

# AOFOG NEWS

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**2<sup>nd</sup> AOFOG UROGYNAECOLOGY WEBINAR**  
 Enhancing Patient's Experience in Urogynaecology Services  
**1 May 2021**  
 13.00 to 15.10 (GMT+7) Indonesian Time

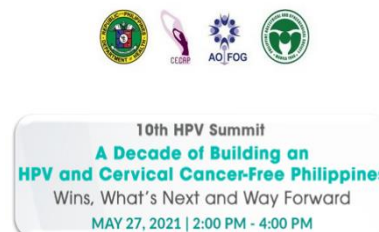
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[AOFOG Urogynaecology Webinar](#)



**BALI INDONESIA 27<sup>th</sup> AOFOG CONGRESS**  
 The 27th Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

[AOFOG Congress 2022](#)



**10th HPV Summit**  
**A Decade of Building an HPV and Cervical Cancer-Free Philippines**  
 Wins, What's Next and Way Forward  
**MAY 27, 2021 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

[HPV Summit](#)



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 (Japan)



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 (Thailand)



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**Editor-in-Chief, JOGR**  
 Kiyoko Kato  
 (Japan)



**Council Representative**  
 Joong Shin Park  
 (Korea)

## President's Message

September 17<sup>th</sup> is World Patient Safety Day. The theme for this year 2021 is "Safe maternal and newborn care", it is exactly the issue that we obstetricians and gynecologists must tackle.....

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## Secretary General's Message

We continue to live with COVID 19 in our new norm lifestyle. The situation keeps on changing all the time in all our.....

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**POGS STAR Pre-Congress Workshop**  
 in Association with MFM Committee AOFOG and Safe Motherhood Committee, FOGSI  
**OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS**  
 DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2021, FRIDAY  
 TIME: 9 AM TO 1 PM  
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[POGS STAR Pre-Congress](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS...!!!**  
**Prof. Kiyoko KATO and the JOGR team**



[JOGR News](#)

## AFOG Committee Chairs

**Minimally Invasive  
Gynecologic Surgery**  
Tsukasa Baba  
(Japan)

**Maternal & Fetal Medicine**  
U. D. P. Ratnasiri  
(Sri Lanka)

**Oncology**  
Sarikapan Wilailak  
(Thailand)

**Reproductive Endocrinology  
& Infertility**  
Raymond Li  
(Hong Kong)

**Sexual & Reproductive  
Health**  
Krishnendu Gupta  
(India)

**Ultrasound**  
Nelinda Catherine Pangilinan  
(Philippines)

**Urogynaecology**  
Mou-Jong Sun  
(Taiwan)

**Fellowship selection**  
Rohit Bhatt  
(India)

## President's Message....

### “World Patient Safety Day and Role of AFOG”

Dear Members,

September 17<sup>th</sup> is World Patient Safety Day. The theme for this year 2021 is “Safe maternal and newborn care”<sup>1</sup>, it is exactly the issue that we Obstetricians and Gynaecologists must tackle!



World Patient Safety Day was established by WHO in 2019 to enhance global understanding of patient safety, increase public engagement in the safety of health care and promote global actions to strengthen patient safety and reduce patient harm.

Commitment to patient safety has grown since the late 1990s. This was prompted by two influential reports: To Err is Human in 1999 and An Organization with a Memory in 2000. Both reports recognized that error is routine during the delivery of health care and occurs in around 10% of hospital admissions.

Adopting "Safe Mother and Newborn Care" as the theme for 2021 reveals that how serious the risks and harms are to women and newborns who receive unsafe care during childbirth. In 2017, an estimated number of 295,000 women died of causes related to pregnancy or childbirth in one year, meaning some 808 women still die every day. The majority of these deaths occurred in low-resource settings. Although the global maternal mortality ratio has fallen from 342 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 211 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017, the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) targets are still far from being achieved: "By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births"

Childbirth is a complex process, and it is essential to remember to provide everything that is needed to ensure both the mother and newborn child receive the safest care possible. In the wake of World Patient Safety Day, September 17, 2021, AFOG pledges to "Act now for a safe and respectful childbirth" in collaboration with WHO and FIGO under the theme “Safe maternal and newborn care”.

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2021/09/17/default-calendar/world-patient-safety-day-2021>

**Prof. Kazunori Ochiai**  
President, AFOG.



## Secretary General's Message.....

Dear Friends,

We continue to live with COVID-19 in our new norm lifestyle. The situation keeps on changing all the time in all our countries with more virulent variants emerging developing from time to time.

It is now evident that the mortality rates are higher in pregnant women with COVID-19 as against those who are not pregnant. Furthermore, pneumonia, intubation, and ICU admissions are higher in pregnant patients when compared to Non-pregnant patients. It's very worrying to note that in some of our member countries COVID-19 has emerged as a major cause of maternal deaths affecting the maternal mortality ratios in our countries. We are also facing new challenges regarding women's health. Gender based violence, suicide rates, mental disorders all have increased in most of our countries.



It is satisfying to note that WHO has approved vaccination against COVID-19 in pregnant women and many countries have begun vaccinating pregnant women. But data on potential risks are currently unknown because pregnant people have not yet been included in clinical trials. The mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus, nor do they enter the nucleus of the cell or alter human DNA. For this reason, experts suspect that the vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to pregnant people or fetuses. AFOG COVID-19 advisory group chaired by Prof Piske Lumbiganon keeps us informed with the latest developments and updates with regards to COVID-19 and pregnancy. I suggest you visit the [COVID-19 corner](#) on the [AFOG website](#) to see the latest updates.

As travel restrictions and regulations on social gatherings are still in place we are unable to meet in person. So, we have had to proceed with our activities on the virtual platform.

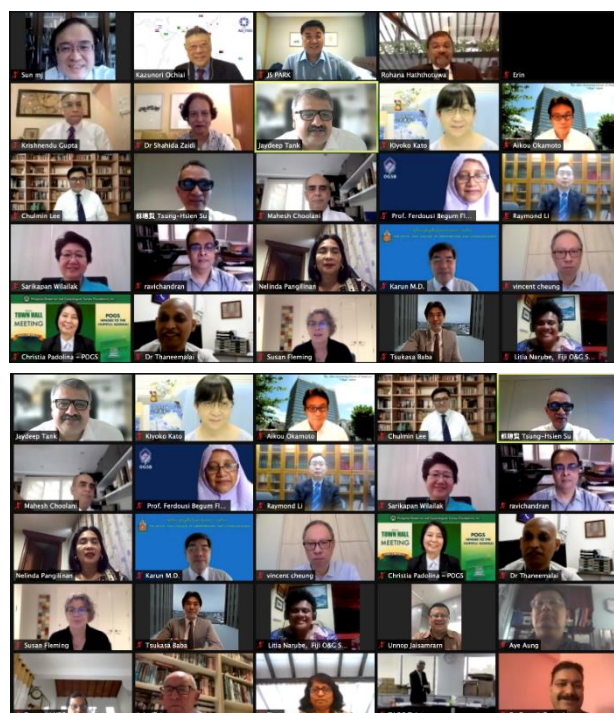
### Council Meeting 2021.

It was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This was our first experience of conducting a Council meeting by Zoom. In addition to the members of the Executive Board and Committee chairs, the meeting was attended by, past presidents and representatives of our member societies.

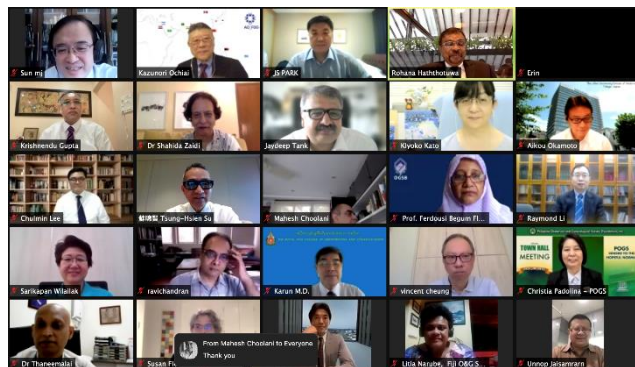
I am thankful to the Past presidents Emeritus Prof. V. Sivanesaratnam, Dr. Shahida Zaidi, Prof. Pak Chung Ho, Prof. Yu-Shih Yang, & Dr. Kurian Joseph who joined the council meeting.

The following members participated as country representatives.

