

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 21 October 2018, 9:45 AM  
Hall 1, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

### Minutes

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

Josh Copel (President) welcomed the members to the 2018 AGM and thanked them for attending. He reminded the members that the agenda and accompanying materials had been previously posted and were available online as well as in hard copies in the audience.

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

Josh summarised the activities throughout the year 2017, reporting on the key performance indicators which have been achieved in line with the Society's strategic goals. The Board has spent time over the last few years defining the Society's vision and mission in the annual strategic planning meetings. ISUOG's mission is printed on the congress bags – *'to improve women's health through the provision, advancement and broadest dissemination of the highest quality education, standards and research information around ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology, so that every woman in the world has access to the ultrasound and every scan provider is competent, and that diagnosis and women's health outcomes improve.'*

Josh outlined the main accomplishments, presented against the Society's five-year strategic plan and six key objectives, highlights of which are listed below:

#### ***Strategic objective 1: To achieve (and be recognised for) the highest quality and standards in research***

UOG: Josh referred to Basky's previous presentation detailing the many Journal successes last year, and recognised particularly remarkable achievements in terms of its impact factor (5.65) ranking the Journal 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 2.6 million (+38%), as well as 7,380 Journal Club slides downloads. 2,619 trainee members have received free access to Journal and there have been 12,734 (+101%) UOG App downloads (Android and iOS).

World Congress recognised as the leading event in the field reached a total of 2,113 scientific delegates in Singapore as of the end of Saturday 20 October 2018, making it an extraordinary success for the congress organised outside of Europe. With delegates from 86 countries onsite, ISUOG's particular efforts have been made around working with partner organisations from the Asia-Pacific region to increase the number of delegates as well as accessibility to delegates from the low income countries, fulfilling the Society's mission to disseminate our scientific knowledge worldwide. In a membership survey, 95% of delegates agreed that they would recommend ISUOG's congress to a colleague which compliments to the quality of the science presented.

Developing comprehensive clinical guidelines: The following guidelines are available for free for both members and non-members on the ISUOG website – 'CNS', 'First trimester fetal ultrasound scan', 'Mid-trimester fetal ultrasound scan', 'Doppler in ultrasonography in obstetrics', 'Fetal heart', 'Role of ultrasound in twin pregnancy', 'Invasive procedures in prenatal diagnosis', and 'MRI'. Two new guidelines have been added in 2018, including 'ISUOG Practice Guidelines on intrapartum ultrasound' and 'Pre-eclampsia'. There are also six guidelines in development as follows: 'Fetal biometry and growth', 'High order pregnancy', 'How to do a pelvic scan', 'Congenital infections', 'Role of simulation in ultrasound training', and 'SGA-FGR'.

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

Over the last few years, the Basic Training Task Force has developed a comprehensive program available in a form of a theoretical program with hands-on components, including recordings of the sessions in case a live program is not accessible. Live-streamed programmes reached out to 1,027 attendees from 55 countries with 1,011 certificates

awarded in 2017. 1,265 delegates also attended our Basic Training so far this year. The first 4-day program was given just a few weeks ago in Chennai (India) with 190 delegates onsite and 250 additional attendees at 9 satellites which is a tremendous success, and Josh thanked the Basic Training team for all their efforts.

Outreach has also been offered to different parts of the world (Ghana, Egypt, Haiti, Sudan, and Oman) delivered by 108 trainees and 17 volunteer trainers in 2017. Additionally, there were 135 people on the waiting list to be trainers as a testament to the dedication of our members in their desire to volunteer to offer these programs that demonstrably improve the knowledge basis of the people attending.

ISUOG also continues to develop live stream and increase access to education courses organised in the London office and through live streamed sessions to leverage into much larger audiences.

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

The ISUOG membership continues to grow with 13,049 members from 127 countries in the end of 2017, expecting to finish 2018 with over 14,000, which reflects an on-going trend of increased member engagement. The broad distribution of our members indicating different parts of the world shows particular increase of members in non-European, UK and North America countries. ISUOG's primary goal is also to retain membership. In 2017, we retained 83% Journal memberships (+13% increase against the goal of 70%), 81% of paid memberships (+11% increase against the goal of 70%) and 4% of trainee memberships (against the goal of 22% in 2017; in 2018 up to 10%).

***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. To date, there are 140 partnerships, 56 active trainee partners, including 47 approved course institutions from 38 countries of which 14 were added in 2017.

