

# OGSM newsletter

## From The President's Desk



**OBSTETRICAL & GYNAECOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA**

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Dear Colleagues,

It has been over 6 months since the new council of 2012-2103 took office and there have been a number of events and developments since I last communicated with you.

### LOOKING BEYOND THE LIFE SAVING SKILLS COURSE

OGSM has been running the Life Saving Skills Course since 2008 and so far over 500 doctors and nursing staff have been trained in the country. In addition, courses have been conducted by OGSM in Myanmar, Cambodia and Indonesia. While this course has been

useful, it is time to take stock on what has been achieved so far and also look at other options for the future.

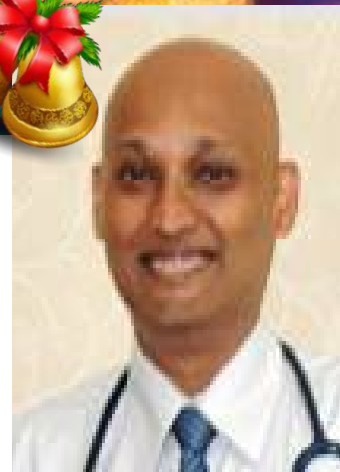
We were fortunate to be able to host Dr Tim Draycott, the initiator of the PROMPT courses in Kuala Lumpur on 4th November 2012. Dr Draycott gave 2 excellent lectures at the OGSM office in the morning. In the afternoon he participated in a round table discussion with council members as well as Dr Gunasegaran, LSSC Course Director and some senior MOH consultants on the possibility of holding PROMPT in Malaysian as an alternative to LSSC.

We are now awaiting a quote on the costs of the franchise arrangement as well as costs to train a core group of trainers if we were to introduce PROMPT in Malaysia. PROMPT is currently carried out in a number of countries including the UK, USA, Australia, Singapore and China. The advantage of PROMPT is that it is conducted over 1 day. The emphasis is also different, as the course is usually carried out in the participant's own hospital with the aim of developing teamwork when dealing with emergencies.

Our collaboration with the Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) at our International Congress in 2013 also allows us the opportunity of exploring yet another option - SOGC conducts a course along the same lines of LSSC and PROMPT called ALARM. This course is conducted in Canada as well as a number of other countries mainly in the African sub-continent.

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## Secretary's Report



The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) is gearing towards celebrating 50 years of Excellence in women's health. In conjunction with that, OGSM invites you to the 22nd Malaysian International Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (MICOG). This Congress is to be held at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from the 30th May - 2nd June 2013. Following OGSM's success in organising last year's '10th International Scientific Congress RCOG 2012', this congress will see participation from various International Societies including the RCOG, RANZCOG, FOGSI, South African Society of O&G and Asian Society of Gynecologic Oncology. I urge our trainees and young gynaecologists to take this opportunity to present your research paper at this Congress as your work will be reviewed and given feedback on by the Editor of British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (BJOG). Members would have received the 1st e-blast about the congress. Please mark your event calendar for the upcoming dates.

OGSM has been sending regular email-updates to all active members, most recently; the Malaysian Ministry of Health circulars on usage of Misoprostol and tocolytic agents as well as the FIGO guideline on the management of Postpartum Haemorrhage. These are also available at the OGSM website. We hope that our members will find these guidelines and circulars are handy for quick updates and cross reference. The Journal Article Summary Service (JASS) is sent regularly by snail mail, this journal reviews current evidence pertaining to particular topics. OGSM is in discussion with MMA to include CPD points from this journal, progress will be notified to all members in future.

OGSM has organised fellowship lectures, recently Dr Tim Draycott, the initiator of PROMPT- (Practical Obstetric Multi Professional Training) Course was invited to give 2 lectures on 4 November at the OGSM Office. One, he spoke about medico legal issues on Instrumental deliveries and ways to reduce perinatal morbidity. Second, he oriented members on issues pertaining to Shoulder Dystocia. This was followed by a closed door meeting with OGSM Council and RCOG Life Saving Skills Course organisers regarding conducting Prompt Courses in Malaysia. OGSM is organising these practical skills workshops for young trainees and for other experienced professional to keep up with their skills in ever increasing medico legal cases. OGSM is also planning to organise regional talks along with state representatives for benefit of OGSM members who cannot always travel to Kuala Lumpur.

OGSM encourages fellowship and social activities amongst our members. We welcome any suggestions to promote this and encourage members to communicate with me or my fellow council members. I wish all OGSM council, state representatives and members a "Happy New Year 2013".

**DR THANEEMALAI JEGANATHAN**  
**HONORARY SECRETARY**

## Accolades

### Dato' Dr V Sivanesaratnam Awarded Professor Emeritus



Dato' Dr V. Sivanesaratnam has had an illustrious career in the Malaysian Medical Services and the University of Malaya. He has devoted the past 43

years in the service of the Government (7 years in the Ministry of Health, and the remaining 36 years in the University of Malaya Medical Centre). His devotion to our speciality, his students and to his patients has been and remains exemplary. A role model to all of us, he has helped train numerous specialists in obstetrics and gynaecology as well as in the sub-specialty of gynaecologic oncology.

He served as the President of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society (OGSM) of Malaysia in 1991-1992 and President of Malaysian Oncological Society, 1991-1994. He has the distinction of being the first Malaysian elected to serve as the President of the enlarged Asia-Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOCOG) from July 2000 to September 2002.

## Treasurer's Report



The term of council is well into its second half. As always, it is time for contemplation, especially on how triumphant we have been in achieving what we had designed when taking office. On the part of the book keepers, it has been an astoundingly busy few months. This was primarily because we have had to close the accounts for the RCOG meeting in Kuching in record time. What customarily takes two years as a minimum to conclude has had to be done in less than four months and this has been a daunting task. Suffice to say, the storm has passed and the dust is settling. Preliminary financial reports have been sent off to the Royal College and we anticipate that the final audited accounts will be ready in the next few weeks.

From all perspectives, the RCOG meeting in Kuching was a resounding success. Financially, we out-performed even our best expectations. If in my last report I had mentioned that the net worth of the society had surpassed RM5 million, I can now reliably update you that the number has increased to 6! However as I write this, I can already hear in my mind (a schizophrenic tendency?) the expected criticisms from the likely quarters about 'OGSM being only all about making money'. We have discussed this issue at length before, and we are still firmly of the belief that, it is this financial strength that allows us the ability and agility to carry out a myriad of activities, which includes bidding for large international meetings or having local congresses with a high calibre faculty. These meetings, without doubt, benefit all members but unfortunately come with financial risk- a risk that one cannot take unless financially secure.

