

# NEWSLETTER

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64th Annual Congress & 11th International Symposium (TAOG)

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Welcome to the  
February 2025  
newsletter. I hope you  
had.....



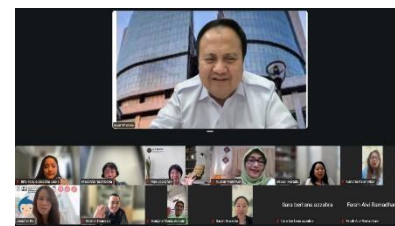
AOFOG looks forward  
to strengthening our  
collaboration with.....



## Ultra Sound Committee



## MFM Committee



## REI Committee



## Member Society Corner



## JOGR

## AOFOG Committee Chairs 2024/2026

### Maternal & Fetal Medicine

Prof. Mahesh Choolani  
(Singapore)

### Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery

Prof. Jae-Kwan Lee  
(Korea)

### Oncology

Dr. Ka Yu Tse  
(Hong Kong)

### Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Prof. Budi Wiweko  
(Indonesia)

### Sexual & Reproductive Health

Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn  
(Thailand)

### Ultrasound

Dr. Voon Hian Yan  
(Malaysia)

### Urogynaecology

A/Prof. Lisa T. Prodgalidad  
Jabson  
(Philippines)

### Fellowship selection

Prof. Yu-Shih Yang  
(Taiwan)

### YGAA

Dr. Jaydeep Tank  
(India)

## President's Message



Dear AOFOG friends and colleagues,

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

It is 12 months since I had the honour of becoming the President of AOFOG. It has been an exciting and fulfilling time. My major regret is that due to my illness, Guillain-Barré syndrome, I have not been able to travel as much as I would have liked. I send my sincere apologies to the national societies to whom I have had to decline their very kind invitations.

As a result of not traveling, I have sent several Welcome Addresses by video. I was also honoured to give a lecture on "How legislative changes have affected Abortion services in New Zealand" at the TAOG 64th Congress.

Other activities have included a webinar "Campus 4 on Adenomyosis" organised by Prof Budi Wiweko and his REI committee.

Another very successful stakeholder workshop for "Uniting for Quality" was held in Manila in March under the umbrella of POGS and Jhpiego. I would like to specially thank Dr Christia Padolina and Dr Jaydeep Tank for their leadership.

A further workshop was held in Phuket sponsored by AOFOG and Jhpiego with attendees from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia, and Pakistan. This important work is progressing well.

At present I am in Okayama Japan at the 77th Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. AOFOG had a successful session with three speakers. Prof. Pisake Lumbiganon on "WHO recommendations on antenatal care", UDP Ratnasiri on "Placenta Accreta spectrum disorders" Professor Mahesh Choolani on "Post Partum Hemorrhage and Maternal Mortality".

A very successful meeting was held between the officers of AOFOG and the officers of JSOG. Agreement was reached on the survey "A collaborative study on lifestyle, work style, and unconscious gender bias among obstetricians and gynaecologists in AOFOG countries." This will be distributed to the national societies.

It has been a sad three months, the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, our thoughts and best wishes go to those affected. Secondly the passing of Prof. W. Sumpaico on the 30th of April. Prof. Sumpiaco was an outstanding contributor to AOFOG during his long tenure as Secretary-General. He was much loved and will be sorely missed.

Thank you for all your hard work in improving the health and wellness of the women and babies in our region.

Kindest regards,

**Dr. John Tait**

President, AOFOG.

## Secretary General's Message



Time is truly flying—We have now crossed halfway mark of 2025, and the momentum continues to build. The past quarter has been particularly vibrant and productive, with several major national society conferences, collaborative workshops, and impactful committee activities taking place across the region. These engagements not only reflect the dynamism within AOFOG but also highlight our member societies' dedication to elevating the standard of women's health across Asia and Oceania. I am pleased to provide an overview of our recent activities.

64th Annual Congress & 11th International Symposium of the Taiwan Association of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (TAOG). March 22–23, 2025 | Kaohsiung Marriott Hotel, Taiwan.

AOFOG was honored to be invited to participate in this prestigious congress hosted by TAOG. We conducted a dedicated AOFOG session, which was scheduled as the opening scientific session—an acknowledgment of our strong partnership with TAOG. The session was co-chaired by past and current AOFOG leaders: Prof. Yu Shi Yang (Past President, AOFOG – Taiwan), Prof. Joong Shin Park (Vice President, AOFOG – Korea), and Prof. Kazunori Ochiai (Past President, AOFOG – Japan).



The session featured compelling lectures by:

- Dr. John Tait (President, AOFOG – New Zealand): “How Legislative Change Has Affected Abortion Services in New Zealand” (delivered online)
- Prof. Pisake Lumbiganon (Immediate Past President, AOFOG – Thailand): “Implementation of Evidence-Based Medicine in Reproductive Health: A Role of Cochrane Systematic Review”
- Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa (Secretary General, AOFOG – Sri Lanka): “Redefining Intrapartum Care

### Based on Recent Evidence”

The scientific content was of the highest quality, drawing appreciation from both regional and international delegates.

The congress was remarkable not only for its academic excellence but also for its spirit of collaboration. We were especially impressed by the participation of representatives from prestigious global organizations—FIGO, ACOG, RCOG, EBCOG—alongside AOFOG and the enthusiastic engagement of JKT officers and young professionals.



The cultural and social events were equally exceptional, providing a warm and immersive Taiwanese experience. The hospitality extended to delegates and their accompanying persons, including thoughtfully curated local tours, were simply unparalleled. We are deeply grateful for the attention to detail and the heartfelt welcome from TAOG.

I wish to warmly congratulate Prof. Shee-Uan Chen (President, TAOG), Prof. Wei Chun Chang (Vice President), Prof. Hwang (Secretary General) and the TAOG Officers for their outstanding leadership and coordination in organizing a truly memorable event.

XVIIth International Conference of the Nepal Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (NESOG). March 28-29, 2025 | Kathmandu, Nepal.

Held under the theme “Innovation and Equity in Women’s Health: Shaping the Future Together”. The XVIIth NESOG conference offered a meaningful platform for academic exchange and regional collaboration. AOFOG was privileged to be invited, and I was deeply honored to deliver the prestigious Shree Hirananda Vaidya Oration.



Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn (Chair, AOFOG SRH Committee) enriched the AOFOG session with his practical lecture titled “Tips for Dealing with Bone Loss During Menopausal Transition and Beyond.”

We also witnessed the ceremonial handover of the NESOG presidency from Dr. Saroja Pandey to Dr. Padam Raj Pant. I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Pandey for her unwavering commitment to strengthening AOFOG–NESOG collaboration during her term and express our enthusiasm to work closely with Dr. Pant as we advance shared goals in the region.

An ICOE workshop followed the congress, organized by the ICOE team of OGSM in collaboration with AOFOG. Conducted in Lumbini—a region with relatively high maternal mortality—this workshop focused on emergency obstetric care and drew significant participation. The training

team, was led by Dr. Thaneemalai Jeganathan, working alongside, OGSM trainers and previously trained Nepalese trainers.

Since 2018, multiple ICOE “Training of Trainers” workshops have been held in Nepal, enabling the training of numerous healthcare workers. The sustained partnership with OGSM’s ICOE team has yielded measurable improvements in maternal care outcomes in Nepal. I wish to sincerely thank Dr. Gunasegara Rajan, Dr. Thaneemale, Dr. Tang Boon Nee, Mr. Baskaran, and all trainers for their tireless dedication.



77th Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG). May 23–25, 2025 | Okayama, Japan.

The 77th JSOG Annual Congress was a grand and impressive event, drawing over 5,000 participants and covering an extensive range of topics across Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The presence of international leaders, including Presidents of FIGO, ACOG, and AOFOG, signaled the event’s global stature.



AOFOG was once again privileged to conduct a dedicated session, continuing our longstanding tradition of academic exchange with JSOG. In addition, the AOFOG–JSOG officers’ meeting proved to be highly productive, discussing joint initiatives and strengthening our mutual collaboration.

The hospitality and meticulous planning by JSOG officers made every moment memorable—from the academic sessions to the cultural experiences, social events, and tours. For the accompanying persons and foreign faculty



We express our deepest appreciation to Prof. Kiyoko Kato, Chairperson, Executive Board, JSOG, Prof. Hisashi Masuyama, President of the 77th Congress & the entire JSOG team, for their remarkable organization and warm welcome.

AOFOG Strategic Workshop on Quality of Care (QoC). April 23–24, 2025 | Phuket, Thailand.

This important strategic workshop—organized with the support of Jhpiego—was designed to sustain the momentum built from the March 2024 regional meeting in Bangkok. The aim was to:

- Review country-specific QoC progress.
- Promote cross-country learning.
- Co-create national action plans.
- Explore the development of an AOFOG Virtual Resource Center.

The workshop was attended by Dr. Nara from Mongolia, Dr. Saroja Pandey from Nepal, Dr. Azis Nisa Ababsi and Dr. Salma from Pakistan, and Dr. Emma Co-Hidalgo & Dr. Christia Padolina, Treasurer of AOFOG representing the Philippines. Also Prof Farhana Dewan & Prof Feroza Begum from Bangladesh joined virtually.

AOFOG was represented by Dr. Jaydeep Tank (Convener of QOC project and Chair, YGAA Committee), myself. Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn (AOFOG SRH Committee Chair) also joined. President John Tait joined the workshop Virtually.

Country presentations from Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Mongolia were rich with insights, and I thank each representative for their thoughtful contributions.



Special thanks to Ms. Pompiy Sridhar and MSD for Mothers, whose consistent support and presence—despite their demanding schedules—was deeply motivating. We also appreciate the dedication of Dr. Suranji and the Jhpiego team for their steadfast involvement since the project's inception.

Above all, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Dr. Parvez Memon, who took the lead in organizing the workshop, alongside Dr. Anupama Rao and Dr. Sithun. Their commitment, detailed planning, and execution ensured a smooth and successful program.

I thank and appreciate the leadership role played by Dr. Jaydeep, with his vision and plans, guiding us in the correct direction by actively participating in all the activities.



This initiative holds great promise for tangible improvement in the quality of maternal care across the region. I urge all member societies to develop national QoC teams, select pilot areas or hospitals, and begin structured implementation with regular progress updates.

