

ISUOG Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 15 September 2025, 11:25 PM / CEST
Hall P1-2, Hungexpo, Budapest, Hungary
(Meeting quorum achieved)

Minutes

1. Report of the Board and Sub-Committees

Prof. Laurent Salomon

Laurent Salomon (ISUOG President) welcomed the members to the ISUOG's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and thanked them for making their time to participate in the meeting. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, he opened the meeting summarising key accomplishments for the past year in line with strategic objectives listed in the current Society's Strategic Plan.

Strategic objective 1: To be the leading authority in education, science, research and patient-centred care.

Laurent outlined that ISUOG strives to be the leading authority in the field and our extensive educational resources, including the ISUOG Academy and up-to-date clinical guidelines, support continuous professional development and enhance the quality of care provided by healthcare professionals globally.

UOG: Through our commitment to cutting edge research, our high impact Journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* included significant findings that continued to influence best practices and drive advancements in the field. Laurent summarised the many continuous successes of the Journal last year and recognised particularly remarkable achievements in terms of its high impact factor of 7.1 (8.7; 2022) - ranking the Journal in the 5th place out of 130 Ob/Gyn journals in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. It was noted that the decrease in impact factor was expected and was predominantly due to boost in citations about COVID-19 in earlier years. Additional impressive increase has been reported on the article downloads reaching over 6.7 million, with the most downloaded article being the updated practice guideline on the Performance of the first trimester ultrasound scan reaching over 40,000 downloads. The high level of the Journal is also demonstrated by its high altmetric score with more than 20 articles published in 2023 achieving the Altmetric score of 20 or more. We also received more than 1,168 submissions increasing the overall issue content.

Clinical guidelines: ISUOG practice guidelines continued to be the most valuable resource ranked highly by our membership community. Three updated practice guidelines were published in 2023, including the updated guideline on the Performance of the first trimester ultrasound scan, updated guideline on the Performance of the fetal magnetic resonance imaging as well as updated guideline on Fetal cardiac screening.

In 2023, our first in-person World Congress (since 2019) took place in Seoul, South Korea where we continued our commitment to reaching to our international community, welcoming more than 2,000 delegates from 95 countries with half of them from Asian region. The program showcased the region, with a closing plenary highlighting the power of ultrasound in Asia, and included Mandarin and Korean language sessions. With a strong emphasis on championing our charitable mission, the congress fee structure provided significantly lower rates for trainees and delegates from lower and middle-resource countries. The congress brought together experts and practitioners from around the world to share the latest developments, foster international collaboration and showcase innovative approaches in ultrasound in both obstetrics and gynecology programmes. With an impressive scientific program, the feedback from our attendees achieved the highest ever 6.35 / 7 satisfaction score.

The 2023 was also another year of successful delivery of Ultrasound Essentials event, a 2-day free-to-attend online course organised jointly by ISUOG and FMF. The event attracted over 6,000 delegates from 90 lower-resource countries achieving an impressive 6.6 / 7 satisfaction score.

Strategic objective 2: To deliver on our charitable aims whilst ensuring financial sustainability through offering comprehensive, innovative science, education, and outreach programs.

Laurent emphasised that our education offering continued to be at the heart of our mission and the focus of much of our work. In 2023, we developed a comprehensive education curriculum that incorporates various levels of our entire education. A wide range of education and live streamed courses were offered, including 7 advanced live streamed courses involving 107 faculty speakers and attracting a total of 2,080 delegates from 126 countries, achieving a very high 97% course rating. The courses covered various topics in both obstetrics and gynecology, including pelvic floor and labour ward ultrasound, twin birth and multiple pregnancies as well as non-pregnant women with abnormal uterine bleeding, caesarean scar pregnancy, placenta accreta spectrum and fetal growth restriction, first trimester ultrasound scan and fetal anomaly ultrasound. 99.6% of attendees recommended the courses to their colleagues indicating they will likely participate in another ISUOG course. Previous courses were also available on demand through ISUOG Academy. These included all our live streamed and hybrid courses, including pre-congress courses on demand available to members from low-resource countries.

Basic Training Online Program (BTOP) is also available on ISUOG Academy through e-commerce accessible to anyone globally via mobile phones, tablets or desktop computers at any time. In 2023, the course reached learners in over 100 regions, with a vast majority of learners from lower-resource countries. BT was also run through 9 other organisations as an in-person Run a BT course in Egypt, Oman, USA, India and Romania delivered either in Arabic or English, with a total of 800 participants registered.

