



## **ISUOG Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Monday 16 October 2023, 12:20 PM / KST**  
**Auditorium, COEX Centre, Seoul, South Korea**  
*(Meeting quorum achieved)*

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Report of the Board and Sub-Committees**

**Prof. Laurent Salomon**

Laurent Salomon (ISUOG President) welcomed the members to the ISUOG's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and thanked them for making their time to participate in the meeting.

Having referred to the current Society's Strategic Plan, Laurent summarised the activities throughout the last year, reporting on the key performance indicators that have been achieved in line with ISUOG's strategic objectives. The main accomplishments have been highlighted below with more detailed information provided in the presentation that will be available to members upon request: -

#### ***Strategic objective 1: To achieve the highest quality and clinical relevance in education and research.***

UOG: Laurent outlined the many continuous successes of the Journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* last year and recognised particularly remarkable achievements in terms of its highest ever impact factor (8.678) ranking the Journal in the 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 85 journals in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Additional impressive increase has been reported on the article downloads reaching over 5 million. The high level of the Journal is also demonstrated by its high altmetric score with more than 20 articles published in 2022 achieving the Altmetric score of 20 or more. We also received more than 1,000 submissions increasing the overall issue content.

Clinical guidelines: The most valuable resources the members benefitted from were ISUOG practice guidelines. Two guidelines were published in 2022, including the updated Mid-trimester ultrasound guideline published in May 2022 and already downloaded more than 10, 000 times and cited 4 times by the end of the year, and a new guideline on the Role of ultrasound in the prediction of spontaneous preterm birth published at the end of July 2022 receiving over 6,000 downloads. The total number of citations to ISUOG guidelines published at any time in the Journal was 634 in 2022, with a total number of downloads exceeding 140,000.

In 2022, ISUOG also made a bold step to hold the first hybrid and in-person/virtual event, the World Congress in London, with a strong emphasis on championing our charitable mission. ISUOG Trustees approved a pricing structure attractive for colleagues from the middle- and lower-resource settings whether attending virtually or onsite. With an impressive scientific program, the feedback from our attendees achieved 6.1 / 7 satisfaction score and 91% delegates said the information learnt would be implemented in their clinical practice.

Furthermore, two virtual Regional Symposia were organised in 2022 for LATAM and Asian communities. The LATAM Symposium was delivered in Spanish and Portuguese and welcomed almost 400 attendees from 25 countries, including a large proportion of attendees from low- and middle-income countries. Our Asian Symposium attracted around 600 attendees from 48 countries, including a large proportion of delegates from low- and middle-income countries. Laurent thanked to the Symposium Advisory Groups as well as Scientific and Education Committees for their dedication and presenting programs that are representative of the regions and continuously delivering high-quality education as demonstrated by the exceptionally high (over 90%) satisfaction scores.

A new event was also delivered in 2022 in collaboration with FMF – Ultrasound Essentials, involving large collaboration, with some key players, both to discuss maternal mortality as well as the role of ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology in lower-resource settings. The event attracted over 8,000 attendees from 92 lower-resource countries with more than 60% attendees from the African region and 85% being new to ISUOG.



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***Strategic objective 2: To ensure comprehensive, innovative education programmes targeted to all members: to teach, teach teachers and improve clinical care.***

Laurent emphasised that education was at the heart of our mission and focus of much of our work. In 2022, we continued to offer a wide range of education courses and live streamed courses ranging from BT to a series of more advanced courses. ISUOG 2022 BT Flex course reached more than 2,000 delegates in 125 countries with 56 attendees participating in the fee paid assessment offered together within the BT Flex. Through the international partnership, we also delivered 7 Run a BT courses in El Salvador, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Egypt, India and Nigeria. These courses attracted more than 1,000 delegates with an average of 9 speakers at each event. In addition, we also ran 7 live streamed advanced courses reaching more than 2,500 delegates with impressive satisfaction scores.

VISUOG: Our advanced learning resource and member benefit, the virtual encyclopaedia VISUOG, continued to expand in 2022 with the publication of 99 new chapters.

Outreach has slightly declined in the years during the pandemic but gradually resumed trips to teach face to face in 2022, especially in Egypt.