### Committee Activities

Our seven standing committees have been actively engaged in delivering workshops, seminars, and training initiatives. Detailed updates are available in their individual reports:

- Minimally Invasive Gynaecological Surgery
- Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
- Ultrasound
- Maternal & Fetal Medicine
- Oncology
- Urogynaecology

I thank all committee chairs and members for their dedication and meaningful contributions to AOFOG's mission.

## Obituaries & Tributes.

### A. In Memoriam: Professor Walfredo Sumpaico

#### A Beloved Leader, Mentor, and Friend

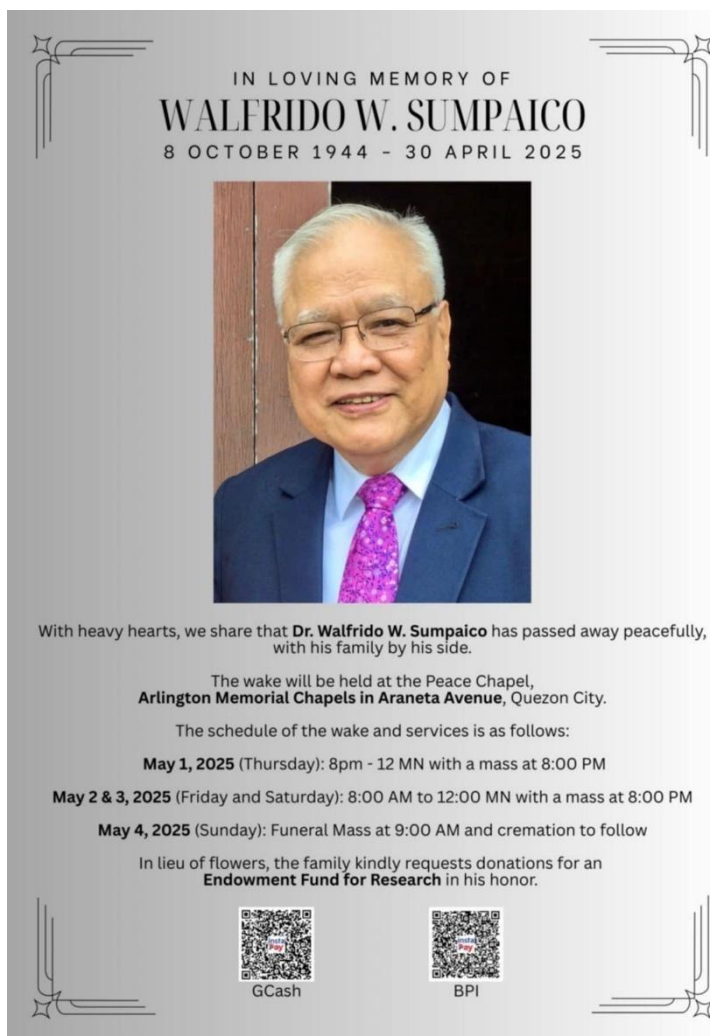
It was with deep sadness that we received the news of the passing of Prof. Walfredo Sumpaico, a cherished former Secretary General of AOFOG, a pillar of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS), and a mentor and friend to many across the Asia Oceania region. The message, conveyed by Dr. Christia Padolina, AOFOG Treasurer, touched us all deeply. Though we were aware that Prof. Sumpaico had been unwell and undergoing treatment for some time, his passing has brought a profound sense of loss.

Prof. Sumpaico took over the role of Secretary General of AOFOG following the tenure of the late Prof. Shan Ratnam — a giant in our Federation's history. He stepped into this role with quiet confidence and quickly made it his own, strengthening AOFOG through close collaboration with member societies and contributing significantly to its growth and cohesion.


He was admired not only for his capable leadership but also for his warmth and humanity. Prof. Sumpaico had a kind and joyful presence that drew people in. He listened with sincerity, offered advice with humility, and made everyone around him feel respected and valued. His gentle humor and calm demeanor helped build bridges and foster unity within the Federation.

I was privileged to work closely with him over several years, beginning with my early involvement as Chair of an AOFOG committee. He was always generous with his guidance, especially toward younger colleagues. When I eventually succeeded him as Secretary General, I knew I had big shoes to fill. Yet, in true Prof. Sumpaico fashion, he continued to encourage and support me, making that transition smoother and more meaningful.

Beyond his dedicated work in AOFOG, Prof. Sumpaico made lasting contributions to POGS and to



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**WALFRIDO W. SUMPAICO**  
8 OCTOBER 1944 - 30 APRIL 2025



With heavy hearts, we share that **Dr. Walfrido W. Sumpaico** has passed away peacefully, with his family by his side.

The wake will be held at the Peace Chapel,  
**Arlington Memorial Chapels in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.**


The schedule of the wake and services is as follows:

**May 1, 2025** (Thursday): 8pm - 12 MN with a mass at 8:00 PM


**May 2 & 3, 2025** (Friday and Saturday): 8:00 AM to 12:00 MN with a mass at 8:00 PM

**May 4, 2025** (Sunday): Funeral Mass at 9:00 AM and cremation to follow

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations for an **Endowment Fund for Research** in his honor.



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postgraduate education throughout the region. He was passionate about teaching and remained committed to improving women's health and advancing the capabilities of health professionals across Asia Oceania. His legacy endures in the many lives he touched and the high standards he upheld.

We also remember with great appreciation Madam Sandy, his devoted wife, whose steady presence and support were deeply felt throughout his journey. Together with their children and grandchildren, she cared for him lovingly. Every New Year, the Sumpaico family's greeting card would arrive — a symbol of joy, unity, and enduring friendship.

Prof. Sumpaico's passing is an irreplaceable loss to the AOFOG family. We will miss his wisdom, his compassion, and his unwavering dedication. But we take comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on in the work we continue, inspired by his example.

On behalf of the AOFOG Executive Board and the entire Federation, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May you find solace in knowing how widely he was respected, how deeply he was loved, and how fondly he will be remembered.

May his soul rest in eternal peace...!

## **B. Appreciation and Tribute to Professor T. A. Chowdhury.**

*A Visionary Leader, Teacher of Teachers, and Gentle Giant of SAFOG and AOFOG*

It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Prof. T. A. Chowdhury — a father figure to many, and one of the founding pillars of the South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SAFOG). His visionary leadership, tireless commitment, and unwavering dedication were instrumental in shaping and strengthening SAFOG from its earliest days.

Prof. Chowdhury was not only a towering figure within SAFOG but also played a significant role in the work of AOFOG. He served as Vice President of AOFOG, and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to women's health at both national and international levels, he was honored with the Fellowship of AOFOG — a distinction befitting a man of his stature.



In Bangladesh, and across the region, Prof. Chowdhury earned the rare distinction of being known as a “teacher of teachers”. His influence as an educator and academician is immeasurable. Generations of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists trace their inspiration and training back to him. His commitment to academic excellence was unwavering — so much so that he remained actively engaged in scholarly activities until just two days before his passing. His life was a living example of devotion to learning, teaching, and service.

I had the distinct privilege of working closely with Prof. Chowdhury during his tenure as President

of SAFOG, when I served as his Secretary-General. Our professional collaboration quickly grew into a cherished personal bond. To me, he was not just a revered teacher, guide, and mentor — he was a source of warmth, wisdom, and deep friendship.

His passing marks the end of an era. Both SAFOG and AOFOG have lost a foundational pillar, a voice of wisdom, and a source of great strength. But even as we mourn, we also celebrate a legacy that will live on — through the countless students he trained, the institutions he built, and the inspiration he provided to so many across our region and beyond.

On behalf of AOFOG, we extend our deepest condolences to his family, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace...!

AOFOG 2026 – Sydney, Australia.

October 12–16, 2026

Preparations for AOFOG 2026, hosted by RANZCOG in Sydney, are well underway. The official website is live, and the Call for Speaker Expressions of Interest is open until July 12, 2025. Please register early to take advantage of discounted rates.

We look forward to seeing you all in Sydney for what promises to be an exciting, inclusive, and impactful congress.

In closing, as we move into the second half of the year, I thank all national societies, committee members, partners, and volunteers for your continued support and contributions. Let's continue our collective mission to improve the health and well-being of women and families across Asia Oceania.

**Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa,**  
Secretary General, AOFOG.

## MIGS Committee Report

### Upcoming AOFOG MIGS Webinar – August 22, 2025

The AOFOG MIGS Committee is pleased to announce the upcoming MIGS Webinar scheduled for August 22, 2025.

This session will bring together experts and representatives from AOFOG member countries to discuss the current landscape and future directions of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS). Topics will include recent innovations, regional practices, and collaborative strategies to enhance surgical outcomes.

We anticipate a highly insightful and interactive event that will further unite our efforts in promoting excellence in MIGS across the Asia-Oceania region. Details on registration and speakers will be shared soon—please stay tuned!

