



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

**Sunday 13 October 2019, 9:50 AM**

**Convention Hall II, Estrel Congress Centre, Berlin**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. President's opening address**

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia Bilardo (ISUOG President) welcomed the members to the 2019 AGM and invited them to actively participate in the meeting. She acknowledged the contributions of Sarah Johnson who led the transformation of the Society from its foundations as a small specialist membership association into an established, global Society with over 15,000 members. For 22 years, Sarah consistently demonstrated her dedication to the organisation, its mission, and its people, and established a strong network with the ultrasound, association and events communities. Unfortunately, Sarah decided that the time has come to move forward and Katia thanked her for her long-standing commitment to the success of the Society, and wished her well in her future endeavours.

#### **2. Report of the Board of Trustees and sub committees**

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia referred to the Society's Strategic Plan and 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 (and be recognised for) the highest quality and standards in research***

UOG: Katia outlined the many continuous successes of the Journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* last year and recognised particularly remarkable achievements in terms of its impact factor (5.65) ranking the Journal in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 82 journals in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Additional impressive increase has been reported on the article downloads reaching 3 million. With increasing demands for Open Access, new tools have been introduced, including video abstracts, 4 of which have been published this year with over 40k views and over 170k reach, as well as virtual issues relating to Urogynecology, Twin Pregnancy and NIPT. Special thanks was given to Aly Youssef, the UOG Social Media Editor, for significant contribution to the development of the virtual issues.

World Congress recognised as the leading event in the field reached its highest satisfaction score ever at 6.07/7 in Singapore last year, with 99% delegates recommending ISUOG's Congress to a colleague. This year in Berlin, there are more than 3,000 delegates present from 115 countries. The number of attendees from outside of Europe is almost equal to the number of participants from Europe demonstrating a truly global character of the Society. ISUOG's particular efforts have also been focused on increasing accessibility to delegates from low-income countries, fulfilling the Society's mission to disseminate our scientific knowledge worldwide. As a result, we welcome 353 delegates from low-resource areas as well as more than 300 trainees onsite. Overall, 1,465 abstracts have been submitted which compliments to the quality of the science presented.

Developing engagement and research networking opportunities: This year, ISUOG World Congress offers a portfolio of live streaming sessions along with simulation hubs, 'in conversation with' hubs with leading experts in the field and digital ambassadors in order to increase member engagement and provide research networking opportunities. A new 'End of day summary sessions' have been introduced this year, led by young delegates, summarising the key points and highlights from all Congress sessions each day. Additional activities include session on back pain – wellbeing of the sonographer as well as session on medico-legal issues and multiple sessions in Spanish, Chinese and Russian to increase accessibility to our Society's resources even more.

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

Global education portfolio encompasses our World Congress, International Symposia, and Basic Training as well as approved courses, outreach initiatives and BT satellites deployed worldwide.



Basic Training is a very important asset of the Society and in 2018, theoretical and practical (including simulation) BT curricula have been finalised and become available for all institutions to run it locally with ISUOG support. All BT resources and lectures are available online and free to all, including in Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese and Russian, with certification of completion of the BT programme (theoretical and practical). The Basic Training programme reached out to 1,410 (+32%) individuals from 60 countries attending full or part ISUOG Basic training courses during 2018. This incorporated work through 24 partnerships with hospitals, universities and other organisations across the world who hosted 30 satellite events, with 835 delegates, 67% of which came from Hinari countries.

Outreach support programs have also been offered to different parts of the world whilst partnering with local Ministries of Health (Oman, Rwanda, Haiti, Sudan, and Papua New Guinea), and have been delivered by 219 trainees and 16 volunteer trainers in 2018. Future outreach initiatives include 6 more programs planned in 2019, serving as a testament to the dedication of our members and their desire to volunteer to offer these programs that demonstrably improve the knowledge basis of all participants attending.

The Society also continued to develop live stream and increase access to education courses organised in the London office through live-streamed sessions to reach out to much larger audiences without a need for physical meetings. Further to the CME and online education, a new platform has been launched for On Demand with 60,000 visits in 2018, which was scored by our members as a very important benefit and integral component in the membership survey.

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

ISUOG membership continues to grow, which reflects an on-going trend of increased member engagement in 140 countries at the end of 2018. The proportion of members in different regions is becoming more balanced and whilst the largest single member region remains Europe in 2018, the largest growth region is Asia. This is due to work to engage new members around our Singapore Congress and approved courses in the area.

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

ISUOG continues to develop and increase partnerships with different groups, such as university departments and national societies worldwide. In 2018, the main focus was on growing partnerships, both around the World Congress in Singapore (27 regional partners) and our continued work on approved course partnerships. There were 63 approved courses in 10 different languages organised in 27 countries. Our trainee partnership programme to engage young practitioners early in their professional careers with free membership offerings also continued and by the end of 2018, we had 96 trainee partnerships in 51 countries, including 43 new or reactivated partnerships in 9 new countries, (Albania, Ethiopia, Finland, Iran, Lesotho, Lithuania, Nigeria, Syria and Taiwan).