Over the past few months, we have put our new financial guidelines to test. Admittedly, it has its shortcomings, but at least it does allow council to make decisions with more clarity, consistency and transparency. We will improve on these guidelines as we progress and build on it further. Recently, we deliberated on additional guidelines to be utilized for advertising on the society website. After much thought provoking discussion, it was decided to not venture into this gray area as the true implications were unknown. However, as a service to members, we will soon have a 'classifieds section' on our website, for perusal by members only. The fee will be nominal and this will hopefully fulfil the needs of some of our members who would like to reach out to other members for whatever reasonable desires.

Some members may have been receiving calls from the secretariat regarding their unpaid annual subscription. Many will find such calls annoying and wonder why such an affluent society is so fretful over a princely sum of RM50. The reality of the situation is that annual subscriptions only account for less than 7% of our annual expenditure. Our actual concern is much more serious. It is about the legal implications of having member's not-in-benefit especially learning from the painful experiences of some other medical societies. We hope members will understand.

Finally, we wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you and best wishes to all.

**DR EESON SINTHAMONEY**  
**HONORARY TREASURER**

He was awarded the title of "Professor Emeritus" by the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya; Duli Yang Maha Mulia Pemangku Raja Perak Darul Ridzuan, Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, at the University of Malaya Convocation Ceremony on 2nd October 2012. At the ceremony, he was also given the rare honour to address the Convocation. The Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia congratulates him for receiving this well deserved honour.





# Formalizing the OGSM-JASS collaboration as a CPD activity

The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) recognizes that CME/CPD activities are vital to ensure that all members continue to keep themselves abreast with current concepts, best medical practice, evidence based guidance and cutting edge changes both clinical and non-clinical.

Furthermore, upcoming changes in the local legislative requirements to obtain the annual practicing certificate (APC) may soon dictate that such CME/CPD activities be given even more attention.

The Journal Article Summary Service (JASS) is a publication that summarizes all important and relevant scientific articles appearing in international high impact factor journals. JASS has been published since 1995 and is currently utilized as part of CPD programs in several countries including Australia and New Zealand.

OGSM has for the past two years subscribed to the JASS and this facility has been well received by all members. OGSM has now taken this relationship

a step further whereby OGSM and JASS are collaborating with the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) to provide all members the opportunity to earn CPD points from home.

In this program, JASS will provide 10 CPD questions together with their publication for the month and OGSM has requested that MMA provide 1 (one) point a month if members complete these questions and return the answer sheet to OGSM. MMA are currently considering this request.

Henceforth, to facilitate ease of administration, starting this month, JASS will be made available to all members on the OGSM website. The accompanying answer sheet will also be made available on-line.

All members intending to participate in the OGSM-JASS CPD program will need to download the answer sheet, answer the ten questions and submit the answer sheet to the OGSM administrator.

At the end of the CPD cycle (12 months), all answer sheets will be marked using the answers provided by JASS and members that score 75% or more on each sheet will be awarded one CME point by the MMA.

Therefore, this program will allow members the opportunity to earn up to 12 points a year provided that they submit their answer sheets every month.

It is anticipated that CME/CPD activities will become more vital in the near future as it will be linked to our ability to continue practicing legally. Therefore, OGSM has taken the proactive step of making CME/CPD activities more relevant, accessible and feasible to all members. We anticipate that this program will need to be improvised and improved during the implementation stage using feedback obtained from members.

**DR EESON SINTHAMONEY**  
**HONORARY TREASURER**

## CONGRATULATIONS

to our trainees who have recently passed their exams

### Masters of O&G May 2012

Unavailable

### MRCOG May 2012

Jerilee Mariam Khong Azhari  
Sharmina Kamal Shamsul Kamal  
Tan Chong Seong  
Geetha Tambyraja  
Patricia Lim Su Lynn

### Masters of O&G November 2012

Ana Vetriana Abd Wahab  
Vijayaletchumi Thandayathany  
Khairun Niza Che Nyan  
Hamsatul Azlina Hamzah  
Norhayati Kasim

### MRCOG November 2012

Loo Kwong Sheng  
Sundar Gugan Santhana Dass



# The New Medical Act Amendments Simplified

The new amendments to the medical act will change the practise of many or not all of the doctors practising in this country. This is a summarised version; a detailed version can be made available on request.

## 1. Changes in the Malaysian Medical Council structure

Malaysian Medical Council members has been increased to 33 members comprising of

- 15 doctors nominated by the Minister
- 3 doctors from the Ministry of Health
- 3 doctors from the private sector
- 9 from the Universities
- 15 elected from Peninsula Malaysia
- 1 elected from Sarawak
- 1 elected from Sabah

This makes 17 members who are elected. A first for MMC. It is a 3 year term. The minimum number required for a quorum is 12. The decisions are made with a simple majority. The Chairman; the Director General of Health; also has a vote and will become the casting vote if there is equal number of vote in a decision. The council will meet at least 6 times per year.

The members of the council can be terminated by / if:

- Death
- Unsound mind
- Absent for 3 consecutive meetings
- Struck of the Medical Register
- No longer resident of the constitution elected from
- Bankruptcy
- Charged for a criminal offence
- MMC breach of conduct
- Appointment revoked by the Minister or
- By the Minister (without any given reason)

There is a significant increase in powers of the council. The Council now

- Administers, enforces any part of the Medical Act and make to comply with any part of the act
- Regulates standards of practice of practitioners
- Regulates professional conduct and ethics
- Approves or reject applications to register

- Determines fees and fines
- Issues certificates
- Borrow and raise money
- Recognise and accreditate training institutions
- Appoint employees including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Create committees for any purpose that consists of 3 members or otherwise determined by the council

2. All medical practices will require medical indemnity insurance immaterial of being a general practitioner or a specialist. Medical indemnity for all, as stated in Clause 16, is required before obtaining the Annual Practising Certificate (APC) for the safety of the patient and practitioner.

## 3. Specialist Register (as amended in clause 12)

Any person before the operation of this Act who has been registered as a specialist in a registry of specialists or appointed as a specialist by the Director General shall be deemed to be registered as a specialist.

A specialist can be registered if:

- Fully registered in the general registry
- Obtained specialist training in a recognised training institution
- Holds specialist qualification
- Proven fit and of a good character

4. CPD points will be required for the renewal of the APC. The number of points has not been determined yet but has been suggested to be about 20 points. For government doctors, they are required to obtain at least 50 points per year in the MyCPD programme.

5. In the amendments of clause 38 and 39, the compulsory service has been reduced from 3 years to 2 years. This is to accommodate the increased tenure of the housemanship.