AOFOG MIGS Committee: Fostering surgical innovation and collaboration across the region

**Prof. Jae-Kwan Lee,**  
MIGS Committee Chair, AOFOG.

#### Webinar: Advances in Minimal Invasive Gynecological Surgery

Date: August 22, 2025 (PM 2:00 – 5:20 Korea Standard Time (KST))

Organized by: MIGS Committee, AOFOG

#### Agenda

14:00 – 14:05

#### Welcome Remarks

Dr. John Tait (President, AOFOG)

14:05 – 14:10

#### Introduction

Prof. Jae-Kwan Lee (Chair, MIGS Committee)

14:10 – 14:40

Speaker 1: Hirotaka NISHII

(Japan, MIGS Committee member)

Topic: (Advances in Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery)

14:40 – 15:10

Speaker 2: Kannappan Palaniyappan

(Malaysia, MIGS Committee member)

Topic: (MIS in Gynecologic surgery; Malaysian experience)

15:10 – 15:40

Speaker 3: Jiheum Paek

(Korea, Korean Society of Gynecologic Endoscopy)

Topic: The current Trend and Future of Gynecologic Robotic Surgery

15:40 – 16:10

Speaker 4: Ajith Kumara Dissanayake

(Sri Lanka, MIGS Committee member)

Topic: Diagnostic Laparoscopy in Gynecology: Its Significance in Resource-Limited Settings

16:40 – 17:10

#### Discussion

Discussant: Tsukasa Baba

(Japan, MIGS Committee member)

17:10 – 17:20

#### Closing Remarks

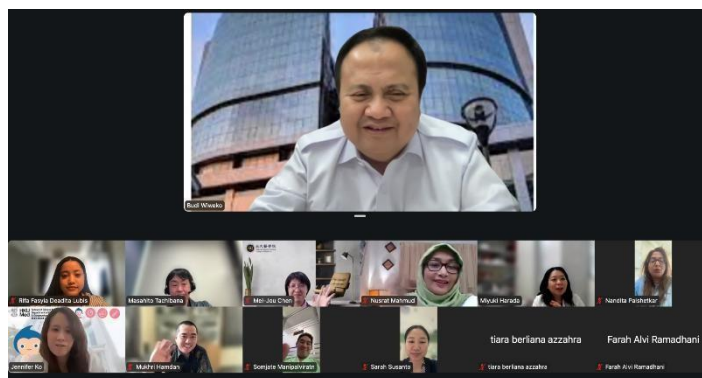
Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa (Secretary General, AOFOG)

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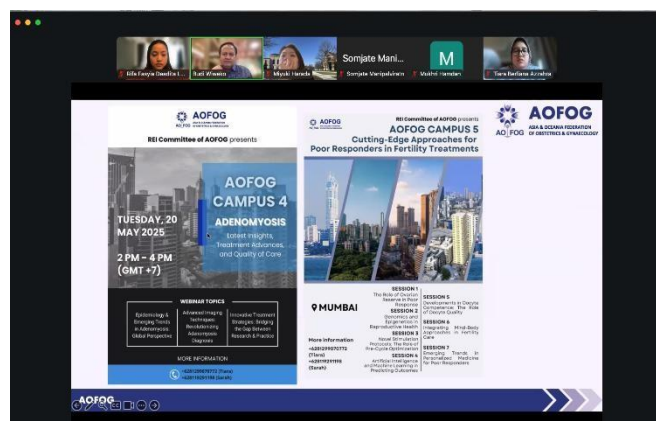
## REI Committee Report

On 27 February 2025, the AOFOG REI Committee held an online meeting to discuss ongoing and upcoming collaborative initiatives among member countries. One of the main highlights of the session was the proposal to expand a research study on menopause, initially conducted in Hong Kong member countries.

The study focuses on understanding the experience of women during menopausal transition. Data collection is conducted in primary care settings such as family medicine or general practitioner (GP) clinics, targeting women aged 45–60 years. A total sample size of 500 participants is needed to achieve a suitable error margin. Another agenda item was the AOFOG session in Hong Kong, coordinated by Dr. Jennifer K.Y. Ko. The session will be held as part of a two-day Fertility Preservation Seminar on 12–13 April 2025. AOFOG statement on PCOS is under discussion, the committee acknowledged the challenges of redefining PCOS. A standardized approach to treatment and management is also being drafted. The Fellowship Program in REI aims to host 2–3 fellows annually for 2 weeks to 1 month of observer ship.



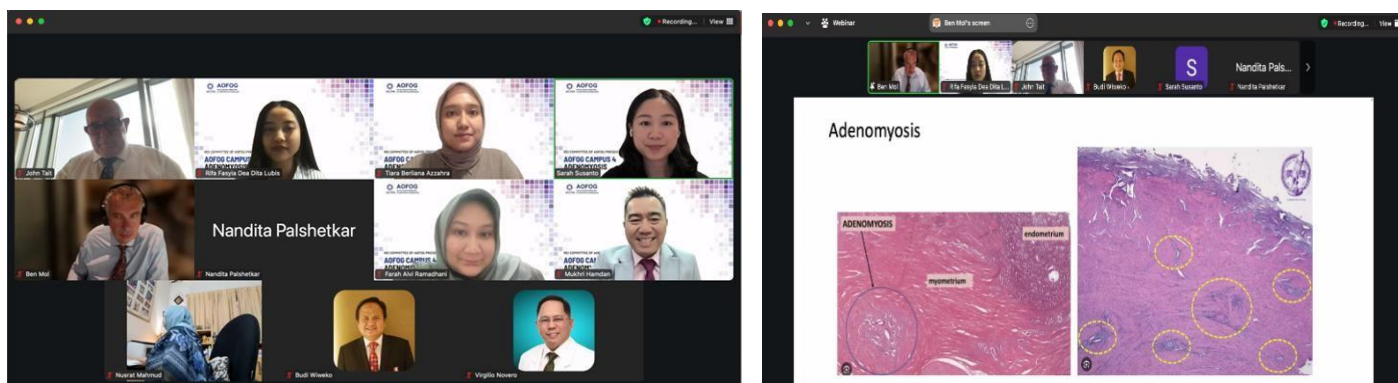
On 6 May 2025, the AOFOG REI Committee discussed a major topic: the upcoming AOFOG Campus 4, which will focus on Adenomyosis. The event is scheduled to be held online via zoom on 20 May 2025. The committee also reviewed the preparations for AOFOG Campus 5, which will focus on Poor Ovarian Reserve. The event is scheduled to be held in Mumbai 1 August 2025. The committee continued discussions of the ongoing multi-country research on menopause.



The data collection will be centralized and published collectively. The committee also discussed the upcoming AOFOG statement on PCOS. The statement is expected to be ready within a month. Additionally, there is active coordination with the Japanese government through the Asian PCOS Society, aiming for public release around July – August 2025. Another update involved the REI Fellowship, which has already received institutional approval. AOFOG will send an official confirmation letter to the institution to formalize this arrangement. The committee confirmed that the next AOFOG meeting will take place in Sydney in October 2026.

On 20 May 2025, the AOFOG REI Committee successfully held the online session for AOFOG Campus 4, themed “Adenomyosis: Latest Insights, Treatment Advances, and Quality of Care.” The event featured outstanding speakers from the REI Committee and was attended by 100 participants

from various countries. The presentations were enriched by interactive discussions, providing attendees the opportunity to ask questions, share perspectives, and engage in insightful dialogue with both the panelists and session chairs.



### Updates regarding future activities

The REI Committee has several upcoming activities planned. The activities are AOFOG Campus 5, AOFOG Statement on REI about PCOS, AOFOG Study on REI, AOFOG Fellowship on REI Taiwan, and O&G National Society Meeting. AOFOG Campus 5 will take place at St. Regis Venue in Mumbai on 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2025. The AOFOG Statement on REI regarding PCOS will be discussed within a month. The AOFOG Study on REI about menopause will be conducted as a multi-centered study in each country that participated, with centralized data collection and a joint publication planned. The AOFOG Fellowship on REI in Taiwan has already been approved by the host institution. And the last, The O&G National Society Meeting is scheduled to be held in October 2026

### Message from the committee

The AOFOG Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Committee continues to move forward with a number of impactful initiatives aimed at enhancing reproductive healthcare across the Asia-Oceania region. Through sustained collaboration and shared commitment, our ongoing programs remain a valuable resource for members and partners.

### Highlights include:

- Preparations for AOFOG Campus 4 (20 May 2025) and AOFOG Campus 5 (In-person, Mumbai, August 2025), with esteemed speakers and engaging discussions planned.
- Continued advancement of the multi-country Menopause Study, with data collection efforts progressing across several member nations.
- Strategic coordination on the upcoming AOFOG Statement on PCOS, incorporating regional insights and aligning with the Asian PCOS Society.
- Development of the REI Fellowship Program, offering hands-on observership opportunities in collaboration with leading institutions.
- Active planning for the 2026 AOFOG Scientific Meeting in Sydney, with updates to be shared in upcoming committee discussions.

We are grateful for the ongoing support and engagement of our members, and look forward to continued progress through shared efforts and expertise

Prof. Budi Wiweko,  
REI Committee Chair, AOFOG.

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## Ultrasound Committee Report

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

VIII Annual Congress of the Mongolian Federation of O&G: Precongress.

The Ultrasound Committee will be organizing an Ultrasound Precongress with Fetal Cardiology as the core theme on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The following day, AOFOG Secretary-General Dr Rohana Haththotuwa, Dr Mahesh Choolani (AOFOG MFM Chair) and Dr Voon Hian Yan (AOFOG Ultrasound Chair) will join forces with MFOG speakers for the main congress.



In the prelude to the congress, MFOG and the Ultrasound Committee identified several key areas for improvement including fetal cardiology and fetal surgery. In lieu of this, regional experts Professor Tuangsit Wataganara from Thailand and Dr Aditya Kasuma from Indonesia were roped-in.

I wish to thank the Executive Committee for approving the event, which promises to be exciting!

32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia



Embracing diversity and Inspiring Change is the theme for this year's OGSM Congress. The Ultrasound Committee has been given the privilege of conducting a dedicated session: AOFOG–OGSM Ultrasound Symposium on day 3 of the congress.

Regional experts such as committee member Dr Adrianes Bachnas (Indonesia), Prof Steven Shaw Sheng Wen (Taiwan) and Ass Prof Nisarath Phithakwatchara (Thailand) were enthusiastic and have confirmed their participation in Penang, Malaysia.

## COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

This month the committee wishes to bring to our members' attention new recommendations and guidelines from the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and ISUOG.

First up, the SMFM has released a special statement on developing an optimal MFM ultrasound

service. As committee chair and having the privilege to provide training in different countries within AOFOG, I am cognizant of the myriad of professional providers of ultrasound care in women. For example, not all obstetricians are performing level II antenatal ultrasound in their country while others involve non-medical doctors.

The challenges of establishing an ultrasound practice or unit can be daunting. This document highlights several important considerations and provides a framework to assist clinicians.

The document was developed after a survey of more than 238 participants in an SMFM workshop and concludes with some suggestions including:

### Optimal scheduling

Advanced planning of ultrasound examinations is pertinent. The document discusses the merits of two models for scheduling (1) a master schedule model, where all the exams are on the main schedule, and each sonographer takes the next patient in line when they are ready and (2) an individual sonographer schedule, where each clinical/sonographer is assigned to their own room.