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

The new website was launched this year with ISUOG's online presence and technology constantly evolving via periodical upgrades. The website is now achieving over 40,000 visitors per month. Josh also highlighted ISUOG's PR activities around the clinically relevant research referring to the altmetric score presented by Basky. Particular focus has also been given to the world of social media using the Twitter and Facebook to increase engagement. Josh reminded everyone about the 'Twitter photo challenge' where delegates take pictures of Journal in different places and submit them on twitter. The winner of the best picture gets a free print subscription to the Journal. Josh also emphasised that translation of essential materials into key languages remained important in order to increase our reach. ISUOG guidelines are available in 17 languages, translated by more than 30 volunteer translators and Spanish and Chinese dominating the dissemination through Journal activities and learning modules in 2017.

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

Josh noted that there are many initiatives in progress, including an on-going governance review. He also stressed ISUOG's goal to support staff development and operational improvement. The members were reminded about the two upcoming programs, including the 15<sup>th</sup> ISUOG International Symposium in São Paulo (Brazil) in April 2019 and the 29<sup>th</sup> Congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Berlin (Germany) in October 2019.

**3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Vienna, 2017**

Josh asked the membership for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous year's AGM in Vienna; Dr Goldstein approved the motion with none against. *The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Vienna 2017 were unanimously accepted without change.*

**4. Report and Accounts for year end 2017**

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 risk analysis. The larger risks were identified to be

lack of diversity of income (currently reliant on the income generated by the annual Congress and expected to decrease in the future given increasing costs); Congress income foreign exchange risk and reducing Journal income due to Open Access from 2019, resulting in reducing membership and journal sales income.

Other risks are ISUOG's reliance on individual staff, governance structure changes and a perceived risk to staff & volunteers (Outreach) operating in unstable environments, e.g. Sudan (full risk evaluation and security protocol are in place, with Kidnap and Ransom Insurance in place).

Tom emphasised the issue of lack of diversity of income addressing the Society's main income streams, including the Congress and events providing ISUOG by far with the majority of our income, followed by membership and thirdly the Journal which may be lost due to upcoming changes in the Journal publishing and Open Access in the future. This inevitably translates into the ISUOG's reserves policy 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.

Key income sources and trends for the last few years indicate that to some extent the Congress income was determined by geographical characteristics of where the conferences have been organised. ISUOG's primary goal is to reach as many areas worldwide as possible. Despite a lower income from the Congress generated in certain years, some of financially more successful conferences were able to underwrite these to date. Membership income is slowly increasing with the Journal income likely decreasing over time given the Open Access. The courses income has always been rather static however, it has not been the Society's principal aim.

Tom summarised the 2017 reserves policy: we have our general reserves of a minimum of 18 months' budget (£3.9M) and further reserves of between 18 and 24 months (£1.3M). Additionally, there is also £309,916 reserve which had been allocated to project activities this year. Other assets include the building in London with ISUOG's Office (within the office, there are education facilities used for running live streaming events, including the Journal activities) and the Education fund 'Endowment' to sustainably fund education activity (potentially £220K income per year). Up to date, ISUOG has been drawing down only about £20K with the aim to draw down the maximum from the education fund over the next year. Tom clarified that prior to this, ISUOG has been reinvesting most of the possible draw down back into the fund.

Tom summarised the incoming resources for 2017 at £3,023,506 which included a slightly increased membership income and membership growth, the higher congress income as anticipated due to greater attendance in Europe as well as higher sponsorship in 2017. Expenditure for the year ended at £2,419,229 with net movement on funds about £1M: member costs increased due to website improvements. Congress expenditure is higher due to higher delegate numbers and there was an increase in Education / Outreach costs due to more activity and specialist staffing which is going to increase even further in the future.

Tom summarised that the Society's net income of about £1M is down due to a lower investment gain in 2017 and increased costs of some of the activities mentioned above. The 2017 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 debtors because of in advance billing for some customers.

#### 5. **Appointment of the auditors**

Tom Bourne asked for questions to the accounts and then proposed a motion to reappoint the auditors (Sayer Vincent LLP) for the next year. Dr Goldstein approved the motion with none against. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was unanimously approved as the 2018 auditor without a change.*

#### 6. **Appointments and retirements**

Aris presented a special notification to the membership regarding the Trustee appointments and retirements, referring to the on-going governance review. The members were notified in advance of the AGM about the retirement of the two Board members, Daniela Prayer and George Yeo. Their retirement has been postponed to 2019 pending the governance change and Aris re-assured the members that their term is still within the total allowable term for the Board members. As such, they will retire in 2019 rather than this year as announced to the members earlier in the month.