- Prof. Michael Permezel - Australia
- Prof. Ferdousi Begum - Bangladesh
- Dr. Litia Narube - Fiji
- Dr. Vincent Yuk-tong Cheung - Hong Kong
- Prof. Krishnendu Gupta - India
- Prof. Aikou Okamoto - Japan
- Prof. Chulmin Lee - Korea
- Dr. Thaneemalai Jeganathan - Malaysia
- Dr. Tsedmaa Baatar- Mongolia
- Prof. Aye Aung - Myanmar
- Dr. Sue Fleming - New Zealand
- Dr. Ganesh Dungal - Nepal
- Dr. Haleema - Pakistan
- Dr. Christia S. Padolina - Philippines
- Prof. Mahesh Choolani - Singapore



- Dr. Sanath Lanerolle - Sri Lanka
- Prof Ming-Chao Huang - Taiwan & his 3 team members as observers
- Air Marshal Karun K & Dr. Unnop Jaisamrarn - Thailand



Though the meeting was not held in person we are happy that out of the 28 member countries 18 participated. So the meeting was very productive and interactive and proceeded very smoothly keeping to time. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated despite the difficult situations and the time of the day which would have not been the most convenient time for some.

### POGS STAR Pre-Congress Workshop.

A pre-congress workshop on ‘Operative Obstetrics’ organized by the FOGSI Safe Motherhood Committee in association with the AFOG Fetal & Maternal Medicine Committee was held at the POGS STAR conference of the Pune O & G Society on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021. I thank Dr. Jaydeep Tank, Deputy Secretary-General AFOG, and Dr. Ratnasiri, Chairman MFM committee for selecting learned speakers from the region and producing a very informative programme. [Read More...](#)

### OGSHK course on Sexual Medicine for Providers of Women’s Health Care

The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Hong Kong in collaboration with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, the University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Association of Sexuality Educators, Researchers & Therapists conducted a course on “**Sexual Medicine for Providers of Women’s Health Care**”, on 22-23 May 2021. AFOG REI Committee chair Dr. Raymond Lee and SRH Committee Chair Prof. Krishnendu Gupta organized an AFOG session on “**Current status on training and service provision in psychosexual medicine in Asia and Oceania**”. Prof. Kirsten Black (Australia), Prof. Krishnendu Gupta (India) & Prof. Mario Festin (Philippines) who spoke in the session elaborated on the current status of training services in sexual medicine in their respective countries. [Read More...](#)

### Committee activities.

Our committee chairs continued to conduct programmes virtually despite the situation due to the pandemic.

- [Uro-Gynaecology committee](#)
- [Ultrasound Committee.](#)
- [MIGS Committee](#)

### AFOG FIGO Webinars

Consequent to a proposal of Dr. Faysal El Kak, Vice President FIGO, to have a joint activity between FIGO and AFOG, two webinars were organized on the theme, “**Women’s Healthcare: Fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic**”, in keeping with the COVID 19 pandemic. I appreciate very much the contribution made by Dr. Faysal Kak, Prof. Kazunori Ochiai President AFOG, and Prof. Krishnendu Gupta AFOG SRH Committee chair in organizing the two programmes. The two webinars were very informative & fruitful with keynote lectures been delivered by President-Elect FIGO Dr. Jeanne Conry and Secretary-General FIGO Prof Dame Lesly Regan. Lectures were delivered by Deputy Secretary-General AFOG Dr. Jaydeep Tank and AFOG Committee Chairs Dr. U.D.P. Ratnasiri, Prof Tsukasa Baba & Prof Sarikapan. The participation of Exec Board members of AFOG Dr. Ravi Chandran, Prof. Pisake Lumbiganon, Prof John Tait, & Prof Kiyoko Kato made the programme more attractive. Both the programmes have been well received with participants joining from all the 5 continents with the majority from the Asia Oceania region. I have to acknowledge the major role performed done by Ms. Francesca Hearing, Online Events & Secretariat Assistant FIGO in taking care of the logistics of the webinars and coordinating them. Also, we appreciate very much the assistance of Ms. Flora Philip, Exec Assistant AFOG in organizing the programmes. [Read More...](#)

### **Blood Health Forum**

The Blood Health Forum series endorsed by AFOG & supported by Procter & Gamble Health providing an educational platform for the practicing clinicians was commenced in October 2020. The final session of this 5 part series was held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with case discussions related to anaemia in pregnancy and pediatrics presented by Dr. Jaydeep Tank Deputy Secretary-General AFOG and Dr. Titis from Indonesia. The session was also addressed by Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta from Canada who gave an overview of iron deficiency anaemia in the pandemic. I wish to appreciate very much Ms. Jass Leiw of P&G for making all the arrangements for the programme series and making the series possible and successful. [Read More...](#)

### **Follow up of Manila Declaration - HPV summit**

As a follow-up activity of the Manila Declaration, the 10<sup>th</sup> HPV summit was held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the theme, “Wins, What’s Next and way Forward”, after A Decade of Building an HPV and Cervical Cancer-Free Philippines. Prof Kazunori Ochiai delivered an Inspirational Message at the opening of the summit. The summit has been well attended and appreciated by the participants. I wish to congratulate the HPV summit Chairman Dr. Cecilia Llave, & Dr. Christia Padolina of POGS for organizing and conducting this very successful event and thank them for their hard work with commitment. [Read More...](#)

### **AFOG 2022.**

We are gradually approaching AFOG 2022 with less than one year left.

Dr. Andon Hestiantoro & Prof. Budi Wiweko and their team are busy making the arrangements for the congress. The organisers have come up with a very stimulating excellent scientific programme with very scholarly learned plenary speakers and a galaxy of reputed speakers from the Asia Oceania region and outside the region who are experts in the fields they are speaking. Very exciting social programmes are been organized so we all hope that by May 2022 the conditions will be conducive for us to participate in the congress in person. [Read More...](#)

I request everyone to keep the dates May 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 free and join the AFOG 2022 and enjoy the paradise island Bali and the conference and make it an opportunity to meet each other after this long interruption.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Bali in May 2022!

**Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa**

Secretary General, AFOG



## POGS STAR Pre-Congress Workshop

With the vision of a visionary President Dr. Sunita Tandulwadkar (President, Pune Obstetrics and Gynecological Society - POGS), and the efforts and organizational skills of vibrant academicians Dr. U.D.P. Ratnasiri (Chair, Maternal Fetal Medicine, AFOG) and Dr. Jaydeep Tank (Secretary General FOGSI & Deputy Secretary AFOG), we expect nothing less than a benchmark workshop, and so it was! AFOG being one of the most internationally acclaimed organization of our fraternity, the POGS takes pride to associate with it for this workshop on Operative Obstetrics. The meeting was held on 16th April 2021, Friday, on a virtual platform and was attended by over 2800 delegates from across the globe. It included clinically important topics like Episiotomy updates, Vaginal and perineal tears, Cesarean Section Consensus, PPH management algorithms, practical aspects of hysterectomy, etc. The galaxy of expert speakers included Dr. Micheal Elkin (New Zealand), Dr. Cecilia Cheon (Hong Kong), Dr. Jaydeep Tank (India), Dr. Jericho Thaddeus P. Luna (Phillippines), Dr. Muniswaran Ganeshan (Malaysia) and Dr. U.D.P. Ratnasiri (Sri Lanka). POGS would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to AFOG President Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, and Secretary General AFOG Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa.

We look forward to more such academic associations with AFOG in future.






