



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday, 14 September 2014

Auditorium, CCIB, Barcelona, Spain

1. President's opening address

Yves Ville welcomed the members of the expanding 'ISUOG family' to the 2014 AGM and thanked them for attending. He reminded the members that the agenda and accompanying material was available online.

The meeting was quorate with 157 members present.

2. Report of the Board and sub committees

Yves Ville stated that, as the outgoing President, he was pleased with the progress made towards ISUOG's mission to date and he was looking forward to the next phases of development. He reminded the members of the current vision and mission:

Vision: That every woman has access to ultrasound, every ultrasound provider is competent and ultrasound has a meaningful impact on diagnosis and outcomes for obstetrical and gynecological complications.

Mission: To improve women's healthcare services through the provision and broadest dissemination of the highest quality education and research information around ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology.

He outlined current goals around growth of membership, dissemination of quality research and delivery of a comprehensive educational offering.

Yves Ville reported on the main achievements of the Society in the last year. ISUOG now has 9,084 members at present from 126 countries: 38% from Europe, 20% the Far East, 14% South America, 10% Australasia, 9% North America, 6% Middle East and 3% Africa and is seeing a shift in member types towards online offerings.

Online learning is continuously growing with 36 chapters now uploaded on to VISUOG – the visual encyclopedia on ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology, 76 web lectures have also been uploaded to the permanent online learning curriculum. Yves invited members to volunteer to support educational developments including the expanding Outreach programs that are carried out internationally. This year in June, stage three of the Mongolia Outreach training course was completed successfully and in October a workshop in Darwin in collaboration with ASUM (Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine) will occur.

Yves Ville reminded all delegates that their registration fee included 2014 membership to ISUOG and highlighted some of the Society's key member benefits which include access to the Journal, 10-20% discount to all events including the World Congress, International Symposium and Courses, and access to the growing online educational materials. He highlighted that 21 translations of 6 practice guidelines / standards in 5 languages have been completed, including; Basic Training, First Trimester, Mid Trimester, Fetal Echo and Doppler have been translated in to 5 languages. Yves Ville also highlighted that online Basic Training would be starting in November 2014 and online CME content will be available from January 2015.

Yves Ville then moved on to summarise the progress of the Journal. Although the impact factor had dropped slightly from the beginning of the year he mentioned that small fluctuations were not unusual and he was confident that this would be rectified throughout the rest of the year. Yves Ville reminded the membership that UOG included: Original articles, monthly systematic reviews, referee commentaries, expert perspective, UOG journal club, statements and guidelines.

Between January and September 2014 ISUOG has run five Intensive Courses with a total of 464 delegates and 267 new members. The international Symposia was held in Beijing in April where 403 delegates attended with 393 new members. Finally 40 approved courses also took place with a total of 3,342 delegates and 2,121 were new members.

In terms of future dates, ISUOG would continue its intensive course offerings in London between November 2014 and April 2015; Ultrasound Plus: thorax, neck and diaphragm anomalies – the whole picture; Fetal anomalies: head and heart and Advanced obstetric Doppler. The Congress Call for papers will go live in January with a deadline of 11 May, the International Symposium in New Delhi, India takes place from the 1-3 May; the Early Bird Deadline for Congress registration is on the 11 August with the 2015 World Congress in Montreal opening on the 11 October. He welcomed all delegates to attend, submit abstracts and attend the 25th birthday celebrations.

Before handing the floor over to the Honorary Treasurer – Alfred Abuhamad, Yves Ville expressed ISUOG's sadness at the loss of a dear friend, one of the founding members of ISUOG, Andy Mejides, who sadly passed away in Buenos Aires in the summer. Yves Ville drew the attention to the International Symposium in Miami, which Andy had been instrumental in establishing and it would be fitting for members to attend in his memory.

3. Report and accounts for year end 2013

A summary of ISUOG's annual accounts was published online ahead of the meeting and was summarised on screen. Alfred Abuhamad, ISUOG's Treasurer, opened his report by highlighting the last 10 years of ISUOG as a growing society. Strong foundations have been set for the future with a permanent headquarters, an educational endowment fund, and permanent educational resources for members, established financial policies, risk management and appropriate reserves. The main sources of income remain membership fees, the Congress and Journal royalties. The trend in membership from full to online and increases in the entry core level membership were noted. The income and expenditure account was presented together with the current balance sheet (including restricted funds and property) of assets at £6,822,072. Prof Stuart Campbell asked about the level of reserves and whether it ought to be spent. Alfred Abuhamad clarified that this sum represented total assets including £2.3million of fixed property assets (the secretariat building), a restricted educational endowment to fund ongoing projects of £1.2 million, and the remaining £3.2 million was the reserve level recommended by ISUOG's current reserves policy to protect against future risks (where risks are higher now that the World Congress is run in house).

4. Appointment of the auditors and approval of the annual accounts

Alfred Abuhamad then proposed a motion to approve the accounts and the auditors (MacIntyre Hudson) for next year. ***The accounts and reappointment were approved by the membership without further comment.***

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Sydney 2013

Alain Gagnon (ISUOG Honorary Secretary) asked the membership for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous year's AGM in Sydney; Lawrence Platt and Beryl Benacerraf seconded the motion.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Sydney 2013 were unanimously accepted without change.

6. Appointments and retirements

Alain Gagnon then asked the membership for a motion to approve the reappointments, new appointments and retirements to / from the Board:

Reappointments:

- Christoph Brezinka (Austria)
- Eduard Gratacos (Spain)

New appointments:

- Josh Copel (USA) as President Elect
- Jon Hyett (Australia)
- Dirk Timmerman (Belgium)

Retirements:

- Ahmet Baschat
- Tom Bourne
- Tze Kin Lau

Lawrence Platt and Beryl Benacerraf seconded the motion with none against. ***The appointments and retirements were accepted.***

7. Awards and acknowledgements

Alain Gagnon asked Yves Ville to join him on stage to present the awards to the retiring Board members as listed above and to Eduard Gratacos as retiring chair of Scientific Committee. Katia Bilardo presented the Stuart Campbell award for Education to Gianluigi Pilu. Antonia Testa accepted the award on his behalf.

Finally Andrew Ngu presented Yves Ville with a plaque and thanked him for all his hard work as President of ISUOG and also highlighted his incredible work as a clinician. Yves Ville then gave the Presidents Medal to Andrew Ngu noting that that he had been pleased to serve the Society, although it was a pleasure to hand the Presidency over to Andrew Ngu and wished him all the very best.

Andrew Ngu thanked the Congress co-chairs, organizing committee and faculty for their work in putting together an excellent Congress program.

Andrew Ngu thanked the members for attending after which the AGM was declared closed.