**DR. H. KRISHNA KUMAR**  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

## SubCommittee Chairs



### **DR KUMAR ISWARAN** **FERTILITY & STERILITY**

Dr Iswaran is currently a consultant at Prince Court Medical Centre. He is an outgoing and friendly person who despite his busy schedule, ensures he spends time with his family. Outside of work, he enjoys travelling, music, theatre and the arts.

### **DR ARUKU NAIDU** **UROGYNAECOLOGY**

Dr Aruku Naidu, is the Consultant O & G and Urogynaecologist from Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun, Ipoh with a private practice at KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital. He enjoys watching movies, gardening & playing golf when not being a doctor.



### **DR JAPARAJ ROBERT PETER** **MATERNAL FOETAL MEDICINE**

Dr Japaraj is a Materno-Fetal Consultant at Hospital Raja Permaisuri Bainun Ipoh. He is a dedicated government doctor and family man with passion for Maternal Fetal Medicine. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to and making music.

### **DR (HJ) MOHAMAD FAROUK ABDULLAH** **SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

Dr. Farouk Abdullah is currently the Head and Senior Consultant at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang. He is actively involved in many training and planning committees at department, hospital and Ministry of Health level. He acts as a resource person to the Ministry of Health in matters related to Reproductive Medicine and Women's Health.



### **DR YONG CHEE MENG** **GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY**

Dr Yong is currently a gynaecology oncologist attached to Hospital Ampang. He is a man of many talents and when he is not in the hospital (a very rare occasion); he enjoys travelling and jogging.

### **DR GOH HUAY YEE** **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Dr Goh is a committee member of the current OGSM council.



### **DR SEVELLARAJA SUPERMANIAM** **GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY**

Dr. Selva has been at Mahkota Medical Centre since 1994. He is a keen endoscopic and strives to improve his skills in this area by visiting other MIS centres and organising workshops for O&G's in Malaysia. He is currently a board member of APAGE. For fun, he sings in a band comprising of his children, Ashmeera (piano) Amita (keyboard) and Ainesh (drums).

### **DR SHANKAR SAMMANTHAMURTHY** **OGSM WEBSITE**

Dr Shankar is our current Assistant Honorary Secretary.



### **PROF JAMIYAH HASSAN** **OFFICE GYNAECOLOGY**

Prof Jamiyah currently works in University Malaya Medical Center and has a keen interest in women's reproductive health. She is a thoroughly fun person to be with and enjoys cooking, travelling and reading.

### **DR TANG BOON NEE** **MEDICOLEGAL MATTERS**

Dr Tang is our President Elect.





**DR MOHD HAFETZ AHMAD**  
**JOHOR**

Dr Hafetz is a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist as well as the medical director of KPJ Johor Specialist Hospital. He describes himself as an optimist, a sentimental dreamer, lover of beauty (physical, psychological and spiritual) who treasures peace of mind. Outside his office, he enjoys reading (humor, politics, aviation), music, singing (live, karaoke), watching football (Manchester City) and Motor GP.



**ASSOC PROF NIK HAZLINA BT NIK HUSSAIN**  
**KELANTAN**

Dr Hazlina subspecialised in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. A motivated, hardworking and systematic person, she has been working at the School of Medical Sciences and Hospital USM, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan since 1990. She enjoys writing books in her spare time.



**ASSOC PROF SHARIFAH SULAIHA**  
**BTE SYED AZNAL**  
**NEGERI SEMBILAN**

Dr Sulaiha is passionate about sharing information either with patients, clients, students or fellow colleagues. She is committed to her responsibilities be it at work or at home.



**DR SOMASKANDAR SIVASUNTHARAM**  
**PENANG**

Dr Somas, as he is popularly known, comes from a family of doctors. He speaks English, Malay, Tamil and a smattering of Hokkien, as he is born and bred in Penang. When he isn't busy, he enjoys being outdoors playing games or dancing. He also enjoys connecting with his friends and patients on Facebook. He currently works at Gleneagles Hospital, Penang.



**DR ZARIDAH BT SHAFFIE**  
**PERLIS**

Dr Zaridah is the Head of Department, Consultant O&G, Gynaec-oncologist at Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Kangar, Perlis. She enjoys life's challenges, striving to lead and is not afraid to learn. She loves travelling and outdoor activities, reading, cooking, stamp collecting.



**DR RAFAIE B AMIN**  
**SARAWAK**

Dr Rafaie is a unassuming man with a wicked sense of humour. He enjoys the simple life, takes no prisoners and makes no enemies. Fishing and gardening are his stress relievers. He is a Consultant and Maternal Fetal Specialist at Sarawak General Hospital.

**DR BAVANANDAN NAIDU**  
**KEDAH**



Dr Bava is a Maternal Fetal Consultant with Hospital Sultanah Bahiyah, Alor Setar. He strongly believes in humanity and selfless service. His motto in life is "If God has brought me to it, He will bring me through it". Dr Bava also enjoy travelling and listening to old Tamil melodies.

**DR S. SEVELLARAJA**  
**MELAKA**



Dr Selva is also our gynae endoscopy subcommittee chairperson.

**ASSOC PROF HAMIZAH ISMAIL**  
**PAHANG**



Dr Hamizah is currently a Foetal Maternal Consultant with the International Islamic University. She describes herself as a simple person and firmly believes that every patient is a teacher. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling and reading.

**DR JAYA BALAN A/L VALLIAPPAN**  
**PERAK**



Dr Jaya Balan is a friendly Consultant Obstetrician & Gynecologist attached to Hospital Pantai Ipoh. A man that wears many hats, he is also an upcoming politician. He aspires to cultivate public interest in Tamil Language and medical education. He enjoys reading and writing tamil literature as well as participating in social work.

**DR HELEN BENEDICT LASIMBANG**  
**SABAH**



Dr. Helen currently works as an Associate Professor and head of Department of Reproductive Health at University Malaysia Sabah. She is an active member of MERCY Malaysia since 2003 and is the Chairperson for MERCY Malaysia's Sabah Chapter. She is a keen marathoner and has participated in more than 10 marathons.

**DR MURALI GANESALINGAM**  
**KL / SELANGOR**



Dr Murali is currently the Senior Consultant and Head of Department at Hospital Ampang. Not one to be afraid of hard work, he is especially fond of continental breakfasts.

**DR NASUHA YAACOB**  
**TERENGGANU**



Dr Nasuha is currently attached to Hospital Kemaman with a special interest in gynaecological endoscopy as well as paediatric and adolescent gynaecology. When time allows, she indulges in water sports, bowling, volleyball. She also loves to travel.



# Committee of Mentors for Medicolegal Issues

Medico-legal issues and potential medico legal issues are becoming more common in our daily practice. In an attempt to assist members, OGSM has formed a committee comprising senior colleagues to assist members who may need support.