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

The global communication through ISUOG website is now achieving over 53,000 visitors per month, with 91% of members having access to the website and total reach close to 100,000 (+27.5%). PR activities include Facebook with more than 40,000 likes and Twitter with over 7,000 followers. Monthly Journal Club presentations continued to be offered, with 9 UOG Video abstracts and 3 virtual issues published last year. New ISUOG Practice Guidelines on intrapartum ultrasound and another one on pre-eclampsia were also published in 2018, reflecting our connection with the academic community through Journal activities.

As part of external communications, patient consultations and advocacy, ISUOG engaged in 3 press releases in 2018 with 5 more planned in 2019. Essential material continued to be translated by more than 30 volunteer translators into key languages, with guidelines now available in 18 languages (first guideline has also been added in German), 2 UOG abstracts and Journal club slides were translated monthly in Spanish and Chinese and BT curriculum and recordings available in Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

A new patient information website series 'Empowering Women' introduced and promoted in Berlin Congress include over 50 chapters produced in parallel with VISUOG chapters. Written in a language the patients are familiar with and from the point of view of a woman, the series provide information on fetal conditions and challenges that the women can encounter, and empower them to ask the right questions to ensure they receive the right standard of care at the right time.



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

Katia summarised the many education initiatives in progress, including the upcoming events:

- 16<sup>th</sup> ISUOG International Symposium, Cairo, Egypt (3-5 April 2020)
- 30<sup>th</sup> ISUOG World Congress, Glasgow, UK (17-21 October 2020)
- 31<sup>st</sup> ISUOG World Congress, Seoul, South Korea (2-5 October 2021)

ISUOG members were also invited to visit the ISUOG Lounge onsite and engage in conversations with ISUOG Team.

### 3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Singapore, 2018

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia asked the membership for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous AGM in Singapore. Dr Goldstein approved the motion with none against. *The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Singapore 2018 were unanimously accepted without change.*

### 4. Report and Accounts for the year end 2018

**Prof. Tom Bourne**

A summary of ISUOG's annual accounts was published online ahead of the meeting and summarised on screen. Tom Bourne (Treasurer) opened his report by outlining ISUOG's financial performance, trends in income and expenditure and risk analysis over the last year. The larger risks were identified as follows:

- lack of diversity of income (currently heavily reliant on the income generated by the annual Congress so that education and other activities of the Society can continue to be carried out);
- foreign exchange risk (due to constantly fluctuating stock price of dollar against pound that can have significant impact on the conferences [over the last 50 weeks it has gone from about 1.19 to 1.5]);
- reducing Journal income due to Open Access resulting in reducing membership and journal sales income (the decision has been taken by the Board of Trustees and is in line with the Society's charitable aims).

Other risks in the Society include ① ISUOG's reliance on individual staff, ② governance structure changes conducted by the Governance Committee and focused on accountability and mechanism how the Committees operate, and ③ a perceived risk to staff and volunteers operating in unstable environments related to outreach activities, which has been largely addressed with safety measures in place and by not putting individuals into those locations.

Tom emphasised the issue of lack of diversity of income by addressing the Society's main income streams, including the Congress providing ISUOG by far with the largest income, followed by membership and Journal which will be impacted by the upcoming changes in the Journal publishing and Open Access however, it is still unclear how this will change due to ongoing conversations about different publishing models. There are also some other non-charitable income sources, for example rental of part of the office in London and some investment gains however, these do not present a major contribution. This inevitably translates in the Society's income trends seen over the years, with larger income from European conferences, compared to generally lower income from congresses organised outside of Europe with the exception of 2018 Congress in Singapore. Other income streams remain largely same without any significant changes over the years and show the extent of the Society's reliance on the conference income.

Tom also summarised the 2018 ISUOG's reserves policy providing an overview of distribution of the Society's finances, including the following components: ① building: previously sold office building in the Blythe Mews, and newly developed London office in Freston Road (worth about £1.7M) for ISUOG Staff and Journal activities, including a small teaching facility used for running live streaming courses and events; ② education fund (£4.4M) 'Endowment' to sustainably fund education activity (potentially £190K income per year) which will be reviewed as the education costs (currently about £350K in the budget) become larger; ③ general reserves include a minimum of 18 months' budget (£3.4M) and further 6-month reserves of next year's budgeted and operating congress costs worth about £1.2M. This is based on a prediction of a completely failed Congress and absence of the Congress income for 1 year, despite having continued to run the office, education and all the other activities during that time; ④ free reserves of £780K planned to be spent.

Tom further addressed the incoming resources for 2018 at £2,792,029, which included a decrease in membership income both in terms of numbers and income per member, lower congress income of £1.6M due to location although higher than budget (with 1,821 registrations) and foreign exchange gain of £71K due to USD from Singapore. Expenditure for the year ended at £2,589,172 with net movement on funds about £200K. Member costs increased due



to larger services provided; Congress expenditure is higher due to increased travel costs and overall expense of Singapore. There was also an increase in education costs due to more activity, which will increase even more in future.