**DATE: 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2021, FRIDAY**  
**TIME: 9 AM TO 1 PM**

**POGS STAR Pre-Congress Workshop**  
**in Association with MFM**  
**Committee AFOG and Safe**  
**Motherhood Committee, FOGSI**

**OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS**

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**AFOG**



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President

Professor Pisake Lumbiganon  
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Dr Ravi Chandran  
Immediate Past President

Dr. John Tait  
Vice President

Dr Jaydeep Tank  
Dy Secretary General AFOG,  
Secretary General FOGSI

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa  
Secretary General

Professor Tsung-Hsien Su  
Treasurer

Dr UDP Ratnasiri  
Chair, Maternal Fetal Medicine

Dr Krishnendu Gupta  
Chair, Sexual & Reproductive Health



Dr Alpesh Gandhi  
President FOGSI

Dr Sunita Tandulwadkar  
President, POGS

Dr Atul Ganatra  
FOGSI VP  
In-charge

Dr Priti Kumar  
Chair Safe Motherhood Committee, FOGSI

Dr Pooja Lodha  
Workshop Co-ordinator

9.15 am – 9.35 am	Episiotomies : Technical updates & Current Practices	Dr Micheal Elkin (New Zealand)
9.35 am – 9.55 am	Vaginal and perineal tears : Short term and long term implications, management	Dr Cecilia Cheon (Hong Kong)
9.55 am – 10:15 am	Instrumental vaginal delivery : Current status	Dr Jaydeep Tank (India)
10.15 am – 10.35 am	Cesarean Section : Technique and post-op management	Dr Jericho Thaddeus P Luna (Phillippines)
10.35 am – 10.50 am	Conservative Surgical management of PPH	Dr Muniswaran Ganeshan (Malaysia)
10.50 am – 11.15 am	Obstetric hysterectomy – When, why and how?	Dr UDP Ratnasuri (Sri Lanka)
11.15 am – 11.30 am	DISCUSSION	

## OGSHK course on Sexual Medicine for Providers of Women's Health Care



An “AFOG Session” was held in the “Sexual Medicine for Providers of Women’s Health Care” course organised by The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Hong Kong (OGSHK) on Saturday, 22 May 2021.

The theme of the AFOG Session was “Current status on training and service provision in psychosexual medicine in Asia and Oceania”.

The AFOG session was jointly conducted by the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Committee of AFOG and the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Committee of AFOG.

The AFOG session was chaired Dr Raymond Li, Chair - REI Committee of AFOG who introduced all the session invitees and speakers.

Dr Rohana Haththotuwa, Secretary General of AFOG set the stage with a wonderful “Overview of the session” and provided data on the current scenario with regards to the focus on training and service provision in psychosexual medicine in Asia and Oceania region and shared experiences in tackling challenges encountered in development of psychosexual medicine, and the way to move forward. He then briefly outlined the programme of the session.

Professor Kazunori Ochiai, President of AFOG provided a very comprehensive “Introduction to AFOG” with details of the history of AFOG, its member countries, aims and objectives, governance (executive board, committees), highlighting the extensive academic activities (conferences, workshops, webinars, newsletters) and having its very own prestigious peer-reviewed indexed journal, The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research (JOGR). He specifically mentioned the very positive role that AFOG is continuing to play during the on-going COVID pandemic by conducting numerous webinars, providing updated committee statements and other academic information at regular intervals in the “COVID-19 Corner” on the AFOG website.

The three speakers from the SRH Committee of AFOG were Professor Kirsten Black (Australia), Professor Krishnendu Gupta (India) and Professor Mario PR Festin (Philippines) who provided wonderful presentations on the current status on training and service provision in psychosexual medicine in their respective countries. All the presentations were crisp, to the point with hard data highlighting both the positives as well as the ground reality of the lacuna of teaching and training in sexual medicine in the current undergraduate and postgraduate curricula. Video interviews with specialists in sexual medicine regarding the scope of training were the highlight of the presentations.

A brief Q&A session was held thereafter, conducted by Prof. Krishnendu Gupta, Chair - SRH Committee of AFOG and Dr. Raymond Li.

The extremely interesting “AFOG Session” lasted for 1 hour 15 minutes and ended with Prof. Krishnendu Gupta thanking the President and members of the Executive Board of AFOG as well placing his gratitude to Dr Vincent YT Cheung, President of OGSHK and all its members for providing an opportunity to both SRH and REI committees of AFOG to join hands and participate in the wonderfully designed academic course.

**Prof. Krishnendu Gupta,**  
Chairman, AFOG, SRH Committee



# Report of Urogynecology Committee

1. Webinars conducted during the last three months.

a. AOFOG Urogynecology Committee organized the 2nd AOFOG Urogynecology webinar on 1 May 2021 in association with the Indonesian Society of O&G (POGI) and the Indonesian Association of Urogynecology (HUGI). It was titled "Enhancing patients' experience in Urogynecology services" We would like to thank POGI, HUGI 's and Dr. Dr Fernandi, Dr.Alf for their assistance, participation and support. There were over 300 participants who enjoyed this successful webinar. We had a very positive feedback from the participants. These fabulous and unforgettable lectures and discussions set great examples for us.

b. Webinar organised by Urogynecology committee of AOFOG & Urogynecology committee of FOGSI & OGSSI, INDIA on Sunday, 13th of June 2021. It was a very informative webinar and had more than 400 participants. Thank you to President Kazunori Ochiai and Prof Rohana for their support and guidance and thank you to Prof Rohana and Prof Srikala for the hard work in the preparation. I also thank all the honoured guests and speakers for their participation. This wonderful experience will also serve as a great model and reference for the preparation of our future activities.



2. Update regarding future activities
  - a. TUGA (Taiwan urogynecology association) will hold an annual conference on July 18, 2021 in Taipei Taiwan. The AOFOG Urogynecology committee planned a special AOFOG session of International hybrid session jointly with TAOG & TUGA. The title is “the international lectures on update urogynecology”. However, due to the instability of the pandemic, the date may be postponed.
  - b. The international joint conference of Urogynecology with APUGA, TAOG, and TUGA during the second half of 2021 in Taiwan.

### Prof. Mou - Jong Sun

Chair, Uro-Gyanecology Committee

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## Ultrasound Committee Report

The Covid pandemic cannot stop the ultrasound committee’s commitment to share our expertise with our AOFOG colleagues.

Because a face-to-face ultrasound workshop is currently not feasible, the committee’s objectives were revised to be functional despite the bludgeoning of the pandemic and were modified to the following:

1. Integrate ultrasound in clinical OB-GYN practice
2. Promote clinic-sonologic analysis in commonly encountered OB-GYN cases
3. Provide OB-GYN ultrasound updates.

The ultrasound committee’s commitment is to conduct a quarterly webinar lecture series among AOFOG countries. Last May 29, 2021, we conducted our second virtual lecture series in Vientiane, Laos which was entitled: OB-GYN ultrasound: Impact on Clinical Decisions III. The activity was made possible through the support of Dr. Alongkone Phengsavanh, the Vice – Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University Health Sciences, Laos. Dr. Alongkone was assisted by Dr. Douangphachanh Xaysomphou, a young obstetrician gynecologist who is the current head of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Department of OB-GYN, Faculty of Medicine, University Health Sciences in Laos. He is also an AOFOG Young Gynecologist Awardee (YGA).

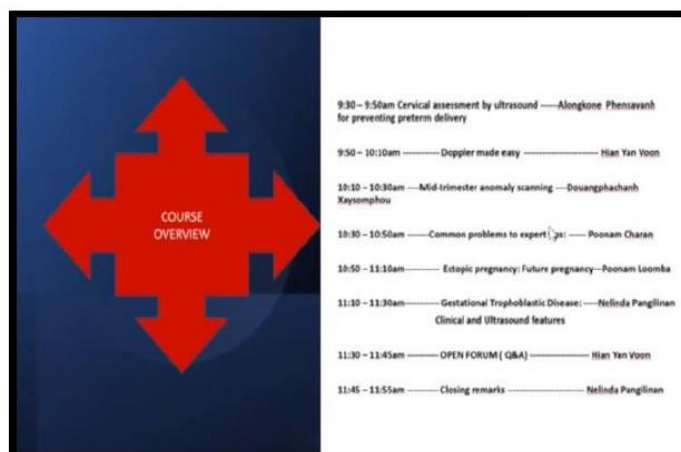


This was not the first activity of the ultrasound committee. In 2018, the committee conducted an ultrasound workshop which consisted of lectures and hands-on (demo-return demo) ultrasound activities. It was a successful activity that received good feedback from our attendees.

The planning of the Laos Ultrasound Activity Webinar was conducted in a smooth manner, with the overwhelming support from the ultrasound committee members a pleasant development despite their individual duties and responsibilities in their respective institutions.

The success of all the ultrasound activities is owed to the committee members, namely: Dr. Poonam Loomba (India), Dr. Poonam Charan (Australia) and Dr. Voon Hian Yan, (Malaysia) who unselfishly gave their time, expertise and 100% commitment to AOFOG.