#### S15 AOFOG–OGSM Ultrasound Symposium

S15.1  
**Role of Doppler Ultrasound in Evaluation of Recurrent Miscarriage**  
Dr Adrianes Bachnas (Indonesia)

S15.2  
**Simplifying Detection of Spina Bifida in the First Trimester**  
Dr Voon Hian Yan (Malaysia)

S15.3  
**Laparoscopic In-Utero Repair of Spina Bifida**  
Prof Steven Shaw Sheng Wen (Taiwan)

S15.4  
**Selective Fetal Growth Restriction: When to Pull the Brakes**  
Assoc Prof Nisarath Phithakwatchara (Thailand)

DOI: 10.1002/pmf2.70003

#### SMFM SPECIAL STATEMENT

### Developing an optimal maternal-fetal medicine ultrasound practice: A report and recommendations of the workshop of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) | Joanne Stone | Bryann Bromley | Mary E. Norton | Helen Feltovich | Lawrence D. Platt | Joshua A. Copel | Reem S. Abu-Rustum | Mishella Perez | Katherine Connolly | Martha W. Rac | Anne H. Mardy | Therese Cooper | Yinka Oyelese | Arij Faksh | Thomas Lee | Shad Deering | Jeanne L. Spitz | Alfred Abuhamad

PREGNANCY

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

## Ergonomics

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMSD) are exceedingly common, affecting >90% of clinicians and resulted in loss of time at work in more than 20%. Microbreaks (30 seconds to 3 minutes) incorporated into the scheduling were proposed.

Other aspects which may be of interest to readers include layout of the unit, credentialing and audits, equipment selection, counselling, use of telehealth and developing a team involving genetic counsellors, paediatric surgeons and other clinicians.

Details of the document can be found in Pregnancy, May 2025, Volume 1, Issue 3.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/pmf2.70003>



Improving ergonomics by using a wedge to support arms/elbows.

Another update involves a consensus statement from the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ISUOG) and the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO) in March 2025.

*Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* 2025; 65: 517–535

Published online 21 March 2025 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com). DOI: 10.1002/uog.29183.

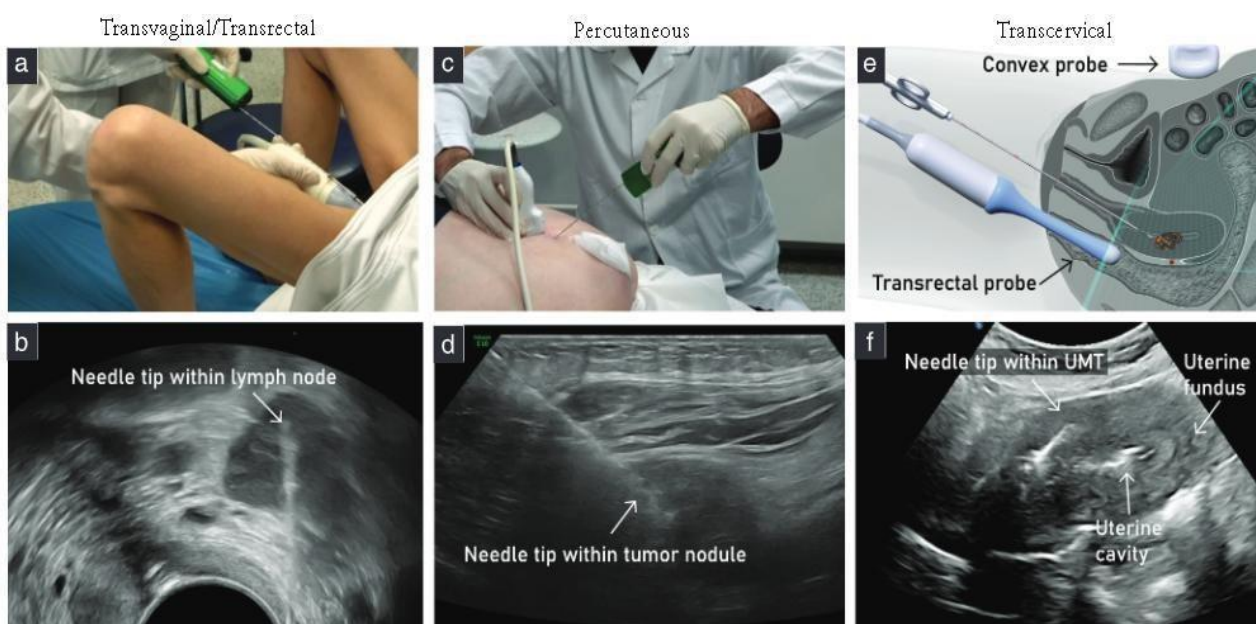
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CONSENSUS STATEMENT

ISUOG/ESGO Consensus Statement on ultrasound-guided biopsy in gynecological oncology

With increasing resolution of modern ultrasound machines, a range of minimally- invasive ultrasound-guided diagnostic and therapeutic procedures has been developed. Real-time biopsy via transvaginal/transrectal approach permits close proximity to gynaecological tumours and ensures adequacy of sampling. It is not only cost-saving by avoiding referrals to another healthcare provider (eg. interventional radiologist) but also reduces patient distress and shortens the time to initiation of treatment.



In this document, a comprehensive spectrum of ultrasound-guided procedures were discussed, videlicet indications for procedures, instrument requirement and setup, approaches to sampling, technique and postprocedural care.

Highly recommended read...!

For more information, visit the white journal's website or use the link below.

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/uog.29183>

The Ultrasound Committee is currently finalizing the following upcoming events:

1. The Annual Congress of Maternal-Fetal Medicine in collaboration with AOFOG and MFOG, Ulaanbaatar.
  - a. Fetal Cardiac Precongress, 13th June 2025 (Friday).
  - b. Main Congress, 14th June 2025 (Saturday).
2. AOFOG-OGSM Ultrasound Symposium In conjunction with the 32nd International Congress of the Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM), Penang, 10th-13th July 2025 (Thursday to Sunday).



| Important Dates |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 JAN 2025      | Registration and abstract submissions opened |
| 31 MAY 2025     | Abstract submission deadline                 |
| 1 JUN 2025      | Early-Bird registration deadline             |
| 10 JUL 2025     | Pre-congresses                               |
| 11 JUL 2025     | Congress starts                              |

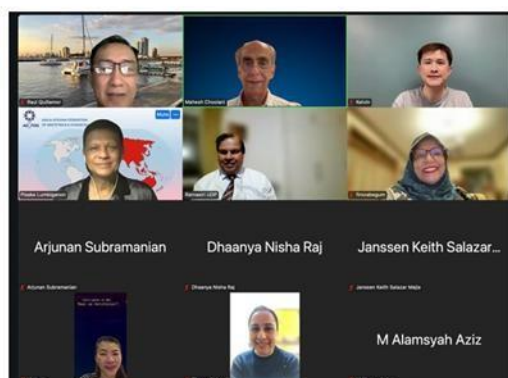
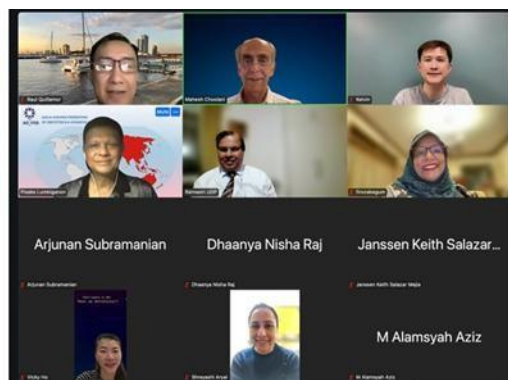
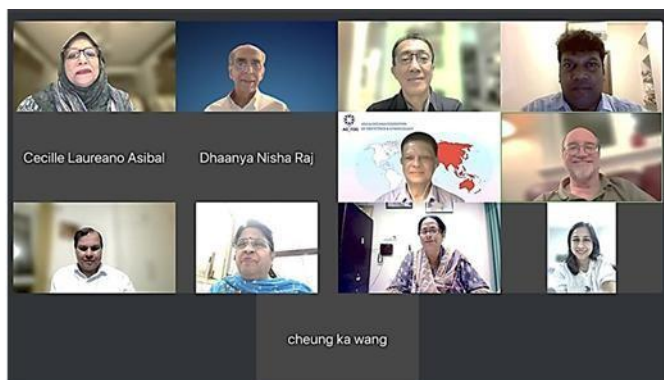
Stay tuned for details!

**Dr. Hian Yan Voon**

Ultra Sound Committee Chair, AOFOG

## MFM Committee Report

The AOFOG MFM Committee held meetings on 3rd December 2024, 18th February 2025, 4th March 2025, 2nd April 2025, and 9th April 2025, all conducted via Zoom. During these sessions, committee members engaged in in-depth discussions focused on program planning, with particular emphasis on assessing the burden of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) across the region, monitoring maternal anemia as a key indicator of obstetric outcomes, and addressing the rising rates of Caesarean sections and obstetric emergencies. AOFOG – NESOG Update on Contraceptive Management.



The Chair and members of the AOFOG MFM Committee convened during the MFM Committee meetings via Zoom.

The Committee Chair has prepared a Concept Note on Collating the Prevalence of Postpartum Hemorrhage in AOFOG Participating Countries and circulated it, along with the proforma and dummy table, to all MFM members for their feedback. The Committee Chair and members convened on 2nd April 2025 and 9th April 2025 via Zoom, focusing exclusively on these documents. This initiative aims to collect data for collaborative research and explore potential publication opportunities in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research (JOGR), as well as address other program-related considerations. Additionally, the Committee Chair and members engaged in detailed discussions regarding the organization of webinars on postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), maternal anemia, and obstetric emergencies across the region.

## Recent past activities for AOFOG MFM Sessions

The 3rd International Scientific Conference of Maternal Fetal Medicine Society of Bangladesh was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on 2–3 February 2025.



