



# THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**Sunday, 11 October at 10:40am**  
**Room 517, Palais de Congrès Montréal, Canada**

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

Andrew Ngu welcomed the members to the 2015 AGM and thanked them for attending. He reminded the members that the agenda and accompanying materials had been previously posted and were available online.

**The meeting was quorate with 292 members present.**

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

Andrew began the meeting by congratulating ISUOG on the huge accomplishments of 2015; including the achievement of the membership development goal of 10,000 members by 2015 with 13,300 members at present and the highest ever impact factor of 3.853 for the Journal of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Andrew reminded the members of the current vision and mission of the Society:

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.

Andrew summarised the activities across the year, reflecting the activities which have been achieved in line with the Society's mission and vision. In line with the goal to increase reach and influence through membership, the Society has substantially increased its membership over the past 10 years, with the greatest increases occurring in the last 5 years and the goal of over 10,000 members in 2015 being achieved by June 12<sup>th</sup> this year. Andrew noted that the membership distribution across countries is changing rapidly, with traditionally highly represented areas such as Europe and North America now being overtaken by these regions and Asia, with 50% of current membership from Central or South America and the Far East. Andrew outlined the challenges which occur as a result of this change in membership with regards to ensuring our education offering can reach these regions which are so far away from the ISUOG headquarters. With the development of a new website, this will hopefully be achievable.

In line with the goal to improve the standard of and access to scientific information, the Journal's impact factor has risen to 3.853 which has resulted in an overall increase in the quality of submissions to the Journal, as well as increased submissions of systematic reviews.

In line with goals to deliver a comprehensive education program, ISUOG has actively worked towards improving its education offering at a basic training level, not just for the specialist, with increased trainee partnerships in over 37 countries, and the availability of the basic training course in over 4 languages. Andrew highlighted that the online learning offering is continually improving, with the launch of ISUOG's CME platform in April and improvements in the VISUOG Gynecology chapters.

Andrew outlined the review carried out of ISUOG's Outreach programs, which has resulted in a re-modelling of the strategic framework with the aim to returning some ownership back to the locations of the Outreach projects. He encouraged delegates to get involved with Outreach and attend the dedicated Hub sessions on Tuesday of Congress.

Andrew outlined the upcoming events for 2016, which included the ISUOG intensive courses, a growing CME platform and the 12<sup>th</sup> international symposium in Miami, Florida. He outlined the critical dates for Rome Congress 2016 and informed members that a new travel stipend would be introduced in 2016, whereby 5 scholarships will be offered to members from underserved regions. Young investigators and researchers should submit their abstracts so that they can be considered for the stipend, more detail for which can be found on the ISUOG website.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Barcelona, 2014**

Alain Gagnon (ISUOG Honorary Secretary) asked the membership for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous year's AGM in Barcelona; Lawrence Platt proposed and Steve Goldstein seconded the motion with none against.

***The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Barcelona 2014 were unanimously accepted without change.***

### **4. 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:

- Nick Raine-Fenning (UK)
- Antonia Testa (Italy)

New appointments:

- Prashant Acharya (India)
- Tom Bourne (UK) as Treasurer
- Mauricio Herrera (Colombia)
- Christoph Lees (UK)

Board retirements by rotation:

- Alfred Abuhamad (USA)
- Eduard Gratacos (Spain)
- Ann Tabor (Denmark)

Beryl Benacerraf proposed and Lawrence Platt seconded the motion with none against.

***The appointments and retirements approved unanimously.***

## **5. Reports and Accounts for year end 2014**

A summary of ISUOG's annual accounts was published online ahead of the meeting and summarised on screen. Alfred Abuhamad (ISUOG's Treasurer) opened his report by highlighting the last 10 years of ISUOG's growth, and explained the spike in income for 2014 growth was due to the sale of ISUOG's previous office (Blythe Mews). Alfred outlined the strong growth of the Society with strong foundations for the future which included increased endowments for future education, permanent educational resources for members, and the establishment of financial policies, risk management and reserves. Alfred summarised the incoming resources for 2014, which included the first dividends on the education fund for projects. Income from memberships had decreased, despite high member growth, due to increases in accessible memberships (trainees/approved courses), as well as decreased income from the Journal due to a decrease in advertising and decreased income from courses due to reduced live delegate numbers and lower rates offered to live stream attendees. Income from Congress had increased however, due to largest ever delegate numbers at the Barcelona Congress.

In terms of expenditure, member service costs were down in spite of a 10% increase in member numbers, due to efficiency measures. Journal costs had increased slightly due to staffing needs and Congress costs had also increased. Course costs had similarly increased, and there was planned increased expenditure on Education projects from the education fund income towards Basic Training and online learning development.

Alfred summarised the income / expenditure trends across the past 4 year for the 4 main income streams (Membership, Journal, Congress and Courses) for the Society. The current balance sheet for the Society was presented, with current assets at £8,293,266, including fixed property assets. Alfred outlined the management of reserves throughout 2014 and looking forward to 2015, highlighting the breakdown of the balance sheet which includes £1.9mil on the ISUOG Freston Road office (fixed asset), £2.2mil education fund and £925,000 returns from the sale of Blythe Mews which had now also been invested in the education fund. The current reserves policy requires that 18-24 months of operation costs (£2.8 mil minimum) be kept available, with a change instigated this year whereby any additional reserves beyond the minimum amount would be invested to fund the educational mission of the Society (e.g. website, VISUOG, CME platform, Basic Training program etc.) through the CCLA fund but available should the need arise.

## **6. Appointment of the auditors and approval of the annual accounts**

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

Alfred finished by stating that this was his last report as Treasurer. He had enjoyed his time as Treasurer and was grateful for the opportunity.

## **7. Formal alteration of Companies House and Charity Commission name records**

Alain Gagnon outlined that at present the Society's officially registered name includes the British spelling of Gynaecology as opposed to the American spelling (Gynecology) which is used across ISUOG's documentation and in the Journal. Alain proposed a motion to approve the official name change on Companies House and Charity Commission records to "International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology". Steve Goldstein and Mauricio Herrera seconded the motion. ***The formal alteration of name records was approved unanimously.***

## **8. Awards and acknowledgements**

Alain Gagnon asked Andrew Ngu to join him on stage to present awards to the retiring Board members as listed above, with Alfred Abuhamad receiving two awards one for his term as Board member and another for his term as Treasurer and Ann Tabor and Eduard Gratacos for their time on the Board. Andrew Ngu presented the award to Gold Medal Award winner Torvid Kiserud.

Alain closed the meeting by asking members to help us in celebrating ISUOG's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday by getting involved with the #LoveUltrasound campaign, with a chance to win a free registration for Rome.

**Alain made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with was seconded by Steve Goldstein. All were in favour. Alain thanked the members for attending and declared the AGM closed.**