***Strategic objective 3: To engage, retain and grow membership to remain relevant and increase reach and influence.***

By the end of 2022, our membership had increased to 19,103 members. Working with institutions and partners around the world together with our NGen Committee, our trainee numbers increased by 43% and our focus on increasing our reach in lower-resource regions was successful through offering accessible pricing for lower- and middle-income countries. The proportion of our membership from these countries increased by 33% and this will be our continuous focus in 2023 and beyond.

We were also committed to our regionalisation strategy to overcome language and cultural barriers to attract new members and strengthen our global community. With members in more than 162 countries, ISUOG is truly a global society at the end of 2022. Having grown all around the world, we also continue to have a strong presence in Europe with 33% of members in that region. The countries with the highest number of members are India and the United Kingdom.

***Strategic objective 4: To develop strategic partnerships and collaborative ventures to establish ISUOG as the leading authority in the field.***

We continue to build our partnerships for free ISUOG training, membership, through professional bodies, national societies and universities. We continued our trainee partnership programme to engage practitioners early in their professional career with the free membership. The Basic Training programme has grown and helped us increase engagement with our partners. We also aimed to collaborate more directly with industry partners to disseminate education, research and opportunities, and to develop sponsorship opportunities across our portfolio. We are strengthening our strategic partnership for sustainability of our outreach activities working with ministries of health, NGOs, WHO and other global organisations working in women's health. In 2022, we continued our work with WHO with our aim to become a non-state actor providing input into the main global health agendas.

***Strategic objective 5: To establish communication strategies to engage with stakeholders, to increase ISUOG's recognition and influence, and to improve on patient care.***

In 2022, our social media audience grew by 23% with a high engagement rate increased by 14%. Our Journal Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology continues to be one of the most popular member products generating high level of engagement and reflecting our connection with our community. This year, we continued to increase the promotion of Journal articles with an average of 18 articles promoted every month on social media. We also committed to explore new opportunities for advocacy, external communications and patient reach by investing more in our communications. Our patient information service continued to grow and by the end of 2022, nearly 130 leaflets were available in English and 27 leaflets in Spanish. We also continued translating the leaflets into Mandarin Chinese with nearly 40 published on our website.

***Strategic objective 6: To strive for excellence and efficiency through evaluation, continuous improvement and best practice in governance, management, employment and learning.***

The ISUOG team continued to work to improve the user experience for our members and for delegates attending our events and courses. We continued to review ISUOG systems and ways they can be better connected. The terms of reference and



working plans of ISUOG Committees, Task Forces and other volunteer groups were updated to reflect the dynamics and mechanism of the Accountability Framework and concept of shared responsibility to ensure transparency and integrity. In that context, we have reported some governance issues to the Charity Commission and are committed to progress positively and collectively.

Laurent thanked the members for this impressive year and for making ISUOG what it is today, particularly to the entire membership community, Committees, Task Forces, Working Groups, International Faculty and ISUOG team in the office. In addition, he also thanked Tom Bourne whose leadership steered ISUOG through the COVID pandemic.

## 2. Minutes of the Virtual AGM, 2022

**Prof. Laurent Salomon**

Laurent raised a motion to approve the minutes from the previous virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in December 2022. The members were invited to comment. Due to no objections being received, the minutes were unanimously approved by the membership. *The minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting (December 2022) were approved without change.*

## 3. Report and Accounts for the year end 2022

**Prof. Asma Khalil**

Asma referred to the 2023 audit outlining the important take aways and financial information from the Society's 2022 Annual report and Accounts.

- Increase in ISUOG income by 35% matched by increase in expenditure by about 38%, which reflects activities, particularly education that represents one of our charitable aims.
- In 2022, we reported net loss on investments of -1285%, which reflects the post-COVID times as well as market performance.
- The 2022 Financial Statements list a total income just under £3m with the total expenditure of about £3.8m, which represents an increase compared to 2021. Consequently, the net deficit reached just under the £900k with over £1.1m net loss on investments.