A few members of the MFM Committee, including Prof Mahesh (Chair of the MFM Committee), Prof Firoza Begum, Prof Shama Munim, Dr U.D.P. Ratnasiri, Dr Raul Quillamor, and Dr Muhamad Alamsyah Aziz, delivered presentations at the MFM Society of Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Upcoming planned activities for AOFOG MFM Sessions

1. The Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG) Annual Congress, scheduled to be held in Okayama (Japan) from May 23rd to May 25th, 2025. The details of the AOFOG MFM Session are as follows:

| Topic   | Speakers  |
|---|---|
| Welcome Address   | Dr John Tait<br>President, New Zealand                                      |
| WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience | Prof <u>Pisake Lumbiganon</u><br>Immediate Past President, Thailand         |
| Placenta accreta spectrum of disorders: What is new?                      | Dr U.D.P. <u>Ratnasiri</u><br>Immediate Past Chair MFM Committee, Sri Lanka |
| Postpartum Haemorrhage and Maternal Mortality: from Motive to EMOTIVE     | Prof Mahesh Choolani<br>Chair MFM Committee, Singapore                      |
| Q&A, and to give Concluding Remarks                                       | Dr Rohana Haththotuwa<br>Chairman, Secretary-General, Sri Lanka             |

2. The Mongolian Federation of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Societies (MFOG) Annual Congress, scheduled to be held in Mongolia from June 13th to June 14th, 2025. As part of the scientific programme, the AOFOG MFM Committee will conduct sessions on maternal and fetal medicine, focusing on strategies for improving outcomes in sepsis and common conundrums in non-invasive prenatal testing.

3. The Singapore International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SICOG), scheduled to be held in Singapore (Parkroyal on Beach Road) from August 22nd to August 24th, 2025. As part of the scientific programme, the AOFOG MFM Committee will be hosting both an AOFOG MFM Plenary Lecture and an AOFOG MFM Symposium. These sessions will address key issues in maternal health, with a focus on Postpartum Haemorrhage and Maternal Anaemia.
4. The International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) Annual Congress, scheduled to be held in Cape Town (South Africa) from October 5th to October 9th, 2025. The details of the AOFOG MFM Session are as follows:

| Topic  | Speakers   |
|--|--|
| Welcome Address  | Dr John Tait<br>President, New Zealand                             |
| WHO Recommendations: Intrapartum Care for A Positive Childbirth Experience | Prof Pisake Lumbiganon<br>Immediate Past President, Thailand       |
| Strategies To Reduce Caesarean Sections During Labour                      | Dr Rohana Haththotuwa<br>Chairman, Secretary-General, Sri Lanka    |
| The Controversy of Caesarean Rates - Looking Forward into The Past         | Dr Jaydeep Tank<br>Chair YGAA Committee, India                     |
| Second Stage Caesarean Section: How High Is High?                          | Prof Tak Yeung LEUNG<br>Head of the Fetal Medicine Team, Hong Kong |
| Q&A  | Dr John Tait<br>Chairman, President, New Zealand                   |

**Prof Mahesh Choolani**

MFM Committee Chair, AOFOG

## Gynaecological Oncology Committee Report

The Oncology Committee of the AOFOG had organised / participated in a few activities with a focus of different topics, aiming to exchange knowledge and promote the patients' care in gynaecological cancers.

First, the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) Annual Conference / 67th All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2025 had been successfully held on 8 – 12 Jan 2025 in Mumbai, India. Several AOFOG members including Dr. John Tait, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, Prof. Unnop Jaisamrarn, and Prof. Pisake Lumbiganon were attended. Dr. Ka Yu Tse was also invited to deliver two lectures, one on 'Efforts and strategies towards cervical cancer elimination by AOFOG' in the pre-conference workshop, and another on 'Robotic surgery in gynaecological malignancies' during the main conference.

Second, the University of Hong Kong and Asian Society for Fertility Preservation had invited the AOFOG to hold an AOFOG session in the Hong Kong Fertility Preservation Seminar 2025 on 13 Apr 2025. Dr. Ka Yu Tse represented the oncology committee and gave an overview on the 'Fertility sparing surgery in gynaecological oncology'. Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, and the REI committee members including Dr. Budi Wiweko, Dr. Jennifer Ko, and Dr. Mohd Faizal Ahmad also gave other lectures on fertility preservation.

Third, gestational trophoblastic disease is rare and some oncologists are not familiar with this disease. Yet recently there are some updates like the proposal on revising the staging system and the use of immunotherapy. Therefore, our committee had organised a webinar on 'Update of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease' on 24 May 2025. The oncology committee members including Dr. Ka Yu Tse, Prof. S Sampathkumari and Prof. Jannatul Ferdous, the past chair of the REI committee Dr. Zhongwei Huang, together with other experts including Prof. Hextan Ngan, Prof. Annie Cheung, Prof. Ruangsak Lertkhachonsuk and Prof. Benoit You, had presented in the webinar covering a wide range of topics in the picture below. The webinar had more than 100 participants and there were a lot of enthusiastic discussion following each lecture.



ASIA & OCEANIA FEDERATION  
OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

Free Registration



**AOFOG Webinar:**  
**Update of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease**  
**Date: 24 May 2025 (HKT, GMT +8, 09:30 – 13:35)**  
 Organized by the Oncology Committee, AOFOG  
 Chairmen: Prof. S. Sampathkumari (Committee member),  
 Dr. Ka Yu Tse (Chair)









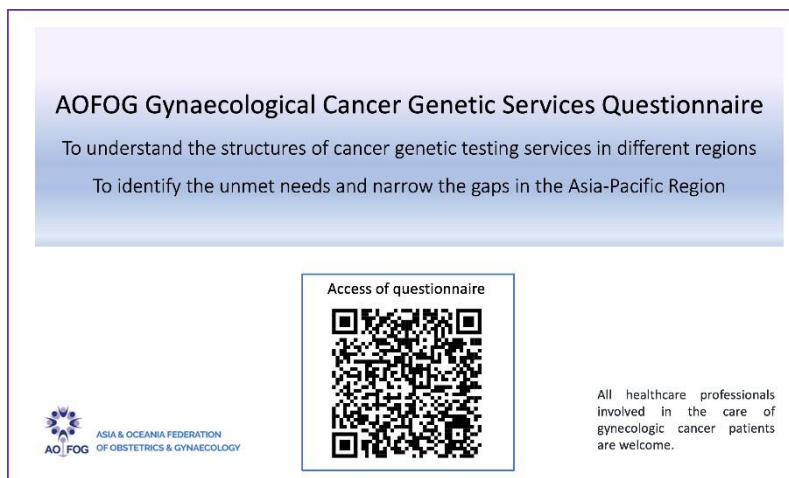



|   |  |
|---|--|
| 09:30 - 09:40<br><b>Welcome</b>                         | Dr. John Tait ( <i>President, AOFOG</i> )  |
| 09:40 - 10:10<br><b>Staging system of GTN</b>           | Prof. Hextan Yuen Sheung Ngan<br>( <i>The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong</i> ) |
| 10:10 - 10:45<br><b>Pathology of GTN</b>                | Prof. Annie Nga Yin Cheung<br>( <i>The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong</i> )    |
| 10:45 - 11:15<br><b>Management of low-risk GTN</b>      | Prof. Jannatul Ferdous<br>( <i>Bangladesh Medical University, Bangladesh</i> )     |
| 11:30 - 12:00<br><b>Management of high-risk GTN</b>     | Prof. Ruangsak Lertkhachonsuk<br>( <i>Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</i> )     |
| 12:00 - 12:30<br><b>Role of hysterectomy in GTN</b>     | Dr. Ka Yu Tse<br>( <i>Chair, Oncology Committee, AOFOG</i> )                       |
| 12:30 - 13:00<br><b>Immunotherapy in refractory GTN</b> | Prof. Benoit You<br>( <i>Centre Hospitalier Lyon-Sud, France</i> )                 |
| 13:00 - 13:25<br><b>Fertility issues in GTN</b>         | Dr. Zhongwei Huang<br>( <i>Past Chair, REI Committee, AOFOG</i> )                  |
| 13:25 - 13:30<br><b>Closing remarks</b>                 | Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa<br>( <i>Secretary General, AOFOG</i> )                      |

## Ongoing / Upcoming activities

## 1. Gynecologic Cancer Genetic Services Questionnaire


Some gynecologic cancers are associated with underlying somatic or germline genetic alterations. Today, genetic testing becomes an integral part in the management of gynecologic cancers. However, Asia–Oceania is a diverse continent with different cultures and distribution of resources. As the availability and structure of genetic testing can significantly impact the management of cancer patients and



**AOFOG Gynaecological Cancer Genetic Services Questionnaire**

To understand the structures of cancer genetic testing services in different regions  
To identify the unmet needs and narrow the gaps in the Asia-Pacific Region

Access of questionnaire



All healthcare professionals involved in the care of gynecologic cancer patients are welcome.

AOFOG ASIA & OCEANIA FEDERATION OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

cancer prevention of pathogenic variant carriers, the oncology committee is now conducting a survey aiming to understand the organization of the genetic testing services in Asia–pacific region and to identify any disparity. The questionnaire can be accessed via the QR code or using the following link, which will remain valid till at least Dec 2025:

[https://hku.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5tCm6uXGnaT8G8K](https://hku.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tCm6uXGnaT8G8K)

## 2. AOFOG–ASGO Gynecologic Oncology Research Workshop 2025

The Oncology committee of the AOFOG and the Education committee of the Asian Society of Gynecologic Oncology (ASGO), supported by the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Hong Kong (OGSHK), are going to organize the AOFOG–ASGO Gynecologic Oncology Research Workshop 2025 on 10 – 13 Dec 2025. It aims to deepen the knowledge and enhance the interest among individuals



**AOFOG-ASGO Gynecologic Oncology Research Workshop**

Supported by the OGSHK

**In-person workshop: 10 – 13 Dec 2025**  
With pre-workshop lectures and mentoring

**Venue: SkyCity Marriott, Hong Kong**

**Workshop Chairs**  
Dr. Ka Yu Tse (Chair, Oncology committee, AOFOG)  
Prof. Yoo Young Lee (Chair, Education committee, ASGO)

**30% off for YGA!**

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Now with a Newly Reduced Registration Fee

**Official website:**  
[agoreworkshop2025.com](http://agoreworkshop2025.com)

**Secretariat:** [agoreworkshop2025@gmail.com](mailto:agoreworkshop2025@gmail.com)

interested in conducting research in gynecologic oncology. This course is the first of its kind in our field in Asia, composing of 5 series of webinars, pre-workshop mentoring, and a face-to-face workshop with lectures and round-table discussions on 10 – 13 Dec 2025. There will be more than 30 experienced experts from different specialties and countries. Each participant will have a chance to develop their own research protocol under the guidance of the assigned mentors. Apart from gynecologic cancers, we also welcome ideas in preinvasive diseases, screening, diagnosis, symptom management, and onco-fertility. At the end of the workshop, selected participants will present their projects. The top three will receive an award.