**The members of the committee and their contact details are as follows:**

Dr Suresh Kumarasamy	-	sureshgynae@yahoo.com	-
Dr Tang Boon Nee	012-268 9386 (M)	-	-
Dr S. Raman	-	raman_132@hotmail.com	-
Prof A. Kulenthiran	012-391 9720 (M) 03-7967 3791 (Office)	akulenthiran@gmail.com	please message ahead before calling or sending email indicating that it is about medicolegal matters and please include your name and contact.
Dr Gunasegaran P.T. Rajen	012-200 1145 (M)	-	-
Datuk Dr Abdul Aziz Yahya	012-268 9386 (M)	-	-
Dr Fong Chee Kin	03-5639 1212 SDMC Subang Jaya	-	-
Dato' Dr Alex Mathews	016-223 6112 (M)	almat46@hotmail.com	please message ahead before calling or sending email
Dato' Dr Ravindran Jegasothy	03-2615 5478	rjegasothy@yahoo.com	-
Dr Ravi Chandran	019-382 1646 (M)	-	-

The members of this committee would provide support and guidance, the extent of which will be at the discretion of the mentor. Clinical advice will not be given. These members are not to replace the medico-legal advisors or experts of your indemnity provider or the appropriate senior person in your organization.

While confidentiality will be maintained, information may be submitted to OGSM for audit and monitoring purposes.

**DR SURESH KUMARASAMY**  
**PRESIDENT**

## In Memorium



### **DATO' DR M. KANAGALINGAM**

Born: 6 August 1934  
Died: 11 December 2012

Dato' Dr M. Kanagalingam or Dato' Kana as he was fondly known by, was born in Klang, Malaysia. He was educated at the Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) in Klang and later, at Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur. He belonged to the generation which lived through the Japanese occupation of

Malaya during World War II (1942-45). As a result of this, many students of the era had their schooling interrupted or deferred. Paradoxically, the post-war demand for educated individuals to serve the country, resulted in some, such as Dato' Kana, being accelerated through the secondary school system. He secured a place to study Medicine at the University of Malaya, Singapore (now known as the National University of Singapore). He qualified in 1958 before joining the public health service in Malaya. His early career was colourful in that he fulfilled diverse roles. After completing house doctor posts in surgery, general medicine as well as obstetrics and gynaecology, he worked in the government venereal diseases clinic in Penang (then quaintly called the Department of Social

Hygiene). He then served as Port Health Officer, tasked with the responsibility of boarding vessels arriving at Penang Port and certifying passengers fit for disembarkation. A stint as medical officer in charge of the TB Hospital, Leprosarium and Quarantine Station at Pulau Jerejak, off the coast of Penang Island followed. Dato' Kana then commenced training in obstetrics and gynaecology, initially as registrar at the Ipoh General Hospital. From 1965 to 1968, he worked in the United Kingdom under the Federation of Malaya Government Study Award Scheme, leading to the postgraduate qualifications of MRCOG and FRCS (Edinburgh). He returned to hold Clinical Specialist posts in Ipoh and Taiping before being appointed consultant in O & G at Kota Bharu (1970 to 1978). These were the early days of the service when a single obstetrician provided expertise for the states of Kelantan and Terengganu. This would entail, on occasion, driving for hours to Terengganu to perform elective or even emergency surgery before returning to Kota Bharu. In 1978, Dato' Kana was posted to Penang to head the Penang Maternity Hospital, a position he held until reaching the mandatory retirement age for public service in 1989. He subsequently joined Gleneagles Medical Centre in Penang before his retirement from clinical practice in 2010. At the time of retirement, he had served a total of 53 years with 32 of those in public service. For his services to the people of Malaysia, he received the titles of DPSK (1978)





## Meeting with O&G Trainees

OGSM recognises the importance of engaging our trainees as they are the future of the society. As part of this effort, an invitation was sent out to all hospitals in the country with trainees, inviting each centre to send two trainee representatives to attend a meeting with the OGSM council, represented by Dr Tang Boon Nee, President-elect and Dr Goh Huay-ye. This was held on the evening of the 10th of December at the OGSM office. Eight trainees attended including two who travelled all the way from JB : Dr Quek Yek Song & Dr Mohamad Faisol B. Mihat (Hospital Sultanah Aminah), Dr Loh Huey Wen, Dr Azilah Husin & Dr Tan Cheng (HKL), Dr Kaithri Devi Subramaniam & Dr Khairul Safwati Muda (Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah), and Dr Azny Syahirah (Hospital Serdang).

Among the items discussed that evening were, ways to make OGSM more relevant to trainees, Trainees & Speakers Fellowship night during the Malaysian International Congress of O&G in May 2013, the setting up of the Trainees Register, and the proposed programme with Prof Steer, recently retired editor of the BJOG, during his visit to Malaysia in February,

2013 which will include an opportunity for 10 OGSM members to meet with Prof Steer to obtain his input regarding papers for publication.

It was agreed by all present that it would be best to elect a trainee representative to OGSM from the group that evening, and Dr Loh Huey Wen was chosen to be the first Trainee Rep. After some fellowship over pizza, the meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

### DR GOH HUAY-YEE



## Formation of APAGE 2014 Organising Committee



Dear Members,

I am pleased to inform you that OGSM has won the bid to host the Asia Pacific Association Gynecological Endoscopy (APAGE) 2014 Annual Congress to be held on the 28 - 30 November 2014.

I would like to form the organizing committee for this event. If you are interested, please inform the OGSM secretariat via email [ogsm@myjaring.net](mailto:ogsm@myjaring.net). The first meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday, 13 January 2013 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

### DR S. SELVA

#### GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

and SPSK (1985) from the Sultan of Kelantan, both of which carried the title of Dato'.

Dato' Kana believed that medicine was a calling and upheld firmly the principles of service above self. He would say that doctors should treat their patients as they would treat a member of their own family. He trained many generations of obstetrician and gynaecologists in Malaysia, who speak highly of his clinical and surgical skills and his ability to impart both the science as well as the art of obstetrics. He was known to expect only the highest standards from his staff. When their efforts fell short of this, they would receive a sharp rebuke in which he would, on occasion, refer to them as "coconut" or "mr potato head"! Apart from his clinical duties, he served as President of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) from 1989 to 1990 and the President

of the Rotary Club of Kelantan from 1975 to 1976. He was also President of the Medical Alumni of the University of Singapore from 1990 to 1991 and was conferred the Medical Alumni Gold Medal for his contributions to medicine and the association in 2011.