The Saturday of May 29, 2021, 9:00am was a very fruitful day for all of us, as the webinar session started and was attended by 167 Laos doctors (specialist, general practitioners, medical officer, radiologist and nurses) from Vientiane and the countryside. The medium of discussion was the English and Lao language. English lectures were delivered by the committee members and was translated into Lao language by Dr. Alongkone. The discussion of Drs. Alongkone and Douangphachanh was in Lao language. The opening remarks was delivered by Dr. Alongkone. The program activities were divided into two sessions, namely Obstetric and Gynecologic sessions.



The topics for the obstetric session included:

- Cervical assessment by ultrasound in preventing preterm delivery (Alongkone)
- Doppler made easy (Voon Hian Yan)
- Mid-trimester anomaly scanning (Douangphachanh)

The Gynecologic session included the following topics:

- Common problems to expert tips: How to approach ectopic pregnancies on ultrasound (Poonam Charan-Australia)
- Ectopic pregnancy: Effect of future pregnancy (Poonam Loomba-India)
- Gestational Trophoblastic Disease: Clinical and Ultrasound features (Nelinda Pangilinan, Philippines).

30 minutes were allotted for questions, but due to the active participation of the attendees, the allotted time was not enough. With the interactive participation of the attendees in the Q&A, it seems evident that the committee successfully achieved its objective of integrating ultrasound in clinical practice through sharing of cases among the speakers.

The closing remarks was given by the ultrasound committee chair, Dr. Nelinda Pangilinan.

The webinar ultrasound activity was sponsored by GE Healthcare using the zoom platform. The feedback evaluation was adopted from the AFOG SurveyMonkey with a total respondents

**The ultrasound committee's activities in line for 2021 are the following:**

1. August 1, 2021, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Singapore time): OB-GYN ultrasound: Impact on clinical decisions IV.

Speakers from different countries are invited and topics are divided among obstetric and gynecologic sessions.

- The Obstetric Sessions' topics are the following:
  - a. Early asymmetric growth restriction: Identification and Clinical implication(Boonsri – Thailand)
  - b. Is the cervix worth rescuing? (Voon Hian Yan – Malaysia)
  - c. Counselling and prognostication of pregnancies with fetus having Congenital Heart Disease (Bal Vaidyanathan- India)
- The Gynecology sessions' topics are as follows:
  - a. Diagnostic and Management Challenges in CS scar, (Poonam Charan -Australia)
  - b. Clinical approach to Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome in Obese patient (Poonam Loomba)



c. Simplifying Ovarian Mass Diagnosis (Nelinda Pangilinan)

This activity is open to all AFOG member countries and the virtual platform will be handled by GE Healthcare.

2. Nepal webinar lecture series: OB-GYN ultrasound: Impact on clinical decisions IV- Problem based clinic-sonologic discussion commonly encountered in Nepal. The target date for this webinar is on November 2021.
3. Philippine Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology society (PSUOG) in collaboration with Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecologist (AFOG) will also be holding a joint

Annual conference on December 1-3, 2021. Dedicated and exclusive AFOG sessions on Gynecology and Obstetrics will be included.



The Gynecology session will touch on the new sonographic parameters in the diagnosis of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease by Dr. Nelinda Pangilinan (AFOG, Ultrasound Chair) while the Obstetric session is about a short femur by Dr. UDP Ratnasiri (AFOG Maternal Fetal Medicine Chair).

Much is owed to my committee members: Poonam Loomba (India), Poonam Charan (Australia) and Voon Hian Yan, Malaysia) who gave their time, expertise and commitment to AFOG for making all our activities successful.

Lastly, I would like to extend my gratitude for the overwhelming support of the AFOG board and its president, Professor Kazunori Ochiai (Japan) with all the activities each committee has provided despite the pandemic.

I would like to end by sharing some of the webinar pictures during the Laos virtual lecture activity. I hope you all the best, with healthy days ahead.

**Dr. Nelinda Catherine P. Pangilinan** (*MHA, FPOGS, FPSUOG*)

Committee Chair

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## Report from MIGS Committee

In recent 3 months, our committee had a couple of appointments. The Committee Chair, Tsukasa Baba, joined a FIGO Global webinar “Things You Always Wanted to Know About Minimal Access Surgery (But Were Afraid to Ask)” held on 27th May 2021 to evoke discussions about the case number changes of MIGS under the current SARS-Cov2 pandemic status, which is archived on <https://www.figo.org/webinar-things-you-always-wanted-know-about-minimal-access-surgery-were-afraid-ask>

He also had another presentation with the AFOG board members on the FIGO-AFOG Webinar “Women’s Healthcare: Fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic (Part Two)” held on 15th June 2021. In this webinar, he presented “Minimally invasive Gynaecologic Surgery - the new normal” to overview the topics of having resumed MIGS and the shift of surgical training format from hands-on style to e-learning in AFOG member countries.

**Prof. Tsukasa Baba,**

Chair, AFOG MIGS Committee

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## AFOG-FIGO Webinars

Webinars organised jointly by FIGO and AFOG under the topic of **“Women’s Healthcare: Fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic”**

### FIGO - AFOG Webinar Part 1: Report (Tuesday, 08 June 2021)

Dr. Faysal El Kak, Vice President FIGO (Lebanon) opened Part 1 of the joint FIGOnar with AFOG with a very nice yet pertinent message of how FIGO through its numerous FIGOnars in the past year due to the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic had brought FIGO much closer to most of the member country federations and reiterated the fact that a large number of colleagues from all over the world through these FIGOnars could gain knowledge from and get virtual access to the current and past FIGO Officers. He very kindly complimented and thanked AFOG for making the efforts to plan the joint webinars and introduced Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa and Prof. Krishnendu Gupta, and thereafter requested Prof. Ochiai to give his welcome address.



Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, President AFOG (Japan) welcomed all present highlighting the very positive role played by Dr. Faysal El Kak in stimulating the thought of having a joint webinar with AFOG and thanked him for his efforts. He then gave a brief background of the association of AFOG with FIGO for more than 50 years and how AFOG strategized very effectively in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and

continue to share a wealth of academic knowledge through numerous webinars conducted by the various committees. Prof. Ochiai thereafter thanked Dr. Jeanne Conry, President Elect of FIGO for agreeing to be the “Keynote Speaker”, even though it was well past midnight in California while this webinar was taking place. Finally, he congratulated Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa and Prof. Krishnendu Gupta for their focused efforts in planning and organization of the webinar, and placed his personal thanks to all the chairs and speakers for their active role in the webinar. He then requested Prof. Gupta to “set the stage” of the webinar.

Prof. Krishnendu Gupta, Chair - SRH Committee AFOG (India) started by thanking all concerned in FIGO and AFOG for giving him the great opportunity to play a major role in organizing the webinar. Prof. Gupta highlighted the very apt title of the webinar with the on-going pandemic which has claimed almost 4 million lives till date and had vastly affected the lives of all mankind, especially those of women, both pregnant and non-pregnant, and their families. Thereafter, he outlined the entire programme of the webinar detailing all the session chairs and speakers, and gave a brief preamble to the topics that would be discussed. Prof. Gupta ended his presentation with a fervent hope that regular on-line FIGOnars such as these will help our colleagues all over the world to be able to provide safe and up-to-date measures for effective care to our women worldwide. He then requested Dr. Haththotuwa to give his presentation.

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, Secretary General of AFOG (Sri Lanka) in his wonderful and crisp presentation entitled “Brief introduction to AFOG” enlightened all present highlighting the role played by the 28 countries comprising the Federation. Dr. Rohana briefly outlined the history, the affiliated national societies, objectives and organizational structure (executive board, seven committees, two ad-hoc committees etc.) of AFOG. He highlighted the very prestigious journal of AFOG i.e. “The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research (JOGR)” managed by Japan Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, in addition to mentioning the newsletters and the updated AFOG website with the new “COVID-19 Corner”. He signed off by inviting everyone to attend the forthcoming AFOG Congress in Bali, Indonesia from 23 – 26 May 2022.