**Dr. Ka Yu Tse**

Gynaecological Oncology Committee Chair, AOFOG

## Urogynaecology Committee Report

The committee on Urogynecology comprises members from Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Our aim is to disseminate knowledge and skills through education, promote collaborations and partnerships, and develop consensus guidelines pertinent to the Asian region.

The committee has been regularly convening virtually and is pleased to announce the forthcoming activities. There will be a series of webinars addressing topics such as Refractory Overactive Bladder, Traditional continence surgeries for Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI), Complications of Mesh surgery for Pelvic Organ Prolapse, Urogenital and Rectovaginal Fistula, and Painful Bladder Syndrome (PBS). The first of the webinars will be in August 2025 and will be a discussion on urinary incontinence.

To enhance awareness of various urogenital conditions, the committee will also collaborate with the Royal Thai College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (RTCOCG) in October 2025, the Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (POGS) in Nov 2025, and the Urogynecological Association of Indonesia (HUGI) in December 2025.

This October, the committee will be conducting a pre-congress workshop in cooperation with the Royal Thai College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (RTCOCG). With the help and support of the RTCOCG Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery Committee headed by Prof Suvit Bunyavejchevin, a half-day workshop with didactics and hands-on practice is being prepared. The workshop, to be conducted by Suvit Bunyavejchevin, Lisa Prodigalidad, and Jennifer King, aims to update and instruct generalist obs-gynes on vaginal hysterectomy, colpocleisis, and basic cystoscopy.

In November, the AOFOG Urogynecology Committee will likewise be participating in the Annual Convention of the Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (POGS). Lectures during the plenary session and simultaneous session is being arranged in collaboration with the Philippine Society for Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery (PSURPS). Prof Chris Chong has been invited to speak in behalf of the AOFOG Urogynecology Committee.

The committee remains committed to fostering collaboration and expanding the reach of urogynecological education across Asia. Plans are underway to establish a robust online platform for resource sharing and networking among specialists and institutions. Moreover, the committee is exploring opportunities to partner with other international organizations to bring a global perspective to regional challenges. These efforts aim to ensure standardized approaches to patient care while also respecting cultural and resource-related considerations unique to the Asian context.

The AOFOG Urogynecology Committee is also considering launching mentorship programs to connect experienced clinicians with early-career obstetricians and gynecologists. This initiative

would not only enhance professional growth but also ensure that knowledge and expertise are passed down efficiently across generations of healthcare professionals.

Through these endeavors, the AOFOG Urogynecology Committee aims to continually elevate the standards of urogynecology in the region, ensuring that patients receive the best possible care and that practitioners are equipped with the latest knowledge and tools.

**A/Prof. Lisa T. Prodigalidad Jabson**

Urogynaecology Committee Chair, AOFOG

[TOP](#) | [Back](#)

## ICOE–OGSM–AOFOG

Upon completion of the masterclass in complicated caesarean section in Kathmandu, The ICOE team made final preparation in packing mannequins and required items for two days ICOE workshop in Butwal. This is the first time ICOE Course is conducted out of Kathmandu with the support of AOFOG & NESOG.



Butwal is a sub-metropolitan city and economic hub in Lumbini Province, West Nepal. Butwal has a city population of 195,054 as per the 2021 AD Nepal census. The city is located 300 Km away from Kathmandu, the average time taken to travel by road is 8 hours but by local flight takes an hour. The Nepal maternal mortality rate (MMR) has decreased 151 per 100, 000 live births in 2021 but the Butwal MMR is at 207 maternal deaths per 100,00 live births.

On 31st March 2025, the team started our journey to Lumbhini for the 2 days ICOE workshop. Dr Rohana (AOFOG Sec Gen) and Dr Saroja (Past President of NESOG) accompanied the team.

The flight was rescheduled to two hours later due to adverse weather. We packed all mannequins in suitcases and proceeded with a relatively smooth flight to our destination.

We were welcomed by the pickup team from Butwal in Lumbhini Airport; after collecting the luggages with the training equipment, we headed for a quick visit to buddha birth place and had lunch at the local restaurant.



With our training equipment securely placed atop the transportation van, we proceeded to Amrapali Cottage, which functioned as both our course venue and accommodation.

There was a local NESOG organized CME and dinner night arranged by Quest Pharmaceuticals, there were two lectures delivered by Dr Bishnu Gautam titled Antenatal Doppler Assessment and Dr Rohana on Current WHO guidelines on Labour Care.

#### ICOE workshop

This workshop organised with NESOG and AOFOG is special as the Nepal ICOE trainers travelled with the Malaysian trainers to Lumbini as a combined team.



#### List of Trainers

OGSM: Dr Thaneemalai, Dr Khoo Kong Beng, Dr Nantharuban, Mr Baskeran (ICOE executive)

NESOG: Dr. Snigdha Rai, Dr. Astha Shrestha, Dr. Anjana Adhikari, Dr. Sabita Singh, Dr. Deepak Shrestha, Dr. Madhu Shakya

There were 21 participants. All were O&G doctors working in the region. Some travelled for long distance to attend the workshop. They were divided into 3 groups.

The ICOE simulation course consists of 18 stations of various obstetric emergencies, all taught with mannequins of varying fidelity. The topics included Post partum Haemorrhage: medical, non-surgical and surgical management, Maternal resuscitation including advanced rhythm, resuscitative hysterotomy, Medical emergencies: eclampsia and sepsis, Obstetric skills: MRP, breech, shoulder dystocia, instrumental delivery, OASIS and difficult D&C. Non-technical skills including patient counselling and risk management were discussed.



The team made arrangement for the ICOE workshop by setting up the rooms for the pre-skill tests and breakout sessions. Each breakout station will be led by one ICOE Malaysia team trainer and two NESOG trainer.

On 1st April 2025, the workshop started as per schedule. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr Rohana, Dr Saroja and Dr Thane. This event also marked the official launch of the physical copy of the Second edition of the ICOE Handbook. After the opening remarks and a quick introduction, the course started as scheduled.



Participants were actively involved in the discussion, elucidating regional practices and acquiring new skills. Prior to end of the session, 6 participants were chosen to create and practice a drill scenario on cord prolapse for next day course.



The first day of the workshop concluded successfully, receiving favourable evaluations. Second day workshops on 2nd April 2025 started as scheduled with interactive sessions on adverse outcome by NESOG team, followed by Cord Prolapse drill by the participants and Risk Management by Dr. Thanee.

This was followed by the final breakout session for the day which ended smoothly. The post skill test was conducted, following which Dr Thanee concluded the course after the feedback session.

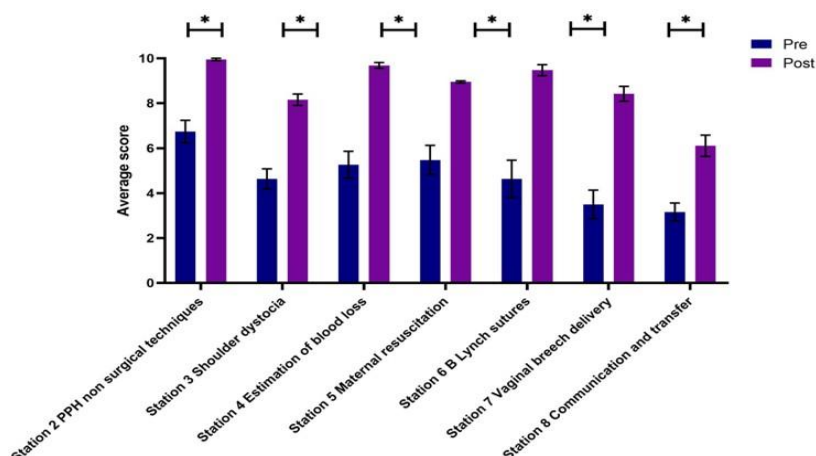


The participants attended the course and demonstrated commitment to the program. Each participant contributed to collaborative learning and skill development in the management of obstetric emergencies. Their participation in enhancing clinical competence reflects a collective

aim of improving maternal outcomes.

The results of the pre and immediate post course tests scores showed significant improvement on all tested skills.

It was time for the ICOE team to bid farewell from Butwal back to Kathmandu after a visit to India-Nepal border. Customs clearance was smooth, but unfortunately, our flight was delayed. We reached Kathmandu almost midnight and checked in Hotel Tradition in Thamel district. The next day, the Team departed to Tribhuvan International Airport returning to Malaysia.



We would like to express appreciation to AOFOG and NESOG for their unwavering support in Obstetric Emergency training, without which the ICOE course in Nepal will not be possible.

ICOE Motto: 'Safe motherhood, everytime, everywhere'

Report prepared by  
Dr Thaneemalai Jeganathan & Dr Nantharuban Rajoo

Edited by  
Dr Tang Boon Nee

## AOFOG 2026

Dear AOFOG Member Societies,

RE: Expressions of Interest for AOFOG 2026 Congress Program Submissions Now Open (Closing 12 July 2025)

In the lead-up to the AOFOG 2026 Congress, taking place from 12–16 October 2026 in Sydney, Australia, Expressions of Interest to be considered for the Scientific Program are now open. I'm writing to outline the next steps, including details on the submission process, key timelines, and other important information.

### Submission Process

To ensure the program appeals to women's health practitioners across the Asia Pacific, the AOFOG 2026 Congress Organising Committee has developed a detailed Scientific Program outlining the scope and objectives of each session.

Prospective speakers are invited to nominate for specific sessions by submitting a short abstract that explains their proposed topic and how it contributes to the session as a whole. Clear submission instructions are provided in an accompanying document.

Once Expressions of Interest close, all submissions will be reviewed by the Organising Committee. Speakers will be selected based on their expertise, the relevance of their proposed topic, and a commitment to ensuring equitable representation of AOFOG member countries across the program.

Applicants may submit up to three (3) abstracts. Each abstract should be 150–250 words and include a brief overview of the speaker's expertise and how their proposed presentation fits within the program.

Should there be a topic which is not encompassed in the Program Grid, speakers are welcome to email their topic to [program@aofog2026.com](mailto:program@aofog2026.com) for consideration.

Please note, prospective speakers who do not provide an adequate abstract will not be included in the Program.