The ISUOG Academy further expanded its use and implemented e-commerce more broadly in 2023, with users increasing to 5 times more than previously. 4 more product types were added, including congress on demand, courses on demand, BTOP and Advanced Training Curriculum courses (3; 2023). The CME activities continued as a member benefit as previously.

Outreach continued to be a cornerstone of our charitable activities looking to empower trainees to become competent trainers and eliminate disparities in ultrasound care globally whilst ensuring advancement of equitable healthcare as well as safe and effective antenatal care for women worldwide. In 2023, outreach activities continued in Kyrgyzstan and Egypt focusing on our 'train the trainers' model. In addition, ISUOG provided office support and coordinated volunteers for an online course in Venezuela and supplied free resources to a group of Pakistan focused trainees on pre-eclampsia.

VISUOG: Our advanced learning resource, and member benefit, the virtual encyclopaedia VISUOG marked its 10th anniversary in October 2023. It continued to expand in 2023 with the publication of 55 new chapters bringing the total close to 290 by the end of the year. Efforts also began on launching the 'Case of the Month' initiative.

Strategic objective 3: To retain and grow more engaged members across all communities.

In 2023, in collaboration with the NGen Committee, a content was created specifically for trainee members, with a first trainee webinar taking place in July 2023, attracting over 3,000 trainees and showcasing our ongoing efforts to engage and provide relevant content to our trainee community. Additionally, an online group established in 2023, has now more than 1,000 active members who regularly post and interact globally. The online networking is a valuable resource not only for the trainees but also for other members of our community.

Our focus on increasing our reach in lower-resource settings was successful, offering advanced education courses in various languages at accessible price for low and middle-income countries. Our Spanish course delivered to the LATAM region in November 2023 resulted in almost 200 new member registrations.

We were also committed to our regionalisation strategy to overcome language and cultural barriers to attract new members and strengthen our global community. With 17,640 members in more than 157 countries, ISUOG is truly a global society at the end of 2023. Having grown all around the world, we also continue to have a strong presence in Europe with 32% of members in that region. The top countries with highest membership include India, Italy and the UK.

Strategic objective 4: To develop strategic partnerships and collaborative ventures.

We continued to build our partnerships for free ISUOG training, membership, through professional bodies and national societies. We continued our trainee partnership programme to engage practitioners early in their professional career with the free membership. The Basic Training programme has contributed to growth and increased engagement with our partners.

We will continue to collaborate with organisations, such as WHO and World Association of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynecology to connect with a wider trainee community. Partnerships play a crucial role in extending our influence and expanding our reach to disseminate science, education and research globally. At the 2023 World Congress, collaborating with KSUOG notably boosted the local attendance. Furthermore, we established more than 20 partnerships and agreements in the region, predominantly from Asia, providing additional attendance discounts that contributed to achieving our regional attendance target.

We also focused on strengthening our local partnerships to sustain our outreach activities. We worked with local stakeholder organisations, government agencies and industry partners to support our outreach mission in Kyrgyzstan and Egypt. Work has also continued with WHO with our aim to become a non-state actor providing input into the main global health agendas and ensuring lasting impact.

Strategic objective 5: To advocate and become the global voice with stakeholders, increase ISUOG's recognition and impact, and to improve patient care.

In 2023, our social media audience grew by almost 20% to 174 followers, with a high engagement rate increasing by 30%. Our Journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* continues to be one of the most popular member products generating high level of engagement and reflecting our connection with our community. In 2023, we continued to increase the promotion of Journal articles, which resulted in more than 6 million impressions. Journal articles achieved higher than average engagement rates of 6.3. We continued to develop our most engaging content our weekly educational quizzes, resulting in more than 4 million impressions.

Our patient information series reflect our commitment to reaching global audience and maximising public benefit. By offering quick and reliable information, we enhance patient's understanding of gynecological pregnancy conditions, empowering them and their families to make informed health choices. By the end of 2023, nearly 236 leaflets were published in English, 114 in simplified Mandarin, 37 in Spanish, and 11 in Hindi. These clinical resources combined garnered almost a quarter of a million views on ISUOG website.

Strategic objective 6: To strive for excellence, efficiency and continuous improvement, and best practice in governance, wellbeing and management.

Laurent confirmed that all previous grievances have been satisfactorily resolved with a regular and constructive communication with the Charity Commission since our initial report.

In 2023, the Transformation Action Group (TAG) was established to help us optimise our transformation following the various recommendations made over the past years. Good progress has been made through better communication both internally and externally, which has been already reflected in surveys.

Laurent thanked the members for the impressive year and for making ISUOG what it is today, particularly to the entire membership community, Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups, International Faculty as well as ISUOG team in the office. Additional announcement has been made regarding the World Congress next year, which will be held in Cancún, Mexico from 14-17 September 2025.