Aris also announced Trustee re-appointments to the Board by virtue of their role as Officers as follows:

- Josh Copel (to continue as Past President)
- Jon Hyett (to continue as Education Committee Chair)
- Dirk Timmerman (to continue as Scientific Committee Co-Chair)

Board retirements by rotation:

- Christoph Brezinka (Austria)

Aris asked the membership for a motion to approve the reappointments and retirements to / from the Board. *These were approved unanimously.*

## 7. Awards and Acknowledgements

Aris invited Josh to present awards to the retiring Board member Christoph Brezinka and also thanked him for his contributions as Chair of the Online Education Content Task Force from 2014-2018.

Aris also announced that Gustavo Malinger (current Board member) is retiring from the Courses Task Force, and thanked him for leading on the transformation of courses towards live streamed offering.

Additionally, Aly Youssef is retiring from the CME Task Force and Aris thanked him for his service and deep commitment.

Aly is going to be replaced by Christoph Wohlmuth who has already been part of this Task Force, and Aris thanked him for taking on the challenge in order to continue to develop the continuous medical education. The other two Task Force chairs have agreed to continue for a few more weeks until their replacements have been appointed. There was an enormous response to the newsletter and advert for the Task Force chairs, and Aris thanked to all members for their interest.

Further to that, Aris welcomed a new Committee chair:

- Laurent Salomon (current Board member and new Scientific Committee chair taking over the chairmanship from Dirk Timmerman who will continue serving on the Committee as vice chair for gynecology)

Aris also announced the two highest distinguished awards for this year:

- The Ian Donald Gold Medal is given to the individual who made an outstanding contribution to the way ultrasound is practiced in obstetrics and gynecology through research and innovation. Aris recognised the fantastic work of Jan Deprest in the field of fetal intervention and fetal surgery, and announced that he will be accepting the medal after his lecture in the Hall 1 at 15:45PM.
- Stuart Campbell Award for Education for career long commitment to the advancement of ultrasound via the education of others. Aris acknowledged the work of Rabih Chaoui and praised his teaching enthusiasm as well as his particular contributions in imaging. Rabih will be giving his award lecture tomorrow, on Monday at 7:30 AM, and Aris encouraged the members to support the session in the Hall 1.

Special thanks were also made to the outgoing Editor in Chief of the White Journal, Basky Thilaganathan, for his outstanding contributions to the Journal and its success. Anthony Odibo is the incoming Editor in Chief who will be taking over the mantle for the Journal editorship going forward.

As every 2 years, Aris also announced the presidential handover:

- Josh Copel (becomes the Past President)
- Katia Bilardo (takes over as President)
- Tom Bourne (becomes President Elect)
- Andrew Ngu (formally retires from the Officers' positions)

Aris invited Katia to present the award to the Past President Josh Cope. She thanked him for his outstanding commitment during his presidency praising his unique integrity and high morality, and encouraged him to remain engaged with the Society.

Katia also thanked to all ISUOG members for their trust and for allowing her to become the next President of the Society. She appreciated the Singapore Congress to be a special place symbolising the fact that ISUOG expanded worldwide with a large audience of people willing to learn and engage. She remembered ISUOG's 28-year history when the Society, founded by Prof. Campbell, started as the society of experts exchanging their experiences, whilst dealing with very unusual and difficult cases and using the most advanced techniques at the same time. She realised that it took the Society many years to define the future direction of ultrasound education in order to make an impact and achieve our charitable goals, including the Basic Training, courses and Outreach projects. She praised the work of a dedicated staff in the ISUOG office led by Sarah Johnson who helped develop these new activities.

Katia also reminded the members that another office has been recently opened in China marking the beginning of series of regional offices in the near future to engage local audiences and to tackle language barriers despite English being one of the most spoken languages in the world (e.g. Russia, Vietnam, South America). This will become Katia's mission for the next few years supported by the core values of engagement, openness and inclusiveness. She invited all members to reach out to her to exchange opinions and to engage and interact at the annual general meetings

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