### Speaker Entitlements

Speakers selected to present as part of the Scientific Program will receive complimentary registration for the day of their presentation. If they wish to attend the full Congress, a discounted registration rate will be available. Please note that Pre-Congress Workshops and Social Functions are not included and will be at the speaker's own expense.

If selected to present, it is the responsibility of each speaker to:

- Secure an appropriate visa to enter Australia (at their own cost)
- Arrange travel, including flights and transfers (at their own cost)
- Arrange accommodation (at their own cost)
- Register for the Congress and pay the applicable fee by the specified deadline

#### Key Dates for Expression of Interest

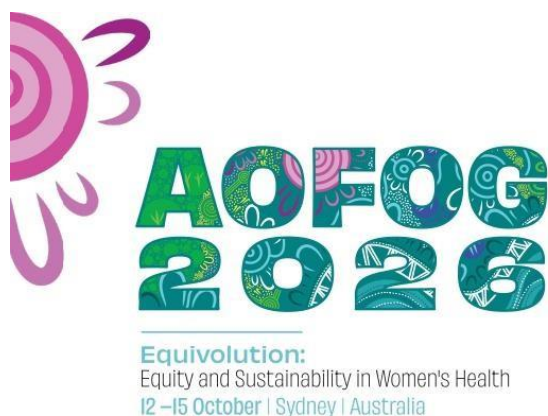
- Expression of Interest Opens: 15 May 2025
- Expression of Interest Closes: 12 July 2025
- Reviewing Period: 20 July – 15 September 2025
- Notification to Speakers: 20 September 2025
- Speakers Must Register by: 15 October 2025

#### Next Steps

To help us deliver a diverse and engaging program that reflects the breadth of the AOFOG community, I encourage you to share this letter widely with your members and networks—and to actively encourage abstract submissions for consideration in the Scientific Program.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to reach out to the AOFOG Congress 2026 Secretariat via [program@aofog2026.com](mailto:program@aofog2026.com)

Kind Regards,  
Kathleen McKinn,  
Senior Coordinator,  
Events (RANZCOG) on behalf of the AOFOG 2026 Organising Committee



**Program EOIs Now Open**

# Save the Date

**12 – 15 October 2026**

**International Convention Centre (ICC),  
Gadigal Country, Sydney, Australia**

## Key Dates

- 15 May 2025:** Program Expressions of Interest Open
- 12 July 2025:** Program Expressions of Interest Close
- 02 October 2025:** Abstract Submissions and Registration Opens
- 01 April 2026:** Abstract Submissions Close
- 30 June 2026:** Earlybird Registration Rate Ends
- 14 September 2026:** Standard Registration Ends



Visit **[aofog2026.com](https://aofog2026.com)** or  
**scan the QR code** for more information





**Equivolution:**  
Equity and Sustainability  
in Women's Health  
12–15 October | Sydney | Australia

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SUBMISSION GUIDE

### PROGRAM OUTLINE

We strongly encourage you to view the program outline to see what sessions/presentations are available in the program. This will assist you with deciding if you wish to submit an Expression of Interest and if so for which session/presentation.

**Program:** <https://aofog2026.com/program/>

| Topic     | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Session 1 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
| Session 2 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
| Session 3 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
| Session 4 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
| Session 5 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |
| Session 6 | Session 1 | Session 2 | Session 3 | Session 4 | Session 5 | Session 6 |

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

It is important that you review and understand the submission guidelines so you can prepare your Expression of Interest.

**Submission guidelines:** <https://aofog2026.com/eoi-submission-guidelines/>

**Scientific Program Expression of Interest**

AOFOG 2026 is calling for Expressions of Interest to participate in the main congress program.

During this process you will be able to view the proposed program schedule and submit an Expression of Interest to be selected to give a pre-established presentation. Expressions of Interest submissions will close on 12 July 2025. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

Before submitting your Expression of Interest, please visit the below submission guidelines for information that we require to be included below.

Please note: Some Expressions of Interest are required to submit a submission which will be opening soon.

[SUBMIT NOW](#) [VIEW THE PROGRAM OUTLINE NOW](#)

## COMPLETE THE ONLINE EOI FORM

When you are ready to submit your Expression of Interest, select the “**SUBMIT NOW**” button on the guidelines page.

**SUBMIT NOW**

## STEP ONE: COMPLETE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

During this step you will be asked to provide contact information and agree to the data privacy conditions in order to proceed.



### AOFOG Scientific Program Expression of Interest

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the scientific program for AOFOG 2026.

Please complete the form below to submit your Expression of Interest (EOI). Each individual may submit up to three (3) proposals for possible inclusion in the program.

Before submitting, we strongly encourage you to review the [AOFOG 2026 Program Outline](#), which provides an overview of key themes, session formats, and focus areas. Each session summary also outlines the types of contributors EOIs are welcome from (e.g. clinicians, researchers, community leaders).

Submissions close on 12 July 2025. All EOIs will be reviewed after this date, and applicants will be notified of the outcome from mid-August 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact the [AOFOG 2026 Program Team](#).

☐ Contact Details

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| *Title                  | *First Name           |
| *Last Name              | Preferred Pronouns    |
| *Position               | *Organisation         |
| *Email Address          | *Verify Email Address |
| *Mobile Number          | *Country              |
| *Affiliated association |                       |

### Data Processing Consent

Australia operates under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), as amended, and the Privacy amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) 2017. The objective of these is to protect the right of the individual to privacy of their information.

Europe operates under the General Data Protection (GDPR), a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union.

Please note that dietary requirements are considered as sensitive data according to the GDPR act 9.

MCI is acting as data processor on this event.

For further information on how your data will be used, we invite you to carefully read the [Event Data and Privacy Information documents](#)

Please advise your consent to your contact details being provided to MCI for the purpose of delivering the AOFOG 2026.

☒ I Consent To The Data Protection And Privacy Policy.

☐ I Do Not Consent To The Data Protection And Privacy Policy.

## STEP TWO: SUBMISSION INFORMATION

During this step you will be asked to complete information for your submission.

### SESSION OF INTEREST

This is where you will need to indicate which session you are interested in.

Session of Interest

From the drop down list below, please select the session you wish to participate in.



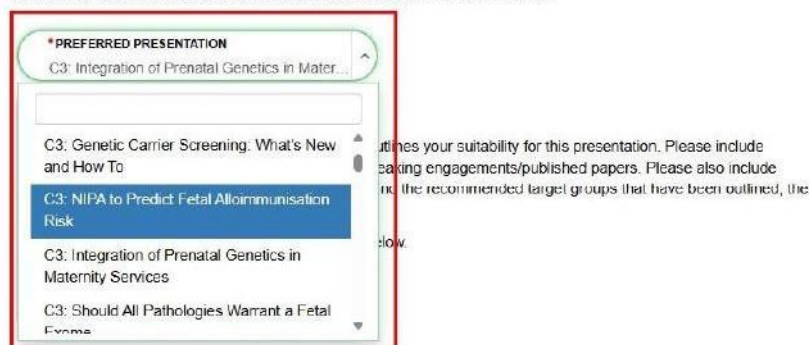
The screenshot shows a dropdown menu titled "Session of Interest". The menu is open, displaying a list of sessions: C1: Models of Care Across the Globe, C2: Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology, C3: Prenatal Genetics and Testing, C4: Simulation in Education and Training, and C5: Rural and Remote Health. The session "C3: Prenatal Genetics and Testing" is highlighted in blue. To the right of the dropdown, there is a text box with the label "Session you have chosen" and a description: "This section outlines your suitability for this presentation. Please include speaking engagements/published papers. Please also include the recommended target groups that have been outlined."

### PREFERRED PRESENTATION

This is where you will need to indicate the specific presentation (within the above session) you are interested in.

Preferred Presentation

Please include your preferred presentation within the session you have chosen.



The screenshot shows a dropdown menu titled "PREFERRED PRESENTATION". The menu is open, displaying a list of presentations: C3: Integration of Prenatal Genetics in Maternity Services, C3: Genetic Carrier Screening: What's New and How To, C3: NIPA to Predict Fetal Alloimmunisation Risk, C3: Integration of Prenatal Genetics in Maternity Services, and C3: Should All Pathologies Warrant a Fetal Exam. The presentation "C3: NIPA to Predict Fetal Alloimmunisation Risk" is highlighted in blue. To the right of the dropdown, there is a text box with the label "Preferred Presentation" and a description: "This section outlines your suitability for this presentation. Please include speaking engagements/published papers. Please also include the recommended target groups that have been outlined, the meeting theme etc."

### PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

This is where we ask you to include information about yourself and your suitability for the presentation.

Professional Biography

Please submit a short professional biography which outlines your suitability for this presentation. Please include relevant career details, specialisation and previous speaking engagements/published papers. Please also include information regarding match to the session overview and the recommended target groups that have been outlined, the meeting theme etc.

To start entering data please select "HTML Editor" below.



The screenshot shows a section titled "Professional Biography". It contains a text input field and a green button labeled "HTML Editor".

### STEP THREE: ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS

Submitters are permitted to complete up to three (3) expressions of interest for AOFOG 2026.

Once you complete your first submission, you will be asked if you wish to submit a second or third submission.

- Yes I would like to submit a second EOI
  - Selecting this option will open a new step for you to complete a second submission.
- No I do not wish to submit a second EOI
  - Selecting this option will take you straight to the end of the process, ensure you select the **"SUBMIT"** button to finalise your submission.

**Would you like to submit a second EOI?**

☐ Yes I would like to submit a second EOI

☐ No I do not wish to submit a second EOI

**Important note:** If you proceed through an enter a second submission, you will again be offered the choices above to complete a third submission or finalise the process.

### STEP FOUR: CONFIRMATION LETTER

Once you complete the submission process, you will receive an automatic confirmation letter outlining your submission.

This may take up to 15 minutes to arrive and ensure you also check your spam/junk folders for this confirmation letter.

If you do not receive your confirmation letter, please contact the [AOFOG Program Manager](#).

**Important note:** Please ensure that you add "wearenci.com" and "aofog2026.com" to your white list / accepted email lists. This will ensure that you receive all necessary communications from us regarding your participation.

### QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the submission process or the program in general, please contact the [AOFOG Program Manager](#).