2. Report and Accounts for the year end 2023

Prof. Asma Khalil

Asma referred to the 2024 audit outlining the important take aways and financial information from the Society's 2023 Annual report and Accounts.

- Increase in ISUOG income by 32% as well as increase in expenditure by about 12%, which reflects activities, particularly education that represents one of our charitable aims.
- In 2023, we reported net gain on investments of 185%.
- The 2023 Financial Statements list a total income of £3.9m (£2.98m; 2022), with total expenditure of about £4.3m (£3.8m; 2022). Despite the rising costs, our deficit of £900k was reduced to just under £400k.

Sources of income vs. expenditure

- Asma noted ongoing trends in the Society's income whereby 58% of the Society's income comes from the congress, followed by 15% from membership, 14% from Journal, 8% from education and other income, and 5% from investments.

- Looking at the Society's trends related to the income streams, there has been a fluctuation in the income from the congress since 2015, with a peak in 2019 (Berlin), and gradually decreasing thereafter due to COVID and hybrid congress in 2021 that tended to be more expensive to run. The income from the congress continues to recover with some positive prospects in the future.
- The 10-year trend in the income from congress and costs show that income historically exceeded costs until 2019 and since then, both income and expenditure are almost mirroring each other. Other categories of income remain relatively stable over the years.
- In 2021, the Trustees decided to change the investment income from accumulative to income generating. This means that we can use the investment income to generate income to help us deliver our charitable activities.
- In terms of expenditure, in 2023, the costs matched reasonably closely the income streams with Congress expenditure totalling 51%, education & other costs 19%, membership 24%, Journal 13% and Outreach 3% of the Society's costs. The 5-year trend in income and expenditure shows that there is an increased expenditure and slightly declining income.
- Consequently, these trends are reflected in the deficit budget in the last few years. It is expected that the deficit will gradually decrease in 2023 achieving breakeven in 2024.
- In 2023, the staff represents the Society's biggest expenditure and includes about 27 members (30; 2022) employed in the office, which is reflected in the increase of ISUOG activities.
- Following the COVID years when the investments underperformed due to significant market volatility, ISUOG is positioned for investment gains in 2023 with promising future predictions. We were seeing recovery of investments and expecting further improvements over the next couple of months.
- In 2023, ISUOG continues to maintain reasonable approach towards the financial reserves (totalling £13m), available with 18-months' operating budget (49%) as well as 6-month operating costs, incl. congress (16%) as well as Education fund (18%), Fixed Assets reserve fund (13%) and 'Free' reserves (8%).

3. Appointment of the auditors

Prof. Asma Khalil

Asma further addressed the Society's audit successfully conducted in 2023 and the audited accounts being signed off by the Board of Trustees in June. Since there were no questions to the accounts from the membership, Asma proceeded to proposing a motion of approval to re-appoint the current auditors (Sayer Vincent LLP) for the next financial year (2024), which was approved by the membership. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was approved as ISUOG auditor for the 2024 financial year without change.*

4. Minutes of the AGM in Seoul, 2023

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona raised a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Seoul in October 2023. The members were invited to comment. Due to no objections being received, the minutes were unanimously approved by the membership. *The minutes of the virtual Annual General Meeting (October 2023) were approved without change.*

5. Honorary Secretary Report

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona outlined several agenda items that she would be covering during the session:

- Special resolution: Amendments to ISUOG Articles of Association [for membership approval]
- Notification of Trustee retirements in 2024
- Officer appointments 2024
- Trustee appointments 2024 [for membership approval]
- 2024 ISUOG Service Awards & Acknowledgements
- ISUOG Governance announcements

ISUOG Special resolution

Liona invited all members present in the meeting to vote by showing off hands after the special resolution has been presented. She clarified that this also included the members who were not present today but submitted their proxy forms ahead of the AGM meeting.

Liona outlined the Trustee recommendation to amend the existing Articles of Association explained in the AGM Notice to members launched in advance of the AGM to:

- align the ISUOG Constitution with the latest legislative and regulatory changes and comply with the UK charity law (in relation to the Trustee payments for goods and service provision).
- strengthen the ISUOG Accountability Framework whereby Chairs of ISUOG Committees and Sub-Committees no longer serve as Trustees for duration of their active chairmanship.
- optimise internal governance and operational processes and provide Trustees with greater flexibility when making decisions outside Trustee meetings.