Session 1 was chaired by Prof. Pisake Lumbiganon, President Elect AFOG (Thailand) and Dr. John Tait, Vice President AFOG (New Zealand). Prof. Lumbiganon introduced the speaker of the 1st keynote, Dr. Jeanne Conry, President Elect of FIGO who spoke on “ZOOM-ing in on Telehealth - The FIGO experience”. Dr. Conry’s wonderful and detailed presentation stressed the role of FIGO as the global voice for women’s health. She also briefly touched upon the current trends in healthcare and medical innovation highlighting the impact of adoption of telemedicine in various parts of the world with respect to on-line consultations, impact on improving outcomes, including the use of online telemedicine services to access self-managed medical abortion in the US. She ended her excellent presentation by enumerating the opportunities possible for telehealth to expand reproductive health access and urged the individual countries to keep up with science to have the potential to improve women’s health outcomes, reduces maternal mortality and is an investment for our communities. Dr. Conry’s passionate deliberation once again proved her commitment to women’s health of which she is a truly a champion!! Dr. Tait thanked Dr. Conry for her impactful presentation, despite the time difference and thereafter called the session to a close.

Session 2 was chaired by Prof. Ferdousi Begum, President SAFOG (Bangladesh) and Prof Kiyoko Kato, Editor-in-Chief JOGR (Japan) who introduced the speakers in turn. The first of the two presentations was delivered by Dr. U.D.P. Ratnasiri, Chair – Maternal Fetal Medicine Committee AFOG (Sri Lanka) entitled “Impact on deliveries and breast-feeding”. Dr. Ratnasiri highlighted the numerous problems and issues faced by pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the change in practices to manage deliveries and lactating mothers with special reference to COVID positive patients. It was a very detailed and comprehensive compilation of the current guidelines. This was followed by a very thought-provoking and interesting presentation by Dr. Jaydeep Tank, Chair – Committee for Safe Abortion FIGO and Deputy Secretary General AFOG (India) on the effects of COVID-19 on “Abortion and Contraception” with some truly out of the box thoughts and approaches to manage the situation in the current scenario. The wonderful quotes aptly used by Dr. Tank were a visual treat.

Both the academic sessions generated a lot of questions which were answered by the respective speakers in the “Q&A session” which was handled very efficiently by Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa.

Prof. Kazunori Ochiai in his closing remarks once again thanked the chairs, speakers, Team FIGO and all concerned, and reminded all to attend Part 2 of the similarly themed webinar with other exciting topics of discussion on Tuesday, 15 June 2021. He then declared the FIGOnar closed.

### **FIGO – AFOG Webinar Part 2: Report (Tuesday, 15 June 2021)**

Dr. Faysal El Kak, Vice President FIGO (Lebanon) opened the Part 2 of the joint FIGOnar with AFOG with generous words of appreciation of the success of Part 1 of the FIGOnar. He once again stressed on how FIGO through its numerous FIGOnars in the past year, due to the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic had brought FIGO much closer to all the member country federations and reiterated the fact that a large number of colleagues from all over the world could virtually see the current FIGO Officers and gain knowledge from their vast experience. Dr. El Kak very kindly complimented AFOG for making the efforts to plan the webinars and introduced Prof Kazunori Ochiai, Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa and Prof. Krishnendu Gupta, and thereafter requested Prof. Ochiai to give his welcome address.

Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, President AFOG (Japan) welcomed all present highlighting the very positive role played by Dr. Faysal El Kak in stimulating the thought of having a joint webinar with AFOG. He then gave a brief background of AFOG, its association with FIGO for more than 50 years and how AFOG strategized very effectively in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to share a wealth of academic knowledge through numerous webinars conducted by the various committees. Prof. Ochiai then thanked Prof. Dame Lesley Regan, Honorary Secretary FIGO for agreeing to be the “Keynote Speaker” on a topic very close to her heart. Finally, he congratulated Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa and Prof. Krishnendu Gupta for their focused efforts in planning and organizing the webinar, and placed his personal thanks to all the chairs and speakers for their active role in the webinar. He then requested Prof Gupta to “set the stage” of the webinar once again.



Prof. Krishnendu Gupta, Chair - SRH Committee AFOG (India) commenced his presentation yet again by thanking all concerned in FIGO and AFOG for giving him yet another humbling opportunity to play a major role in organizing the webinars. He specifically thanked Team FIGO for allotting two FIGOnars to AFOG. Prof. Gupta highlighted

the very apt title of the webinar with the on-going pandemic which has claimed almost 4 million lives till date and had vastly affected the lives of all mankind with special reference to the disruption of access to SRH services and rights, optimal surgical interventions, both minimal access and open, as well as oncology services and treatment of cancer patients. Thereafter, he outlined the entire programme of the webinar detailing all the session chairs and speakers, and gave a brief preamble to the topics that would be discussed. He highlighted the very positive and timely step of FIGO having recently announced that the integration of SRH services into the Universal health coverage (UHC), is being undertaken, which aims to make promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services available at an affordable and subsidized cost for the entire population, regardless of socioeconomic status. Prof Gupta ended his presentation with yet another fervent hope that regular on-line FIGOnars such as these will help our colleagues all over the world to be able to provide safe and up-to-date measures for effective care to our women worldwide. He then requested Dr. Haththotuwa to give his presentation.

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, Secretary General of AFOG (Sri Lanka) in his wonderful and crisp presentation entitled "Brief introduction to AFOG" once again enlightened all present highlighting the role played by the 28 countries comprising the Federation. Dr. Rohana briefly outlined the history, the affiliated national societies, objectives and organizational structure (executive board, seven committees, two ad-hoc committees etc.) of AFOG. He highlighted the very prestigious journal of AFOG i.e. "The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research (JOGR)" managed by Japan Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, in addition to mentioning the newsletters and the updated AFOG website with the new "COVID-19 Corner". Finally, he reminded and invited everyone to attend the forthcoming AFOG Congress in Bali, Indonesia from 23 - 26 May 2022.

Session 3 was chaired by Dr. Ravi Chandran, Immediate Past President AFOG (Malaysia) and Dr. S. Shantha Kumari, Member – Subcommittee on Violence against Women FIGO and Member - SRH Committee AFOG (India). Dr. Chandran introduced the speaker of the 2nd keynote, Prof Dame Lesley Regan Honorary Secretary FIGO and Immediate Past President RCOG (United Kingdom) who spoke on "Women's reproductive health and rights: Has COVID-19 set us back?". Prof. Dame Regan started off her presentation by highlighting the committed SDG goals, the time frame to achieve them and the urgency to do so. She also mentioned the effects of the lockdown leading to a shadow pandemic of domestic and gender-based violence, increased rates of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, female genital mutilation and effects on marginalized groups, to name just a few. Prof Dame Regan then addressed the current issues and problems of access to immunization, safe abortion, and contraception. It was an awesome presentation, by one of the most sought-after speakers in the field of women's reproductive health and rights in the world!! After a very brief Q & A, Dr. Shantha Kumari thanked Prof Dame Regan for her very thought-provoking presentation.

Following the keynote, Dr. Shantha Kumari called upon and introduced Prof. Tsukasa Baba, Chair - Minimally Invasive Gynaecologic Surgery Committee AFOG (Japan) who gave a deep insight to his topic entitled "Minimally invasive Gynaecologic Surgery - the new normal". Prof. Baba though his recorded video presentation highlighted the immense problems faced during the lockdown period to not only perform surgeries but also impart his very popular lab training sessions of MIGS. He and his team improvised and successfully imparted numerous online training sessions much to the benefit of his fans and followers. It was a wonderful and well-thought-out presentation. It will not be out of place

to mention the very kind and thoughtful gesture of Prof Baba to acknowledge the efforts of his colleagues in AFOG to organize the webinars prior to his video presentation for which we are all grateful.

Dr. Ravi Chandran then introduced Prof. Sarikapan Wilailak, Member - Committee for Gynecologic Oncology FIGO and Chair - Oncology Committee AFOG (Thailand) who gave a very thought-provoking presentation entitled “Clash of the “C’s” - Cancer and Covid”. Through her vast experience in the field of gynaecologic oncology, Prof. Wilailak enumerated the latest guidelines and protocols for gynaecologic cancer management during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a very well researched and up-to-date presentation with attractive slides.

As in the previous FIGOnar, the academic session generated a lot of questions which were diligently answered by the respective speakers in the “Q & A session” which was again handled extremely efficiently by Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa.

Thereafter, Prof. Kazunori Ochiai on behalf of AFOG once again thanked all concerned in FIGO for the wonderful support and help in organizing both the webinars and reminded all present to attend the AFOG Congress in Bali, Indonesia in large numbers.

Dr. Faysal El Kak in his closing remarks reiterated his commitment to academics and thanked Prof. Ochiai and Team AFOG for joining hands with FIGO. He also placed his gratefulness to all the session chairs, erudite speakers and all concerned who helped organizing the FIGOnars and participated whole-heartedly in both the FIGOnars to make them a resounding success. He then declared the FIGOnar closed.