Dato' Kana loved animals and frequently rescued stray cats, dogs and even injured birds which he would nurse back to health and subsequently release. A soft-spoken, family man he leaves behind his wife, Datin (Dr) Chandra, a general practitioner as well as 3 children and 5 grandchildren. His sons, Devendra (an obstetrician) and Jeevendra (an ENT surgeon) work in Singapore while his daughter, Sharmila, works in non-profit management for environmental and social justice causes in the USA.

### DR SURESH KUMARASAMY OGSM PRESIDENT

# Membership Subscription

## **OGSM MEMBERSHIP IN DEFAULT**

A society is defined as a voluntary association of individuals for common ends; an organised group working together or periodically meeting because of common interests, beliefs, or profession. The identity of the society as such, depends on its members. If any society decides to make a mark or to fight against any issue affecting its members then the membership numbers and unity of the society is vital. Only then power and voice of the society will be heard and recognised by others. Viable membership, therefore, is mandatory for its function.

The annual membership fee is a sum that any member must pay to maintain an active or inactive membership in a calendar year. According to the Article 7(c) of the OGSM Constitution, the annual subscription payable by an associate member shall be RM20.00 per year. The annual subscription payable by ordinary members shall be RM20.00 for those within 5 years of graduation and RM50.00 for those 5 years or more after graduation. The subscription payable by life members shall be RM1,000. No further subscription shall be payable thereafter. These fees are minimal when compared to many other societies but we still find many members in large are at default. OGSM is kind enough not to impose additional surcharges on late payments and overdue subscriptions.

Unfortunately, the task of collecting overdue annual subscriptions was given to me by the present council. OGSM has a roughly over 1000 members. To my surprise, a large number of our society member's annual subscription was overdue. An obstetrician and gynaecologist has a very demanding job and therefore OGSM's subscription fees may have been overlooked. In view of this, as a first line of action, our OGSM secretariat staff sent reminder letters via e-mail to the members who are at default. For those members who do not access their email regularly, we have also taken the initiative to send a printed letter by post. One percent of the members responded and paid their dues.

Our persistent OGSM staff then called members personally over the phone to update their personal particulars and to remind the members to pay their dues. The options for the mode of payment were given to members as below:

1. By banking into our OGSM Maybank Account No 564276802943
2. By cheque made out to "Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia"
3. Online payment through our OGSM website

While members agreed to pay, after 3 weeks only a further 1 percent of members settled their dues. Unfortunately, there were a few unpleasant instances involving our members and the OGSM staff. It both shocked and saddened me that matured doctors in our profession would act this way towards our staff who were simply carrying out their duties.

As an Honorary Secretary of the society I personally contacted all the remaining default members to remind them not to delay their payments any further. I had given them two weeks to respond, after which, failure to settle their dues would result in a letter terminating their membership with OGSM. Article 9(b)(1) of the OGSM constitution states that "any member who is in arrears of his subscription for more than 3 years shall be liable to have his membership terminated by the Council. Such action shall be communicated by the Honorary Secretary to the said member at his last known address and by registered mail. Failure of the said member to redress his arrears within one calendar month of the communication shall mean the automatic termination of his membership." This action has shown good results. So far contacted members have paid and updated their subscriptions.

For the members who have been unable to contact through phone, we are searching through Malaysian Medical Council website for the last known address of practise. We have contacted a few so far but have not had much success otherwise.

I humbly request fellow members to therefore make an effort to update your particulars and pay all the outstanding membership dues. Please don't feel offended if you receive phone calls from me or from the OGSM staff. Keeping our memberships current and updated will avoid questions about the legality of OGSM as well as help maintain a vibrant and meaningful society working towards maintaining our professional wellbeing.

**DR THANEEMALAI JEGANATHAN**  
**HONORARY SECRETARY**

# OGSM granted IFFS Membership

I am proud to announce that the OGSM has been formally accepted as a member of the International Federation of Fertility Societies. This is the biggest fertility society in the world and enables us to access fertility information through this partnership.

The benefits of the membership is as below.

Formed in 1951, the International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS) includes over 60 national societies from every continent committed to advancing scientific knowledge and clinical application in reproductive sciences.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE IFFS:**

- To stimulate basic and applied research and the dissemination of knowledge in all aspects of reproduction and fertility.
- To stimulate the creation of societies for basic and applied work in the field of reproduction and fertility.
- To contribute to the standardization of terminology and evaluation of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the field of reproduction.
- To hold at regular intervals, World Congresses, each successively in a different country.
- To promote, on request, regional or national congresses organized by affiliated societies. Where possible, to help coordinate the dates of conferences which are relevant to the field of reproduction.
- To represent affiliated societies whenever joint scientific action is appropriate.
- To establish and maintain relations with other organizations and to promote activities which further the objectives of the federation.

## **Membership of IFFS:**

The membership of the Federation includes those societies who have stated an interest in the clinical and research aspects of reproduction and fertility. Their constitution must conform to the objectives of the Federation. Each member society must have a minimum of 40 members.

Membership has grown and at present, over sixty national fertility societies are affiliated. It is estimated over 60,000 specialists worldwide in the areas of fertility and sterility are brought together under one umbrella organization.

An “associated” society is a society or a federation which pursues the same or similar goals as IFFS and formally aligns itself with IFFS. Its membership includes several IFFS societies or members from several countries.

An association with IFFS offers opportunities for various collaborations, notably:

- Exchange lectures and sessions during congresses.
- Links on the internet.
- Collaborative works on ethics and clinical standards

These may be defined at the time of the association and can be revised whenever needed by both Boards of Directors.

## **IFFS World Congress:**

Holding a world IFFS Congress is a major scientific, cultural and social event. The IFFS holds this important meeting every three years. Very successful world congresses have been held in the past in Europe, Asia, Africa, North & South America, and Australia. The next two World Congresses have been scheduled for 2013 in Boston, USA and 2016 in India.

## **IFFS International Symposium Series:**

Bringing science and practice home, the IFFS International Symposium Series focuses on topical areas of reproductive health relevant to regional concerns, presenting cutting edge research, contemporary review and topical debate.

## **IFFS Workshops:**

A workshop organized by IFFS is one where IFFS assumes full responsibility for the scientific program and controls all aspects of the workshop, including the budget.

A workshop held under the auspices of IFFS is organized by a member or associated society. The scientific program is prepared by the member or associated society and has full approval of the IFFS. It includes the participation of one or more invited speakers selected by the IFFS Education Committee.

**DR KUMAR ISWARAN**  
**FERTILITY AND STERILITY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**



## From the President's Desk (cont.)

The next step obviously would be to study the pros and cons of continuing with LSSC or introducing PROMPT or even ALARM once we have all the necessary information available.