## Appreciation Prof. Walfrido Wenceslao Sumpaico

“A giant walked among us mortals”

In the history of professional bodies, it is customary for us to see a singular figure standing as a pillar guiding the society. In the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Prof Walfrido Wenceslao Sumpaico – “Reddie” or “WWS” to most of us was one such. His portly erect figure and loud voice carried the spirit of the Federation over 17 years.

He was a product of the Philippines, trained in Manila and in the USA. His interests were in materno– fetal health and its propagation in Asia. He was assigned to represent the Filipino society in the AOFOG board. Gradually he became the Secretary General in the Conference held in Singapore. From there on he was the life and soul of the body. Sumpaico brought a sense of discipline and fair play to the AOFOG. He helped formulate guidelines, rewrote the constitution and was an active member at several of the resolutions brought out by the AOFOG. He was active in forming several committees and even more involved in closing committees if they did not serve the purpose. He started the concept of action committee meetings where the office bearers assembled and formulated the plans for the next year. Sumpaico being a follower of Prof SS Ratnam encouraged the Young Gyn association as he felt they would be the core for the future. As predicted, many of the erstwhile YGAs’ are now office bearers of the AOFOG. He maintained very cordial relations with the various AOFOG presidents he worked under despite them coming from varying backgrounds and some being younger than him.



Walfrido Sumpaico was a good speaker and on some of his pet topics like LSCS, Pre-Eclampsia etc. there were few better than him. He loved to teach and believed in the principle that talks meant reading a lot, assimilating the topic and reproduce it in simple words. In recognition of his tireless work, he received several plaques, awards and most of all Hon Fellowships. The most notable one being the one conferred by the Royal College of Obs, Gyn UK. He delivered many orations all over the region. He had written over 14 books, contributed chapters to more than 40 books and provided articles to 45 peer reviewed journals.

Reddie was a very competent sonologist and soon became the representative of the ISUOG in the Philippines. He wrote many books and chapters on Sonology for the gynecologists. He was responsible for the propagation of the ultrasound in the Philippines.

Sumpaico the person was a fun lover and loved to travel, see places and most of all enjoy their

local hospitality. We had a memorable trip to Mongolia, another first to Saudi Arabia and to Fiji. In all these trips there was an exciting mixture of work and fun. He loved his food and went to great extents to savor the original local cuisines. He was a friend of India and on each trip embarked on something new. His only worry was that he could not stand spicy/Chilli hot food. He loved Taiwan too and was a special friend of the TAOG



The family man – he was to the core and in “Melisande Joson Sumpaico” – Sandy to all – a pillar of strength and the “Mum” to the AOFOG. The only grouse she had was that she felt he was a “corny joker.” He loved family reunions and the fun that went with it. A regular Church goer was Special Minister of the Eucharist, St. Peter’s Parish, Quezon City.

My association with him was long and we hardly had any disagreements. His persistence to achieve the ideas he wanted was commendable. Like a sponge he would pick up new ideas and put them into effect. He was one of the earliest to accept the concept of “Safe Surgery saves lives” by the WHO and made sure that the AOFOG was represented in it and applied the principles of safety.

Though illness troubled him over a long period he hardly showed it and fought it effectively till the end. With his passing we miss a kind figure, a clever leader and a great friend. “May God give him the peace he so richly deserved.” He was truly “Philippines gift to AOFOG”



**Dr. Kurian Joseph,**  
Past President, AOFOG

## Member Society News Corner

### 1. Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologist (SLCOG)



*Save the Date*

**SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS**  
**58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMIC CONGRESS**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**AOFOG**

SUPPORTED BY  
**SAFOG**

*"IMPROVING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF WOMEN - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES - AN EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH"*

**5<sup>TH</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**AT CINNAMON GRAND HOTEL, COLOMBO**

No. 112, Model Farm Road, Colombo 08  
[slcogsessions2025@gmail.com](mailto:slcogsessions2025@gmail.com)  
+94 77 967 8787 / +94 11 268 9036



## 2. News from Obstetrical &amp; Gynaecological Society of Singapore



The poster features a stylized illustration of a woman's profile with pink flowers in her hair and a bowl of fruit at her waist. The background is a gradient of teal and light blue. The AOFOG logo is in the top right corner.

**30<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Congress of O&G 2025**

*Leading the Change*

**Empowering Women's Health Through Innovation and Sustainability**  
22nd – 24th August 2025

**Park Royal on Beach Road, Singapore**

**22nd August:**  
Pre-Congress Workshops

**23rd – 24th August:**  
Main Congress

### REGISTRATION FEES

Take advantage of our early bird registration rates to secure your spot at a discounted price before the deadline. Register now to save and be part of this Congress!

#### Main Congress (23rd - 24th August 2025)

| Main Congress 23rd – 24th August 2025<br>(includes 1 Gala Dinner worth \$150)                    | Early Bird<br>(Ends on 31 May) | Standard Fee<br>(Starts on 1 June) | Walk-In |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Specialist/Public  | \$800                          | \$950                              | \$1,100 |
| OGSS Members/Low Resource Countries  | \$600                          | \$750                              | \$900   |
| GP/Researchers/Nurses/Midwives/Trainees  | \$450                          | \$600                              | \$750   |
| Medical Students   | \$250                          | \$400                              | \$550   |
| 1-Day Registration Pass (Doctors)<br>Gala Dinner not included                                    | \$450                          | \$600                              | \$750   |
| 1-Day Registration Pass<br>(GP/Researchers/Nurses/Midwives/Trainees)<br>Gala Dinner not included | \$250                          | \$400                              | \$550   |
| Gala Dinner  |                                | \$150                              |         |

#### Pre-Congress Workshop (22nd August 2025)

To register for the workshop, attendees are required to first register for the Main Congress.

| Workshops (Single Session)   | Fee   |
|--|-------|
| SEXology 101   | \$100 |
| Difficult Vaginal Delivery Workshop  | \$150 |
| Advanced Obstetric Ultrasound Workshop                                       | \$150 |
| Advanced Wound Closure and Scar Management Masterclass                       | \$150 |
| Advanced Laparoscopic Masterclass in Suturing & Contained Morcellation       | \$200 |
| Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (vNOTES) Masterclass | \$350 |

Prices excludes 9% GST

| PLENARY 1  | PLENARY 2  | PLENARY 3   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>From Concept to Cutting Edge: Transforming Ideas into Surgical Innovations</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br>Dr Charles Koh (USA) | <b>Malaysia Lecture by OGSM President</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br>Dr RM Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran (Malaysia) | <b>WHO Roadmap on Postpartum Haemorrhage</b><br><b>Speaker:</b><br>Sir Professor Emeritus Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (UK) |

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Pre-  
Congress  
Workshop

**Workshop 1:** SEXoLOGY 101 Workshop

**Workshop 2:** Difficult Vaginal Delivery Workshop

**Workshop 3:** Advanced Obstetric Ultrasound Workshop

**Workshop 4:** Advanced Wound Closure and Scar Management Masterclass

**Workshop 5:** Advanced Laparoscopic Masterclass in Suturing & Contained Morcellation

**Workshop 6:** Vaginal Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (vNOTES) Masterclass



Day 01

### OBSTETRICS

**Symposium 1:**  
Prenatal Screening & Genetics  
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Symposium 2:**  
Maternal Medicine  
01:30 PM – 03:30 PM

**Symposium 3:**  
Fetal Medicine  
04:00 PM – 06:00 PM

### GYNAECOLOGY

**Symposium 1:**  
Gynaecologic Surgery / Urogynaecology  
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Symposium 2:**  
New Innovations in Gynaecology Surgery  
01:30 PM – 03:30 PM

**Symposium 3:**  
General Gynaecology  
04:00 PM – 06:00 PM

Day 02

### OBSTETRICS

**Symposium 4:**  
AOFOG - MFM Symposium on PPH  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Symposium 5:**  
Labour and Delivery  
01:45 PM – 03:45 PM

**Symposium 6:**  
AI and Imaging In O&G  
04:15 PM – 06:15 PM

### GYNAECOLOGY

**Symposium 4:**  
Preinvasive Disease and Gynae-Oncology  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Symposium 5:**  
Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility  
01:45 PM – 03:45 PM

**Symposium 6:**  
Oral Presentations  
04:15 PM – 06:15 PM



For more information visit us at <https://sicog2025.com/>

### 3. AOFOG–KSGO Young Investigators Participate in KSGO International Conference 2025

On April 25, 2025, five outstanding young investigators from AOFOG member countries participated in the Korean Society of Gynecologic Oncology (KSGO) International Conference held in Seoul, Korea.

The selected participants were:

- Dr. Mohamad Nurfadli Senin (Malaysia)
- Dr. Suresh Kayastha (Nepal)
- Dr. Thanuya Mahendran (Sri Lanka)
- Dr. Minah Ha (New Zealand)
- Dr. Kay Thi (Myanmar)



These talented young professionals actively took part in a variety of academic programs and engaged in meaningful exchanges with other international young investigators. The program offered them not only academic exposure but also a unique opportunity to build global networks and strengthen regional collaboration in gynecologic oncology.

We extend our sincere gratitude to AOFOG and KSGO for their support. The full cost of participation—including registration, travel, and accommodation—was generously covered by KSGO.

**Prof Jae–Kwan Lee**

President, Korean Society of Gynecologic Oncology

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## From the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecological Research (The AOFOG Journal)

JOGR Volume 50, Issue 12 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated; and below Editor's choice articles from this issue is free until the end of January 2025.

- Reevaluating the variation of cesarean scar defect. (Hiroshi Kobayashi, Shogo Imanaka).  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jog.16137>

JOGR Volume 50, Issue 12 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here; <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>  
[https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1447-0756.editors-choice](https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1447-0756.editors-choice)

We are pleased to inform you that JOGR has implemented "Continuous Publication" from the first issue of 2025. Here are a few unique points about Continuous Publication.

- No more Early View (EV), as the articles are directly published into the CP issue as they are ready. This change especially benefits authors as authors don't have to wait before articles are published in issues.
- The running order of the Continuous Publication issue is set in reverse chronological order (newly-published articles at the top).
- Article citations contain eLocators (e.g. e15916) in place of pagination (e.g. Pages: 775-792).

You can find the latest articles being published in the current issue here:  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

**Prof. Hiroaki Kajiyama.**

Editor in Chief, JOGR, AOFOG

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