**Prof. Krishnendu Gupta**

Chair - Sexual & Reproductive Health Committee, AFOG



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## Blood Health Forum series

Approximately 2.3 billion people suffer from anemia, with an estimated one in two attributed to iron deficiency anemia (IDA) and experiencing symptoms like frequent tiredness, dizziness, paleness, impaired immunity, thus impacting their quality of life and productivity. Southeast Asia and Africa continue to report the highest prevalence rates of anemia, accounting for 85 percent of global reported cases. The Blood Health Forum series endorsed by AFOG in collaboration with P&G



Health aims to provide an educational platform for healthcare professionals where they can benefit from exposure to the latest scientific research and clinical insights in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of iron deficiency anemia.

The 5 parts of Blood Health Forum series was first conceptualized in October 2020 and has since reached more than 50000 healthcare professionals in the Asia region. The theme of the series was 'Pioneering blood health through early diagnosis and management of iron and micronutrient deficiency'. The discussion sessions, led by an international speaker faculty of leading experts in the fields of anemia, public health, iron physiology and nutritional health, covered a wide breadth of topics on the diagnosis, communication and management of iron deficiency and anemia in patients

This highly engaging and scientific series concluded with a bang on 19<sup>th</sup> Jun 2021 with a panel of AFOG faculty and esteemed experts. The recording of this series can be found on both the Docquity and Medisage platform.

This session focused on patient case discussion in paediatrics and pregnancy, two groups that are highly vulnerable to iron deficiency anemia. Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa, secretary general of AFOG graced the meeting with an opening speech, showcasing the legacy and vision of the society. This continued with an intriguing presentation by Prof. Dr. Zulfikar Bhutta from Canada on the latest insights in iron deficiency anemia (IDA) management in the current pandemic. The momentum continued with Dr. Titis from Indonesia and Dr. Jaydeep Tank, Deputy secretary general of AFOG with their case presentations. The panel then discussed on the common issues faced by patients suffering from IDA including awareness, accessibility and compliance. More than 90% of the participants rated the session of high quality and relevance to their clinical practice.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x1uvlp8fVF5yDUOZ\\_aPBici9I10XmKny/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x1uvlp8fVF5yDUOZ_aPBici9I10XmKny/view?usp=drivesdk)





## The 10<sup>th</sup> HPV Summit

The Cervical Cancer Prevention Network (CECAP) Advocacy for the HPV Summit was started in 2011.

CECAP, a Philippine advocacy program with Jhpiego, affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, whose goal is to move, as one, together with the medical experts, patient groups, various stakeholders & advocates, to bridge the gap in empowering communities to fight HPV & cervical cancer. In 2019, the AOFOG international conference hosted the “Manila Declaration” a consortium among the Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecologic Society (POGS), Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AOFOG) joining CECAP for the cervical cancer elimination and the HPV Summit advocacy. This 10<sup>th</sup> HPV Summit is also a celebration of the decade (10 years) advocacy.

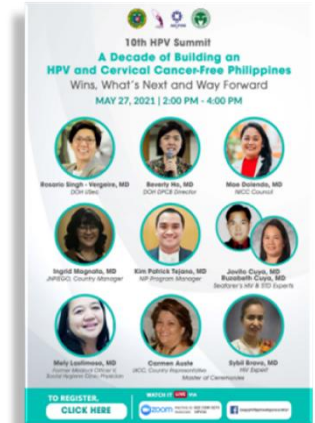
### Objectives

The HPV Summit advocacy promotes health, community education, discuss updates in HPV virus, cervical cancer and other relevant topics that go beyond the disease. It pushes the HPV and cervical cancer free Asia Oceania by leading the discussions on the burden of disease, preventive strategies, including vaccination, therapy options and national health care policies and programs related to HPV, HIV and cervical cancer. It aims to strengthen the region’s country readiness for the implementation of the expanded cervical cancer and control efforts.

The AOFOG in the Manila Declaration, pushes for the education and empowerment of community health workers, midwives, nurses on how to perform VIA Visual Inspection with acetic acid in low-income regions with no pathologists to interpret the pap smears. It also aims to increase cervical cancer vaccination by communicating with government agencies the importance of prioritizing vaccination to the less fortunate who cannot afford it. It encourages the multi stake-holders platform to continuously discuss among scientific experts, policy makers, leaders and decision makers, health care professionals, medical societies, civic groups, patients’ groups, advocates and the public together to move as one. It advocates to emphasize the importance of the continuum of care in addressing HPV related disease and cancer.



### Our HPV Summit through the years...



### Our Statistics



Attendees: 556

Views: 3200 (both POGS and Guard Against HPV FB pages)

The 10<sup>th</sup> HPV Summit, A Decade of Building an HPV and Cervical Cancer-Free Philippines has the theme, Wins, What’s Next and way Forward. There was a total of 556 attendees with 3,200 views both for POGS and Guard Against HPV FB pages.

Professor Kazunori Ochaia, President of AOFOG gave the inspirational message and encourages the 28 country members of Asia Oceania, to push for the cervical cancer elimination advocacy.

The HPV Summit lectures and messages, are summarized with its impact in the next tables.

Topic	Speaker/s	Summary	Impact
DOH Programs to Achieve HPV and Cervical Cancer Free Philippines	Usec. Rosario Singh Vergere, MD	The DOH framework for freeing the country of the avoidable burden of cancer. For cervical cancer, the DOH will be implementing the Roadmap For Cervical Cancer Control Program.	The framework focuses on the "whole-of-government", societal, system and life-course approach. Phase 1 of the Cervical Cancer Control Program will be in collaboration with SUCCESS for the "screen and treat approach" using HPV DNA test.
Universal Healthcare Act	Dir. Beverly Ho, MD	One of the campaigns of the Universal Healthcare Act is to focus on 7 priority areas and one of these is Sexual and Reproductive Health. In implementing this, province and municipality/city health systems will be integrated. This is to strengthen the primary care capacity at the ground level.	In strengthening the primary care capacity of LGUs, diagnosis and testing for cervical cancer will be more efficient and comprehensive.
National Integrated Cancer Control Act	Mae Dolendo, MD (Cancer Council)	Updates on the progress of NICCA implementation. Development of infrastructure. Institutionalizing the standards of care cancer centers. Building of the institutional capacity of the Cancer Control Program and Funding for medicine. Also looking at the entire ecosystem for cancer care.	NICCA is progressing in its implementation. Particularly in terms of funds for cancer treatment. This could mean lower out-of-pocket cost for cancer treatments.

Topic	Speaker/s	Summary	Impact
HPV Continuum of Care: Scale Up Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy (SUCCESS)	Ingrid Magnata, MD (Country Manager, JHPIEGO)	Discussion on the WHO Accelerated Plan towards elimination of cervical cancer (2020-2030), through the 90-70-90 targets. 90% of girls to be fully vaccinated, 70% of women screened and 90% of positives to receive treatments. Very intensive screening and vaccination is needed to meet these targets.	SUCCESS will work with the DOH in closing the gap with regards to the targets. This project will employ the latest testing and treatment modalities.
HPV NIP Recovery amidst the pandemic	Kim Patrick Tejano, MD (NIP Program Manager)	Disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic has redirected the implementation strategies of the NIP. Still the DOH NIP will be working on the future direction of its immunization program.	HPV vaccination will still continue to be implemented in consideration of health protocols. NIP will continue to work with the work for its strategic vision (2022-2028). Lobby for the Mandatory Immunization of Infants and Children Act and the establishment of NITAG.
HPV Care in Targeted Population	Mely Lastimoso, MD (Social Hygiene Clinic Physician)	Micro view on how social hygiene clinics are functioning in an emerging and progressive city. Profiling of demographics and predispositions of sex workers and PLHIVs in General Santos City.	Given the profile, these particular subgroups should be one of the focal point of a policy review when it comes to HPV vaccination.
HPV Care in Targeted Population	Dr. Jovito Cuya, MD (Seafarer and Manning Agency Physician)	A very comprehensive assessment of Filipino seafarers and how culture and vocation puts them at risk in contracting the HPV virus and how this interplays with their dependence at home.	Filipinos are among the largest ethnic groups in the maritime industry. With this considerable number this particular cohort should also be considered as of the focal point of policy review on HPV vaccination.