### OVERSEAS COLLABORATION

As our society grows, it is important that we continue to contribute to training in neighboring less developed countries. These overseas visits will also allow colleagues interested in training and teaching obtain experience and exposure in this area. At the same time our society can contribute to the improvement of women's health in these countries in a meaningful way.

OGSM conducted a OGSM-RCOG Life saving skills course (LSSC) for the first time in Indonesia on 30.11.12 and 1.12.12. The course was conducted in Batam Island. Funding to run this course was obtained from Penang Medical College and the Citramas Foundation and I gratefully acknowledge their contribution.

In February 2013, OGSM will also be supporting the Myanmar Obstetrics & Gynaecology Society at their annual congress by conducting a LSSC as well as a workshop on basic ultrasound. There has also been a request from the Cambodian Obstetrics & Gynaecological Society to conduct a LSSC in Phnom Penh and the feasibility of this is being studied.

### WEBSITE

The newly revamped website is now fully operational and as to date has received over 5000 "hits". The website contains useful information including guidelines from FIGO and other organizations, Ministry of Health Malaysia circulars etc. There is also a podcast on the lecture on cerebral palsy by Professor Roger Pepperell at our Fellowship in July 2012.

There are also many new features including the ability to pay subscriptions and congress registrations online. Your feedback is important. If you experience problems or have any suggestions on improvements please e-mail: [ogsm@myjaring.net](mailto:ogsm@myjaring.net)

### COMMITTEE OF MENTOR

This is now operational. A list of the members of the committee and their contact details and the parameters under which they will operate is given in this newsletter. Please contact them if necessary. I would like to thank members of this committee for volunteering their services.

Perhaps this can be a step in the future direction of having a creditable, independent society endorsed panel of experts who may be able to give medico-legal advice to parties who may request this.

### 22ND MALAYSIAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY, 2013

Preparations for this congress are well underway. Please mark your calendars for 31.5.13 to 2.6.13. Pre-congress workshops in maternal medicine, minimally invasive surgery and urogynaecology will be held on Thursday 30.5.13. The scientific program of the congress will extend to the full 3 days, till the evening of Sunday 2.6.13. A unique feature of this congress will be symposia conducted by a number of regional and national societies including the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Societies of India, South African Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Asian Society of Gynecologic Oncology, Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada and Japan Society of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

The faculty will include over 24 speakers from overseas, the majority of whom are having their travel funded by their respective societies. It will be interesting to listen to lectures from speakers from countries which we have not had any formal relationships with in the past. The congress will end with a Masterclass on CTG's on Sunday 2/6/13 afternoon conducted by Professor Sir S. Arulkumaran, President of FIGO.

In an attempt to improve on the quality of free communications and scientific publications among local doctors, the society has arranged for Professor Philip Steer, former editor of the British Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology to spend a few days in Malaysia at the end of February and early March 2013 to provide guidance in this area. Information on this has already been circulated by e-mail. I hope as many members as possible will avail themselves to this unique opportunity. The papers for free communication have started coming in from overseas with the first papers from Nepal.

### NEW FEE SCHEDULE

Dr Tang Boon Nee and Dato' Dr Alex Mathews, have recently represented the society together with colleagues from the College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Academy of Medicine in discussions with the Ministry of Health regarding the forthcoming fee schedule. The society's views on the mis-match between low professional fees particularly for obstetrics and the high and rising quantum of medical indemnity payments have been conveyed to the relevant authorities.

### APAGE 2014 MEETING

OGSM has successfully won the bid to host the Asia-Pacific Association of Gynaecological Endoscopy (APAGE) meeting which will be held between 28.11.14 and 30.11.14. An organising committee for the above congress is currently being formed by Dr S. Sevellaraja, Chairman of the Gynaecological Endoscopy sub-committee.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry X'mas and a Happy New Year.

**DR SURESH KUMARASAMY**  
**PRESIDENT**

## FIGO World Congress 2012

### FIGO WORLD CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

This congress was held between 7th October and 12th October this year in Rome. A small team from OGSM attended this meeting. Our main focus was to support Datuk Aziz Yahya's bid to be elected as President Elect of FIGO. We spent time meeting delegates from other national obstetrics & gynaecology societies to try to garner their support. A reception was also hosted by OGSM and the Malaysian Ambassador to the Republic of Italy at the congress venue, the Fierra de Roma for voting delegates of the general assembly.

Competition was stiff and lobbying was intense. The Chinese for example, hosted a reception at the Chinese Embassy hosted by the Chinese Ambassador and Chinese Minister of Health for their candidate. The voting for office bearers was at the General Assembly on 11th October 2012. There were 4 candidates for the post of President Elect comprising candidates from Malaysia, New Zealand, China and India. Unfortunately in spite of our efforts, Datuk Aziz's bid was not successful. The Indian candidate Prof C. N. Purandare was elected as President Elect of FIGO.

OGSM was represented at the FIGO General Assembly on 9th and 11th October 2012 by myself and Dr Shilpa Nambiar.



The President with Heleen van Beekhuizen & Regine Unkels  
Editors of "A textbook of Gynaecology for Less-Resourced Locations"



The next FIGO world congress will be held in Vancouver in 2015. I am delighted to let you know that Datuk Aziz Yahya has been selected by the FIGO executive board to be the Organising Chairhman of this meeting. I would like to extend my congratulations to him on behalf of OGSM for this prestigious appointment.

OGSM for the first time also held a seminar at the FIGO conference, focusing on medico-legal issues. There was a lively discussion during the question and answer session that followed, with a lot of interest from participants on our OGSM's efforts to engage and train the judiciary in Malaysia on issues involving the complexity of obstetrics and gynaecology practice.

At the FIGO meeting I also attended the launch of "A Textbook of Gynaecology for Less-Resourced Locations" published by Sapiens Publishing, United Kingdom as I had been invited to contribute a chapter to the book.

**DR SURESH KUMARASAMY**  
**PRESIDENT**

# OGSM Obstetrics & Gynaecology Medico-Legal Workshop

OGSM had the rare privilege of speaking to the honorable judges & lawyers on 20 September 2012, at the invitation of the Jabatan Peguam Negara. The objectives were to familiarize the judiciary with the specialty of Obstetrics, its nomenclature, common problematic conditions, etiology and management and to enhance communication between the judiciary and the medical professionals practicing Obstetrics.

There were a total of 85 participants consisting of Senior Federal Counsels, Federal Counsels, Session Court Judges and Court Registrars.

