ago, when a small group of like-minded, far-sighted specialists midwifed the birth of a new professional association focused on 'Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology', the biomedical model of care reigned supreme. Positivism, with its quantitative methods, bestrode the medical education and medical research terrains like a colossus. Over the ensuing six decades, there has been a gradual but sustained rise of the biopsychosocial model of care. Alongside this development, there has been growing recognition of the value of the interpretivist approach in health research, with qualitative methods gaining stronger footing. Our Society has been in the vanguard of these advances which have served humankind tremendously. Looking back, we salute the courage and vision of our founders who, rather than hit the trodden road, opted for the road less travelled. We acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of colleagues who kept the vision alive through six decades, despite the absence of pharma backing.

We can look to the future with confidence in the strength of our founders' vision. Health care delivery is increasingly patient-focused, and the paternalism of the past has receded. More categories of vulnerable persons have emerged as a result of adverse demographic and socio-economic currents. Medicine is growingly recognised as being both science and art. Mind and body are being integrated in medical education.

All these should breed an upbeat disposition for our diamond jubilee. Unrelenting waves of the pandemic threaten this, but we shall weather the storm just as we have done through six decades. Through 2022, let us celebrate the contributions of our Society but also strategize for its future growth.

-Leroy C Edozien

## ISPOG 2022

We hope it will be possible to meet in person in 2022 in Vienna. The ISPOG Congress will coincide with the Dreiländertagung in Vienna, Austria from 13-16 July 2022. The meeting will be held at the Sigmund Freud University. The motto is "(Post) Pandemic World: Woman, Family, Society". The abstract deadline is 31 March 2022.

More information can be found at the website of the conference: [www.ispog2022.org](http://www.ispog2022.org)

## Call for nominations for the board of officers

Per the General Assembly at the next ISPOG Congress, changes will take place in the board of officers. Sibil Tschudin will step down as past-President and Leroy Edozien will step down as President and continue as past-President. Mechthild Neises will take office as President. Vivian Pramataroff-Hamburger will resign as Treasurer after having served two terms. M.Caroline Vos is willing to engage in another term as Secretary-General. Therefore, there are vacancies for the posts of President-elect and Treasurer, and we call on the societies for nominations. Please send these to the Secretary-General at [admin@ispog.org](mailto:admin@ispog.org).

## Executive Committee meetings by Zoom

Thanks to the new possibilities of meeting via the screen, we are still able to have our Executive Meetings. Because of the new dates of the ISPOG Congress, we propose an **Executive Committee meeting by Zoom on 8 March 2022 13.30 h CET**. (This is the original timing).

## Interested in Education? Please join the ISPOG Education Committee!

We are looking for members with interest and expertise in education to help ISPOG to devise guidelines for teaching psychosomatic obstetrics and gynaecology. The hope is to form a set of "best practices" that all member societies can use. Your time commitment will be small, but you would be asked to review and comment on suggestions for learning objectives, teaching methods, and assessment techniques for POG topics. Our plan would be to share these guidelines at the upcoming congress in Vienna, and then post them on the website. Interested members can send an email directly to Jonathan Schaffir, committee chair, at [jonathan.schaffir@osumc.edu](mailto:jonathan.schaffir@osumc.edu).

## Update ISPOG research agenda

In The Hague we held our first so-called "ISPOG research session". It was successful and well received. The domains identified as relevant and promising for international collaboration were management of endometriosis, psychological support in male infertility, fertility after cancer, denial of pregnancy, incongruous expectations for childbirth as well as care following birth trauma. They were presented in an editorial in the JPOG and in our winter newsletter 2020 the responsible coordinators gave an update regarding the achievements by then.

In Vienna we want to build up on our positive experience!

Instead, of asking for proposals of a topic of choice the ISPOG board together with Julie Quinlivan, co-editor-in-chief of JPOG, figured out the following three current and important themes:

- domestic violence
- psychosocial counselling considering the new technical possibilities (online)
- the wellbeing of health professionals

The focus of the work should be on what we have learned due to the pandemic and its impact on international collaboration.

Every national society is requested to identify research groups in their country and to invite them to submit an abstract. The presentations should fit into one of the three areas and researchers may share their published work, work in progress or planned work.

The session in Vienna is again intended to further international research collaboration. It is also planned to dedicate an editorial in JPOG summarising the findings, thus offering each presenter an editorial co-authorship after the meeting.

Please send your proposal directly to M.Caroline Vos, our secretary general via [admin@ispog.org](mailto:admin@ispog.org). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 March 2022.

## Treasurer's report

ISPOG has grown with two new societies in 2021 **Slovenia** and **Denmark** and two new individual members from **Bulgaria** as well. We have a healthy financial situation. Total assets end of 2021 are **€ 68077,96**. **Thank you very much to all of you who sent your fees on time.**

## Member Society in the spotlight

We would like to draw the attention of ISPOG's member societies to a new series in the ISPOG Newsletter. In this new series, we would like to spotlight one member society and the current situation around women's mental health in that particular country. Germany will be the first country to present. If you would like your society and your country to be in the spotlight, please contact M.Caroline Vos at [admin@ispog.org](mailto:admin@ispog.org).

## Forthcoming events

ESSM, 17-19 February 2022, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, online conference via <https://www.essm-congress.org>

ISPOG ExCo meeting per Zoom Wednesday 8 March 2022 13.30 h CET

Dutch POG Academy 21-22 April 2022, Utrecht, the Netherlands, <https://wpog.nl/apog/>

NASPOG Biennial meeting, 22-24 April 2022, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, <https://naspog.org/Biennial-Meeting>

20<sup>th</sup> ISPOG Congress 2022, 13-16 July 2022, Vienna, Austria, [www.ispog2022.org](http://www.ispog2022.org)

9<sup>th</sup> World Conference, International Association Women's Mental Health 6-9 November 2022, Maastricht, the Netherlands, <https://www.iawmh2022.org>

*Save the dates!*

**Happy holidays**

The ISPOG board wishes you, and your families and colleagues healthy and happy holidays. We hope to celebrate a beautiful diamond jubilee year in 2022 with you.

M.Caroline Vos, Secretary-General on behalf of the ISPOG Board.



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