These are the logos of the HPV Summit collaborators and partners who joined in the advocacy. The latest addition are the Alaga health CSO civil society organization, and the PONA Philippine Oncologic Nursing Association. This also includes all the 28 AOFOG member countries all fighting for cervical cancer elimination.

Survey says most attendees are physicians, first time to join the HPV Summit, with minimal technical difficulties.

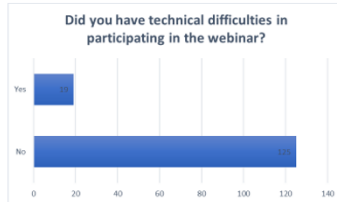
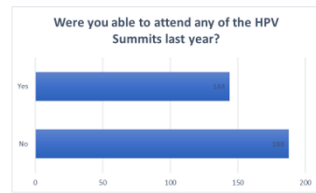
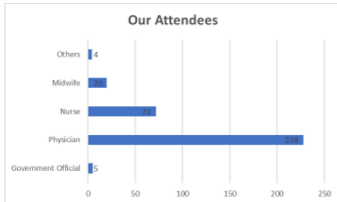
COLLABORATORS AND PARTNERS



Regarding media coverage, some 2.8 million views and circulation were attained and 11 pickups whether print outline or broadcast.



Survey results



Media Coverage

Stakeholders' Feedback

- “Very good and easy way to IEC”
  - Government Official
- “I liked the mixture of government, NGO and POGS in one”
  - Physician
- “The webinar is well organized”
  - Physician
- “Lecturers are very knowledgeable”
  - Nurse
- “Very insightful, especially on the targeted populations (sex workers, PLHIV and seafarers)”
  - Nurse

All in all the webinar was a success. Everyone is invited in the next series in August 2021.

**Cecilia A. Llave, (Md PHd)**  
 Chair, Cervical Cancer Prevention Network of Philippines.



## AOFOG 2022

Dear AOFOG Member,

I hope you are safe, healthy, and doing as well as you possibly can to overcome this difficult situation. Covid-19 pandemic is not an issue that any of us should take lightly, so please continue practicing social distancing, using double masks and washing your hands.



Indonesian Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (POGI) is honored to host the biennial meeting: 27th Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AOFOG) Congress. This congress scheduled on 23rd to 26th May 2022, takes place in The Stone Hotel, Kuta, Bali. The 27th AOFOG Congress will be held hybrid, which is both online and onsite.

With the theme "From Bench to Bedside: Between Culture, Future, and Technology in Women's Health", we have prepared numerous topic discussions, controversies, debates, workshops in scientific programme. The registration for congress participant will be open in July 2021.

Listen to the AOFOG President's Lecture by Professor Kazunori Ochiai. CT Hsu Memorial Lecture will be presented by Professor Noriaki Sakuragi. Professor Frank Louwen will deliver Malaysia Lecture. RCOG President's Lecture will be delivered by Professor Edward Patrick Morris. Moreover, listen to FIGO President's Lecture by Dr. Jeanne A Conry, MD, PhD and SS Ratnam Lecture presented by Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran.

On 23rd to 24th May 2022, Ultrasound workshop will be held with hands-on session (onsite). Other workshops will be held on 24th May 2020, including Live Surgery and Near Live Surgery in Minimal Invasive Surgery, VIA and Colposcopy as Cervical Cancer Screening Methods, High Risk Obstetrics and Emergency and Pre-Conception Management.

Various international and local speakers will take part in scientific session about comprehensive obstetrics and gynaecology topics. Special topics about Covid-19 and pregnancy will also be included. Watch the controversies and debate about: Pros and cons Surgery in infertile patient with endometriosis; Hysterectomy in Pelvic Organ Prolapse Surgery: To Take Out or Not to; Controversies in Fetal Growth restriction; Conservative treatment in managing Pelvic Floor Dysfunction (PFD).

We look forward to all researchers to participate in scientific paper competitions at the 27th AOFOG Congress. Call for abstracts will be open on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

Join us and celebrate the amazing Bali traditions and cultures amidst the warmth of Indonesian hospitality. Experience the famous Bali traditional dance during AOFOG President's Night and Opening Ceremony, and rejoice during Gala Dinner as enjoy it with the well-known Kecak Dance. We also have several social activities, such as Song Competition with the theme of "Song for Our Mother"; SPRIN (Selamatkan Perempuan Indonesia) as free webinar about obstetrics, gynaecology and reproductive health; and also Zumba Gold specially designed for elder ladies.

The theme of the Community Fellowship Programme for this year's Young Gynaecologist Awardees who will participate in the CFP will be, "Promoting acceleration of reducing MMR programme in Asia Pasific". This event will be held in hybrid, virtual & in gathering. Consist of: team building, focus group discussion, ice breaking, fun & games.

Please kindly check our website for more details: <http://www.aofog2022.com/>

We hope to see you all there!

**Andon Hestiantoro, OG(REI), MPH, Phd**

Chair Person,

AOFOG 2022, Congress.





**“From Bench to Bedside  
Between the Culture, Tradition and  
Technology in Women’s Health”**

*The Stones Hotel Legian  
Kuta-Bali, Indonesia*

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

[www.aofog2022.com](http://www.aofog2022.com)

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
Open for registration: **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
Open for abstract submission: **July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
Deadline for abstract submission: **October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**PLENARY 1** : AFOG President’s Lecture  
**PLENARY 2** : CT Hsu Memorial Lecture - Professor Noriaki Sakuragi  
*(Professor Emeritus, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hokkaido University Graduate School Of Medicine, Director of Otaru General Hospital, Hokkaido, Japan)*  
**PLENARY 3** : Malaysia Lecture - Professor Frank Louwen  
*(Professor of Medicine/ Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of Frankfurt/ Main, Germany Scientific Committee Chair, XXIII FIGO World Congress)*  
**PLENARY 4** : RCOG President’s Lecture - Professor Edward Patrcik Morris  
**PLENARY 5** : FIGO President’s Lecture - Jeanne A Conry, MD, PhD  
**PLENARY 6** : ACOG President’s Lecture  
**PLENARY 7** : SS Ratnam Lecture - Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran  
*(Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, St George’s University of London and Past President FIGO, RCOG & BMA)*

AFOG 2022 Congress Secretariat  
INDONESIAN SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
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## AFOG statement: COVID-19 in pregnancy

Updated on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

There has been a sudden rise of COVID 19 infection in most South Asian countries in the month of April and May 2021 with very high rates of spread seen especially in India. In contrast, some countries in the West which were badly affected by the pandemic at the beginning are now showing improvement in morbidity and mortality. This is likely due to the rapid vaccination roll-out in those countries coupled with public health measures. It is also disturbing to note that several new variants of the virus have been detected in recent months with greater infectivity and virulence. This has had a knock-on effect with hospitals being overwhelmed and healthcare workers overburdened resulting in a significant impact on the management of our pregnant women.

Apart from initiating novel treatment options including telehealth, strict adherence to public health measures and strict protocols for screening and treatment in labour, vaccination offers another avenue to bring this pandemic under control.

### Disease severity

- COVID-19 ranges from asymptomatic infection, through to mild disease (no evidence of pneumonia or hypoxia), moderate disease (viral pneumonia), severe disease (severe pneumonia, e.g. with SpO<sub>2</sub> below 90% on room air) and critical disease (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome [ARDS], sepsis, septic shock, or complications such as pulmonary embolism or acute coronary syndrome). Severe illness, such as that requiring ICU admission, is relatively uncommon in women of reproductive age but can occur.
- Symptomatic pregnant patients with COVID-19 are at increased risk of more severe illness compared with their nonpregnant peers. Although the absolute risk for severe COVID-19 is low, the data indicate an increased risk of ICU admission, need for mechanical ventilation and ventilatory support (ECMO) and death.
- Pregnant patients with co-morbidities (obesity and diabetes) may be at an even higher risk of severe illness consistent with the general population with similar comorbidities.
- Compared with pregnant women without COVID-19, pregnant women with symptomatic COVID-19 requiring hospitalisation have overall worse maternal outcomes, including an increased risk of death, although that risk remains very low (the UK maternal mortality rate from COVID-19 is 2.2 per 100 000 maternities).
- Symptomatic maternal COVID-19 is associated with an increased likelihood of iatrogenic preterm birth. Aside from preterm birth, there is no evidence that COVID-19 infection has an adverse effect on the fetus or on neonatal outcomes.