### Sources of income vs. expenditure

- Asma noted ongoing trends in the Society's income whereby just under 50% of the Society's income comes from the congress, followed by 20% from membership, 14% from education and 11% from Journal.
- Looking at the Society's trends related to the income streams, there has been a fluctuation in the income from the congress for the last few years, with a peak in 2019 (Berlin), and gradually decreasing thereafter due to COVID and hybrid congress in 2022 that tended to be more expensive to run.
- The 10-year trends in the income from congress and costs show that income historically exceeded costs until 2019 and since then, both income and expenditure are almost mirroring each other.
- In 2021, the Trustees decided to change the investment income from accumulative to income generating. This means that we can use the investment income to generate income to contribute to our activities.
- In terms of expenditure in 2022, the costs matched reasonably closely the income streams with Congress expenditure totalling 37%, education 28%, membership 20%, Journal 12% and Outreach 3% of the Society's costs. The 5-year trend in income and expenditure shows that there is an increased expenditure and slightly declining income.
- Consequently, these trends are reflected in the deficit budget in the last few years. It is expected that the deficit will gradually decrease in 2023 achieving breakeven in 2024.
- In 2022, there has been significant increase in a number of staff employed in the office achieving 30 staff, which is reflected in the increase of ISUOG activities and ensuring the staff wellbeing.
- In 2022, there was a significant decline in investments due to COVID pandemic and volatility of the market. In 2023, we are seeing recovery of investments and expecting that the investments will improve over the next couple of months.
- In 2022, ISUOG continues to maintain reasonable approach towards the financial reserves (totalling £12.5m), available with 6-month operating costs, incl. congress (16%; £2m) as well as 12-month operating budget (32%; £4m), and education fund (34%; £4.3m). Although it is not advisable to hold large reserves as charity, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated in practice why these are important in order to provide an avenue to mitigate any potential financial risks and losses.

## 4. Appointment of the auditors

**Prof. Asma Khalil**

Asma further addressed the Society's audit successfully conducted in 2022 and the audited accounts being signed off by the Board of Trustees in July. Since there were no questions to the accounts from the membership, Asma proceeded to proposing

a motion of approval to re-appoint the current auditors (Sayer Vincent LLP) for the next financial year (2023), which was approved by the membership. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was approved as ISUOG auditor for the 2023 financial year without change.*

## 5. Trustee appointments and retirements

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona outlined several agenda items that she would be covering during the session:

- Notification of retirements in 2023
- Re-appointments to the Board of Trustees
- Officer appointments & re-appointments
- Trustee appointments 2023
- 2023 ISUOG Service Awards & Acknowledgements
- ISUOG Governance structure (changes & announcements)

In line with the Trustee rotations, Liona addressed the individuals retiring from the Board of Trustees at the time of the AGM in 2023. The members were notified in advance of the meeting about:

- retirement of the following Trustees: Josh Copel (USA), Jon Hyett (Australia), Christoph Lees (UK), Dirk Timmerman (Belgium),
- resignation of the following Trustee: Boris Tutschek (Switzerland), and
- re-appointment of the following Trustees: Reem Abu-Rustum (USA), Tom Bourne (UK), Liona Poon (Hong Kong)

### Appointment of the new Trustees in 2023

- George Condous (Australia)
- Fatima Crispi (Spain)
- Simon Meagher (Australia)
- Ritsuko Pooh (Japan)
- Alexandros Sotiriadis (Greece)

Liona proceeded to proposing a motion of approval to accept the new appointments and re-appointments to the Board of Trustees. *All proposed Trustees were unanimously approved commencing their Trustee term of service with immediate effect.*

Further to the Officer re-appointments taking place in 2023, Liona announced the following:

- Asma Khalil (UK) has been re-appointed as Honorary Treasurer until 2025.
- Liona Poon has been appointed President Elect commencing her term of service in 2024.

## 6. 2023 Service Awards and Acknowledgements

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona outlined that every year, the Society would acknowledge the retiring Trustees for their service on the Board as well as other members of ISUOG for their outstanding contribution and long-term commitment:

- Josh Copel (served on the Board of Trustees and in various Officer roles between 2014-2023, including an earlier term)
- Jon Hyett (served on the Board of Trustees including his role as Chair of the Education Committee between 2014-2023)
- Christoph Lees (served on the Board of Trustees, incl. his role as Honorary Treasurer between 2015-2023)
- Dirk Timmerman (served on the Board of Trustees, incl. his role as Chair of the Scientific Committee between 2014-2023, including an earlier term)

Liona also acknowledged a service of Boris Tutschek who served in the Board as Honorary Secretary and retires from his Trustee / Officer positions as well as Chair of the Bids Committee.