The local speakers consisted of a balance of speakers from the Public Hospitals:  
Dato' Dr Ravindran Jegasothy, Head & Consultant O&G, Hospital Kuala Lumpur  
Dr Murali Ganesalingam, Head & Consultant O&G, Hospital Ampang,  
Dr Krishna Kumar, Head & Consultant O&G, Hospital Tuanku Ja'afar  
Dr Goh Huay Yee, Specialist O&G, Hospital Selayang

Speakers from the private sector:

Dato' Dr Alex Mathews, Consultant O&G, Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur  
Dr Gunasegaran PT Rajan, Consultant O&G, KPJ Damansara Specialist Hospital  
Dr Hoo Mei Lin, Consultant O&G, Tropicana Medical Centre  
Dr Sofiah Ali, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist, Sime Darby Medical Centre, Subang Jaya  
Dr Sanjay Woodhall, Consultant Paediatrician, Sime Darby Medical Centre, Subang Jaya  
Dr Eeson Sinthamoney, Consultant O&G, Pantai Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur



The program was designed to go through topics that will assist the AG Chambers in evaluating their obstetric cases. The breakout sessions were designed for participants to have firsthand experience in several scenarios common in obstetrics. This included demonstrations using pelvic models, handling obstetric emergencies and even instrumental deliveries.

The evaluation results have indicated that the participants appreciated the break-out stations. It enhanced their understanding in the topic of obstetrics. 70% of participants found the course beneficial and 100% would recommend the course to their colleagues.

I would like to thank all the doctors who participated for generously donating their time and of course; Jenny and Mr Chong for helping make this endeavour a success.

**DR TANG BOON NEE**  
**PRESIDENT ELECT**





## Medical Camps with UNHCR

The CSR arm of the OGSM was involved in two medical camps in the second half of this year. Both were organised in collaboration with the UNHCR.

The first was held on the 21st of October at Vivekananda Ashram, Brickfields, for Sri Lankan refugees. Representing OGSM were Dr Mazeedah Abdullah, Dr Loh Huey Wen, Dr Tan Gaik Imm, Dr Tang Boon Nee, Dr Gunasegaran PT Rajan and Dr Goh Huay-ye assisted by three nurses, Kamisah bt Ramli, Azlinda bt Mohd Ariffin and Zahratul Rijuana bt Mat Kamal from Selayang Hospital. Thirty women had breast examinations and pap smears performed that day.

The second of these camps was held on the 18th of October at the Chinese Assembly Hall for refugees from Myanmar. Almost 80 women presented for breast examinations and pap smears performed by Dr Mak Foo Seng, Dr Tang Boon Nee, Dr Norehan Jinah and Dr Goh Huay-ye assisted by Sister Mok, retired staff nurses Josephine, Joyce and Lim and retired community nurse Yim Key Lim.

OGSM looks forward to working with the UNHCR in the future at many more such events.



**DR GOH HUAY-YEE**  
**CSR CHAIRPERSON**

## A Sunday with Tim Draycott

OGSM was privileged to introduce Timothy Draycott to our members on the 4th October 2012 at the OGSM Office.

Tim Draycott is a consultant obstetrician with North Bristol NHS Trust with a special interest in patient safety, quality improvement and multi-professional obstetric training. He has extensively published with 3 books and more than 20 papers in the areas of birth injury and intrapartum hypoxia. He led the development of the very successful PROMPT (Practical Obstetric Multiprofessional Training) course in the UK.

He gave 2 lectures "Shoulder Dystocia: Practical Aspects" and "Is birth injury truly avoidable?" which demonstrated that with improved training modalities and training health care professionals as a team, it is certainly possible to reduce the incidence of intrapartum hypoxia and Erbs palsy. He suggests making simulation training a part of routine practice to further reduce intrapartum morbidity.

The participants were then allowed to practice the various Shoulder Dystocia maneuvers on the model that was provided. It was well received by the members and we hope to be able to start similar training here.

**DR SHILPA NAMBIAR**



# OGSM on Capital FM

As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility program, OGSM ran a series of public education talks on Capital FM. We chose Capital FM as they are a new radio station dedicated to women and we felt that this was an appropriate platform for us to address women's health issues. It aired every Tuesday morning from 8-9am. We would like to thank Capital FM and also all the doctors who so generously donated their time for this cause.

## DR TANG BOON NEE PRESIDENT ELECT

11-Sep-12	Caesarean section is safe	Dr Gunasegaran PT Rajan & Dr Tang Boon Nee
18-Sep-12	There is no need for a pregnancy scan at every visit	Dr Jamiyah Hassan & Dr Paul Ng
25-Sep-12	Contraception	Dr Eeson Sinthamoney
02-Oct-12	Epidural	Dr Raman Subramaniam & Dr Satber Kaur
09-Oct-12	Where is the best place to deliver your baby	Dr Kiren Sidhu & Dr Jaspal Sachdev
23-Oct-12	Induction of labour is safe and should be considered	Dr Thaneemalai Jeganathan & Dr Norleen
30-Oct-12	Sexual transmitted disease	Dr Hoo Mei Lin
06-Nov-12	All Menopause women should be on HRT	Dr Premitha Damodaran
20-Nov-12	Fertility	Dr Eeson Sinthamoney
27-Nov-12	Genetic Testing in Pregnancy - New Breakthrough	Dr Gunasegaran PT Rajan
11-Dec-12	All women should be vaccinated for HPV	Dr Goh Huay Yee
18-Dec-12	Who should accompany a lady in labour	Dr Shilpa Nambiar



## Accolades

### Everest Climb



Feeling burnt-out? Missing out on life? I found my solution and set off to Nepal to journey to the base of the world's highest mountain, Mt. Everest (8848m).

we could see the other 8000+m mountain peaks; Lhotse (4th highest), Makalu (5th highest) and Cho-Oyu (6th highest). The trek is physically demanding due to the inclination and thin air. Nevertheless, I was rewarded with beautiful vistas of roaring waterfalls, crystal clear mountain rivers against the backdrop of snow covered Himalaya mountain tops.

It was a 16-day trip and involved lots of walking. We started in Kathmandu; a crowded, dusty and haphazard city with lots of blaring horns. Surprisingly, it is a shopping haven for sports clothing and equipment; at a fraction of KL prices! After a short flight, it is a slow trek upwards for days before reaching the base of Mt. Everest at 5550m (Kalapathar). From here,

The flora and fauna changes as one ascend, ranging from the golden autumn hues of the alpine forest to scraggly grasslands and finally barren rocks and glaciers at the top. I saw musk deer, wild pheasants and yaks! The air is crisp and pollution free, except for the occasional whiff of yak odour. Rustic villages, home to the friendly Sherpa people,

## A Dialogue with Professor Phillip Steer



It is our privilege to welcome Professor Philip J. Steer, the recently retired BJOG Editor, who will be visiting us from 27 February 2013 till 2 March 2013 at OGSM's invitation.