The Society's net income of about £200K is down due to a loss of investment in 2018 and increased costs of some of the activities mentioned above. The 2018 balance sheet reflects increased designated funds due to long-term education cost centre, reserves policy (kept at 1.5 to 2 x annual budget) and higher creditors due to deferred membership income because of a change in accounting rules.

**5. Appointment of the auditors**

**Prof. Tom Bourne**

Tom asked for questions to the accounts and then proposed a motion to reappoint the auditors (Sayer Vincent LLP) for the next financial year. Dr Goldstein approved the motion with none against. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was unanimously approved as the 2020 auditor without change.*

**6. Appointments and retirements**

**Prof. Boris Tutschek**

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

- Prashant Acharya (India)
- Mauricio Herrera (Columbia)
- Daniela Prayer (Austria)
- Nick Raine-Fenning (UK)
- Antonia Testa (Italy)
- George Yeo (Singapore)

Boris also announced Officer rotations taking place in 2019 whereby Christoph Lees is taking over as Treasurer from Tom Bourne.

Appointment of the new Trustees in 2019

- Reem Abu-Rustum (USA)
- Fabricio Da Silva Costa (Brazil)
- Liona Poon (Hong Kong)

Boris asked the membership for a motion to approve the retirements and appointments to the Board and Officer role. *These were approved unanimously.*

Boris also announced 2020 Officer appointments as follows:

- President Elect (Laurent Salomon, France)
- Honorary Secretary (Boris Tutschek, Switzerland) – will serve his regular term as Honorary Secretary after a completed term in the interim due to resignation of previous Honorary Secretary

Boris asked the membership for a motion to approve the 2020 Officer appointments. *These were approved unanimously.*

**7. Awards and Acknowledgements**

**Prof. Boris Tutschek**

Boris outlined that every year, the Society acknowledges Trustees for their service on the Board as well as other members of ISUOG for their outstanding contribution, and invited Katia to present the awards to the following retiring Trustees:

- Nick Raine-Fenning and Antonia Testa (served on the Board of Trustees from 2011-2019)
- Daniela Prayer and George Yeo (served on the Board of Trustees from 2013-2019)
- Prashant Acharya and Mauricio Herrera (served on the Board of Trustees from 2015-2019)

Boris also acknowledged a service of Aris Papageorghiou who served in the Board of Trustees as Honorary Secretary until earlier this year, and thanked him for his deep commitment.

Additionally, the retiring Committee Chairs were addressed as follows:

- Laurent Salomon (Chair of the Clinical Standards Committee, 2017-2019)
- Anthony Johnson (Chair of the Outreach Committee, 2015-2019)
- Dirk Timmerman (Chair of Scientific Committee, 2015-2019)



Further to that, Boris also welcomed new Committee Chairs:

- Federico Prefumo (Chair of the Clinical Standards Committee)
- Lisbet Hanson (Chair of the Outreach Committee)

Boris also announced that Mauricio Herrera is retiring from the VISUOG Task Force and thanked him for his contributions to and leading of the Task Force during the last three years. Mauricio has been succeeded by Karen Fung-Kee-Fung who was appointed a new Chair of the Task Force.

The last acknowledgement this year was dedicated to Wesley Lee as a long-standing member who led the Advisory Membership Group between 2014-2019, which constitutes a voting body for the Trustees among other responsibilities, and Boris thanked him for his leadership and contribution.

Boris announced the two highest distinguished awards for this year:

- The Ian Donald Gold Medal is awarded once a year to an individual who has made a significant scientific contribution to the advancement of diagnostic ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology and who has changed the way ultrasound is practiced through research or innovation. Boris recognised the fantastic work of Prof. Lil Valentin and notified the members that she will be accepting the medal after her lecture in the Convention Hall II at 16:05 PM today. Among her many achievements was starting the IOTA collaboration in 1997 together with four other European colleagues, now collaborating with more than 40 centres all over the world.
- Stuart Campbell Award for Education is bestowed on an expert in ultrasound scanning – an inspirational figure who has demonstrated a true commitment to spreading the latest ultrasound advances in innovative and imaginative ways whether at international meetings or in small groups. The recipient has also shown the ability to stimulate research and audit and inspire the next generation of ultrasound specialists, and has shown enthusiasm to teach outside his / her own geographical area and, ideally, to teach in and stimulate developing communities in different parts of the world. Boris notified the membership that this year as a unique exception, two individuals have been awarded the Stuart Campbell Award for Education – Dr Alfred Abuhamad and Prof. Gustavo Malinger.
  - Dr Abuhamad has been a prominent lecturer and course organiser, leading on and expanding ISUOG Outreach activities and author of more than 170 articles and 6 books;
  - Prof. Malinger. An expert in fetal CNS and author of almost 150 articles, chapters and books as well as MRI guidelines (diploma brain and MRI at this Congress), and a long-standing member of ISUOG.

Boris thanked the members for previously voting in the three new Trustees and invited them on stage.

Boris then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favour. Boris thanked the members for attending and declared the AGM closed.