### Vaccination in Pregnancy

An ideal vaccine would be one which is single dose, can be stored at room temperature, safe in pregnant and lactating women and provides long-lasting immunity with simple administration.

The vaccines developed and in current use are “emergency vaccines” that have been approved by the WHO’s Emergency Use Listing (EUL) to reduce the severity of the disease and reduce hospital admissions and deaths.

- COVID-19 vaccine development and regulatory approval are rapidly progressing. Thus, information and recommendations will evolve as more data are collected about these vaccines and their use in specific populations.
- ACOG recommends that pregnant individuals have access to COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to lactating individuals similar to non-lactating individuals. Individuals considering a COVID-19 vaccine should have access to available information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, including information about data that are not available. A communication between the patient and their clinical team may assist with decisions regarding the use of vaccines approved under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) [currently Pfizer, Moderna and J&J by FDA in USA only] for the prevention of COVID-19 by pregnant women<sup>(1)</sup>.
- The latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in United Kingdom is that COVID-19 vaccines should be offered to pregnant women at the same time as the rest of the population, based

on their age and clinical risk group. Women should discuss the benefits and risks of having the vaccine with their healthcare professional and reach a joint decision based on individual circumstances<sup>(2)</sup>.

If a breastfeeding woman is part of a group (e.g., health workers) recommended for vaccination, vaccination can be offered; WHO does not recommend discontinuing breastfeeding after vaccination.

- As per the interim Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) guidance issued for 5 vaccines that have received WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) so far (i.e. Pfizer, Moderna, Janssen, Astra Zeneca, Sinopharm), WHO recommends the use of the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant women when the benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential risks. These include pregnant women at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 including health care workers and pregnant women with comorbidities that place them in a high-risk group for severe COVID-19.
- Importance of both active and passive surveillance approaches to assess adverse events following immunization (AEFI) during pregnancy is also highlighted.

Pregnant patients who decide to get vaccinated should continue to follow the current guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 after they are vaccinated. Those are:

- Wearing a mask indoors and outdoors
- Staying at least two meters away from others
- Avoiding crowds
- Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol

### **Efficacy of COVID-19 Vaccines**

All currently available COVID-19 vaccines have demonstrated high efficacy among their respective clinical trial endpoints. Vaccine efficacy is based on the time and place where the trials were conducted and the circulating SARS-CoV-2 virus (es). Direct comparison of the results of these trials would be inappropriate at this time.

Direct prevention of the following rare conditions of COVID 19 infection have been found among vaccinated pregnant women:

- Maternal ICU admission
- Mechanical ventilation or ECMO
- Maternal death.

Indirect reduction of the following common conditions of COVID-19 infection with vaccination include:

- Iatrogenic preterm birth
- Cesarean delivery
- Stillbirth
- Obstruction to healthcare access
- Mental distress scores.

Mother–infant separation following delivery and perceived risk of transmission and rare postnatal vertical transmission is also reduced.

Interruption of breastfeeding following delivery and perceived risk of transmission or COVID-19 treatment incompatible with nursing have also seen a reduction after vaccination<sup>(3)</sup>.

### **Efficacy of mRNA vaccines**

Based on results from clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna vaccine had comparable efficacy (95% vs 94.1%) in preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people who received two doses who had no evidence of previous infection<sup>(4)</sup>.

A prospective cohort study from two academic centers found that vaccinated pregnant and lactating women produced comparable immune responses to non-pregnant controls, and generated higher antibody titers than those observed following SARS-CoV-2 infection in pregnancy. Further, vaccine-generated antibodies were present in umbilical cord blood and breastmilk after maternal vaccination<sup>(5)</sup>.

Each of these vaccines appeared to have high efficacy in clinical trials among people of diverse age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among persons with underlying medical conditions.

### **Efficacy of adenovirus-vector vaccines**

Based on the results from clinical trials in the U.S., the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be 66.9% effective at preventing moderate/severe COVID-19 illness and 76.7% effective at preventing severe/critical COVID-19 illness after a single dose. This vaccine also demonstrated 93.1% effective at preventing hospitalizations 14 days following vaccination.

### **Side Effects of COVID-19 Vaccines**

Expected side effects should be explained as part of counseling patients, including that they are a normal part of the body's reaction to the vaccine and developing antibodies to protect against COVID-19 illness.

### **Summary**

Given the current situation of rising COVID-19 infections in the region and based on the evidence on the currently available vaccines, AFOG firmly believes that COVID-19 vaccination should not be withheld from pregnant women who have received adequate counselling and clearly understand the uncertainties, minimal potential harms and the likely benefits of these vaccines.

Furthermore, given that the most severe effects of COVID-19 infection are experienced after 28 weeks coupled with the current shortage of vaccines in our region and the uncertainty regarding their safety especially in the first trimester, it is time to decide that it may well be a prudent strategy to immunize all pregnant women after the first trimester of pregnancy.

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## WHO recommendations on antibiotic Prophylaxis for caesarean sections

WHO recommendations on antibiotic Prophylaxis and use of antiseptics in women undergoing caesarean sections. Hope this note finds you well.

On behalf of the steering group, it is my pleasure to inform you that the four recommendations on the prevention and treatment of peripartum infection have been published. Sincere thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Below are the links to the updated recommendations:

- WHO recommendation on Routine antibiotic prophylaxis for women undergoing operative vaginal birth  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341862/9789240027992-eng.pdf>
- WHO recommendation on Prophylactic antibiotics for women undergoing caesarean section  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341865/9789240028012-eng.pdf>
- WHO recommendations on Choice of antiseptic agent and method of application for preoperative skin preparation for caesarean section  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341864/9789240028036-eng.pdf>
- WHO recommendation on Vaginal preparation with antiseptic agents for women undergoing caesarean section  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/341863/9789240028050-eng.pdf>

These recommendations supersede the previous 2015 guideline, WHO recommendations for prevention and treatment of maternal peripartum infections.

Please disseminate through your networks.

Best wishes,

**Tina Lavin** (MPH, PhD),

on behalf of the WHO steering group

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## CONGRATULATIONS Prof. Kiyoko KATO and the JOGR team.



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

**JOGR Volume 47, Issue 4 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here;**

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>. Below Editor's choice articles from Issue 4 will be free until the end of May 2021.

- Predictors of recurrent gestational diabetes mellitus: A Japanese multicenter cohort study and literature review. (*Mamoru Morikawa, Takashi Yamada, Yoshihiro Saito, Kiwamu Noshiro, Michinori Mayama, Kinuko Nakagawa-Akabane, Takeshi Umazume, Kentaro Chiba, Satoshi Kawaguchi, Hidemichi Watari*).  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14660>
- Case series of 20 pregnant women with 2019 novel coronavirus disease in Wuhan, China (*Yuping Guo, Jingping Yuan, Ming Wang, Ying Yu, Junmei Bian, Cuifang Fan*).  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14664>
- Comparison of survival outcomes between laparoscopic surgery and abdominal surgery for radical hysterectomy as primary treatment in patients with stage IB2/IIA2 cervical cancer. (*Chunlin Chen, Jianxin Guo, Ping Liu, Zhiqiang Li, Haixia Jiang, Qianyong Zhu, Xiaonong Bin, Jinghe Lang*).  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14693>

**JOGR Volume 47, Issue 5 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here;**

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>. Below Editor's choice articles from Issue 5 are free until the end of June 2021.

- Annual report of the Committee on Gynecologic Oncology, the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology: Annual patient report for 2017 and annual treatment report for 2012. (*Satoru Nagase, Tsuyoshi Ohta, Fumiaki Takahashi, Nobuo Yaegashi*). <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14724>
- COVID-19 and gynecological cancers: Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology oncology committee opinion. (*Ka Yu Tse, Efren J. Domingo, Hiralal Konar, Suresh Kumarasamy, Jitendra Pariyar, Brahmana A. Tjokroprawiro, Kimio Ushijima, Perapong Inthasorn, Ai Ling Tan, Sarikapan Wilailak*).  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14579>
- How do gynecologists face to social problems among women cancer survivors? (*Motoki Endo*).  
<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14703>

JOGR Volume 47, Issue 4 & 5 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated  
We hope these articles will be useful as references and updates for our members.



**Prof. Kiyoko Kato**  
Editor-in-Chief,  
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