Professor Steer does not need much introduction, suffice to say that BJOG flourished as an international journal under his editorship for the last 7 years.

OGSM has invited Professor Steer to spend 3 days with us, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of O&G research papers in Malaysia. In the past, Malaysian O&G doctors have produced good papers but we have not managed to make a mark in the regional or international realm. OGSM believes that by inviting Professor Steer's expert input, we may be able to enhance the chances of our papers being published regionally and internationally.

This is a pioneering effort on OGSM's part, fulfilling part of our mission, which is to 'To promote the development of science and to assist in scientific research relating to all the fields pertaining to O&G'. I hope that the visit will spark an interest in writing papers by our O&G doctors, trainees and specialists alike.

As this is our first endeavour: we would like to invite any OGSM members who wish to meet Professor Steer in person, with the following purposes:

1. Those with completed papers, who would like Professor Steer to make constructive comments as to how the paper can be better written. Professor Steer has expressed his interest to read those papers, but requests that you submit the papers to him ONE MONTH before his visit, so that he can have an effective discussion with the author.
2. Those with papers in progress, but need further input to the writing of the paper. Again Professor Steer requests that you submit the research paper to him ONE MONTH before his visit.

Please contact myself at tangboonnee@gmail.com or Mr Chong at ogsm@myjaring.net We would like to engage your input as to how we can make these meetings more fruitful. The program at the moment is a 'work in progress' and I would like to hear from you. This visit will only be beneficial if there is enough interest from our members.

I would also like to request that the papers be presented at our next Annual Congress: MICOG 2013. For more information, please visit [www.micog2013.com](http://www.micog2013.com)

I hope to hear from you as soon as possible.

**DR TANG BOON NEE**  
**PRESIDENT ELECT**

were found along the trek. Charming farms and fruit orchards (plums and apples) are found at the lower altitudes. Ancient Buddhist monasteries and stupas stud the landscape. The facilities are basic. Lodging consists of a simple bed in a tiny room. The food is adequate to fulfill one's nutritional needs. Life is simple here and I learnt to embrace it.

I found the trek therapeutic to both mind and soul; an elixir to a weary spirit! One can appreciate the wonderful grandeur of nature in the day and take time to contemplate life's meaning under the Milky Way at night. It was an enlightening and yet humbling experience.

I had the honour of flying the OGSM flag at Gokyo-Ri (5360m). I believe this is the highest point in the world our flag has gone. Unfortunately, it didn't go higher as I was affected by altitude sickness at Kalapathar and had to return downward pronto. The journey home was definitely easier but just as pleasant.

I am back at work now, reinvigorated and healthier.

Life is an adventure! I got mine. Have you found yours?

**Dr Wong Choon Meng**



# FIGO Guidelines on Management of Second Stage of Labour

These guidelines are intended to strengthen policy and frameworks for care provision to enable providers to attend to women in the second stage of labor in line with current evidence-based recommendations for practice to optimize outcomes for mother and baby.

**A full text version is available on the OGSM website under Education**

A summary of the recommendations from the guidelines are as below

- Delivery facilities must offer every woman privacy and allow her to be accompanied by her choice of a supportive person (husband, friend, mother, relative, TBA); all women must be treated with respect.
- Psychosocial support, education, communication, choice of position, and pharmacological methods appropriately used during the first stage are all useful in relieving pain and distress in the second stage of labor.
- There should be at least 2 people assisting at every birth, whether it is another health professional, family member, TBA, or village health worker. Arrangements for having another person besides the primary skilled attendant should be planned during the pregnancy.
- Monitoring of the fetal heart beat must be continued during the second stage to allow early detection of bradycardia.
- Routine episiotomy is harmful and should not be practiced.
- Women should not be forced or encouraged to push until they feel an urge to push.
- Health facilities and skilled attendants should be provided with handheld battery powered or hand-cranked Dopplers for fetal heart auscultation after every contraction. These should be added to lists of essential commodities.
- Local anesthetic should always be given for any episiotomy, episiotomy/laceration repair, or forceps delivery.
- Provision of critical skills for second stage management needs to be supported by policies as well as training, simulations (drills), and linkage with a functioning referral system.
- Lack of access to instrumental delivery is a major deficit in obstetric care in many facilities; skills necessary for safe instrumental delivery must be emphasized in preservice and in-service education for all skilled attendants.

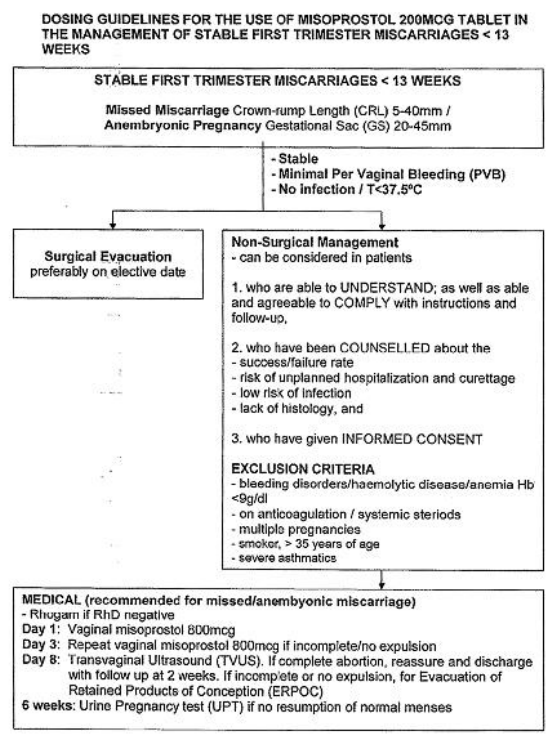
## FIGO SAFE MOTHERHOOD AND NEWBORN HEALTH (SMNH) COMMITTEE

# MOH Guide: Off-Label Usage of Tocolytic Drugs and Misoprostol

The Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) recently sent out a circular regarding the use of Misoprostol in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. As we are all aware, the use of Misoprostol in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is regarded as “off label” use. It has, however, been now sanctioned for use in the management of stable first trimester miscarriages < 13 weeks in MOH facilities. It also cautions use of Misoprostol for induction of labour due to risk of uterine rupture especially in cases with previous caesarean section.

The circular also sanctions the off label use of Terbutaline, Nifedipine and Salbutamol as tocolytic agents.

**A full text version is available on the OGSM website under Resources in the Member’s Area**





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To learn more, please contact your local Alere representative.

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Reference 1: Patricia K. Farris. *Dermatol Surg* 2005; 31:814-818

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