Additionally, the retiring Committee Chairs were addressed and thanked for their service as follows:

- Federico Prefumo (Chair of the Clinical Standards Committee, 2019-2023)
- Lisbet Hanson (Chair of the Outreach Committee, 2019-2023)
- George Condous (Chair of the Scientific Committee, 2019-2023)



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Further to that, Liona also welcomed new Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs:

- Raffaele Napolitano (Chair of the Clinical Standards Committee)
- Maya Al-Memar (Vice Chair of the Education Committee)
- Ehigha Enabudoso (Vice Chair of the Outreach Committee)
- Thierry Van den Bosch (Vice Chair of the Scientific Committee)

Further to the Sub-Committees, retiring Chairs were addressed and thanked for their service as follows:

- Alain Gagnon (Chair of the Patient Information Task Force, 2016-2023)
- Nikos Vrachnis (Chair of the Validation Task Force)

Liona also welcomed the new Sub-Committee Chair:

- Min Chen (Chair of the Patient Information Sub-Committee)

Additional announcement has been made that the Honorary Membership category ceases to exist going forward and the following Honorary members have been acknowledged for their long-term commitment and loyal service to ISUOG.

- Alfred Abuhamad (Honorary member, Outreach Committee, 2017-2023)
- Sturla Eik-Nes (Honorary member, Outreach Committee, 2017-2023)
- Ann Tabor (Honorary member, Outreach Committee, 2017-2023)
- Gail ter Haar (Honorary member, Safety Committee, 2017-2023)

Further to the retirements across the Society's key roles, ISUOG Ambassadors have been thanked for their service:

- Daniel Cafici (ISUOG Ambassador to Latin America, 2020-2023)
- Heron Werner Jr. (ISUOG Ambassador to Latin America, 2020-2023)
- Ehigha Enabudoso (ISUOG Ambassador to Nigeria & West Africa, 2016-2023)
- Georges Haddad (ISUOG Ambassador to Algeria & North Africa, 2017-2023)
- Simon Meagher (ISUOG Ambassador to Asia-Pacific, 2017-2023)
- Seshadri Suresh (ISUOG Ambassador to India & South Asia, 2017-2023)

Liona also announced that the category of Honorary Ambassador ceases to exist, and the following individuals were thanked for their contributions to the Society:

- Qing Qing Wu (ISUOG Honorary Ambassador to China, 2014-2023)

Liona also welcomed new ISUOG Ambassadors commencing their term of service with immediate effect:

- Roberto Albinagorta, Peru
- Mouza Al-Salmani, Oman
- Ozgur Deren, Turkey
- Mohammed Ezzet Charfi, Senegal
- Dalenda Chelli, Tunisia
- Aditya Kusuma, Indonesia
- Nisarath Phithakwatchara, Thailand
- Karine Tokhunts, Armenia
- Natalija Vedmedovska, Latvia
- Sikolia Wanyonyi, Kenya

## 7. Governance structure changes

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona notified the membership about further cessation of the two volunteer groups, including:

- ISUOG Bids Committee
- Validation Task Force

Both Chairs as well as Members have been thanked for their contributions to the important work of both groups.



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The Trustees also recognised the need to align the continuous work of our Task Forces and renamed all groups to Sub-Committees. To date, there are 7 Sub-Committees in the Society's governance structure:

- Accreditation & Certification Sub-Committee (Ch: Nikos Vrachnis)
- Basic Training (BT) Sub-Committee (Ch: Gihad Chalouhi)
- CME Sub-Committee (Ch: Christoph Wohlmuth)
- Courses Sub-Committee (Ch: Simon Meagher)
- Online Education Sub-Committee (Ch: Lina Youssef)
- Patient Information Sub-Committee (Ch: Min Chen)
- VISUOG Sub-Committee (Ch: Karen Fung-Kee-Fung)

Further announcement has also been made about launch of the two Special Interest Groups:

- Twin & Multiple pregnancy Special Interest Group (Ch: Asma Khalil)
- AI Special Interest Groups (Co-Chairs: Aris Papageorgiou, Antonia Testa)

Liona thanked all members for their active participation and made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The AGM meeting was closed.