Liona raised a motion for the vote and invited the members to approve the special resolution. *97% of members voted in favour of the special resolution, with no objections and 3% members abstaining from the vote. The special resolution has been approved and the Articles of Association will be amended as presented.*

6. Trustee retirements & appointment 2024

Prof. Liona Poon

In line with the Trustee rotations, Liona addressed the individuals retiring from the Board of Trustees at the time of the AGM in 2024. The members were notified in advance of the meeting about:

- retirement of the following Trustees: Daniela Fischerova (Czechia), Aly Youssef (Italy), and
- re-appointment of the following Trustees: Asma Khalil (UK)

Appointment of the new Trustees in 2024

- Suresh Seshadri (India)
- Mala Sibal (India)

Liona proceeded to proposing a motion of approval to accept the new appointments and re-appointments to the Board of Trustees. *Both proposed new Trustees were unanimously approved commencing their Trustee term of service with immediate effect.*

Further to the new Officer appointments taking place in 2024, Liona announced the following:

- Alexandros Sotiriadis (Greece) has been appointed as Honorary Secretary in 2024.

7. 2024 Service Awards and Acknowledgements

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona outlined that every year, the Society would acknowledge the retiring Trustees for their service on the Board as well as other members of ISUOG for their outstanding contribution and long-term commitment:

- Daniela Fischerova (served on the Board of Trustees for two terms between 2016-2024)
- Aly Youssef (served on the Board of Trustees including his role as Social Media Editor between 2020-2024)

Laurent acknowledged an outstanding service of Liona Poon as Honorary Secretary and Chair of the Nominations Committee, as she would be passing the baton to Alexandros Sotiriadis after the AGM.

Additionally, the retiring Committee Chairs were addressed and thanked for their service as follows:

- Tom Bourne (Chair of the Honours Committee, 2022-2024)

Further to that, Liona also welcomed new Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs:

- Laurent Salomon (incoming Chair of the Honours Committee, 2024-2026)

Further to the Sub-Committees, retiring Chairs were addressed and thanked for their service as follows:

- Min Chen (Chair of the Patient Information Sub-Committee, 2023-2024)
- Simon Meagher (Chair of the Course Sub-Committee, 2018-2024)
- Christoph Wohlmuth (Chair of the CME Sub-Committee, 2018-2024)

Liona also welcomed the new Sub-Committee Chairs:

- Sarah Cohen (Chair of the Patient Information Sub-Committee, 2024-2025)
- Ligita Jokubkiene (Chair of the Course Sub-Committee, 2024-2027)
- Divya Singh (Chair of the CME Sub-Committee, 2024-2027)

Further to the retirements across the Society's key roles, following ISUOG Ambassadors have been thanked for their service:

- Hebatallah Abdelaziz (ISUOG Ambassador in Rwanda, 2021-2024)

Liona also welcomed new ISUOG Ambassadors commencing their term of service with immediate effect:

- Badreldeen Ahmed, Qatar
- Adrianes Bachnas, Indonesia
- Piya Chaemsaitong, Thailand
- Ishraq Dhaifalah, Czechia
- Enrique Gil Guevarra, Peru
- Recep Has, Turkey
- Aileen Lopez, The Philippines
- Nuruddin Mohammed, Pakistan
- Ramiro Diaz Primera, Dominican Republic
- Yasser Sabr, Canada
- Dhileepan Thyagarajan, India
- Serdar Ural, USA
- Carlos Valdelamar, Costa Rica
- Qing Qing Wu, China

8. Governance structure changes

Prof. Liona Poon

Liona notified the membership about further cessation of the two volunteer groups, including:

- Ian Donald Gold Medal Committee
- Stuart Campbell Award Committee

The retiring Committee Chairs were addressed and thanked for their service as follows:

- Sturla Eik-Nes (Chair of the Ian Donald Gold Medal Committee, 2018-2024)
- Dario Paladini (Chair of the Stuart Campbell Award Committee, 2021-2024)

Both Chairs as well as Members have been thanked for their invaluable contributions to both Society and ultrasound in women's health. She noted that a new awards process will have been implemented with immediate effect in 2025 and all former Committee members will continue to participate, similarly to previous years.

9. Presidential handover

Prof. Laurent Salomon

Following the Trustee and Committee rotations, Laurent noted that presidential rotations take place every 2 years. In 2024, the presidential handover was announced as follows:

- Laurent Salomon (becomes the Past President)
- Reem Abu-Rustum (takes over as President)
- Liona Poon (becomes President Elect)
- Tom Bourne (formally retires from the Officers' positions)

Laurent thanked all Honorary Officers for their dedication and contributions to the Society as well as outstanding leadership.

Reem thanked Laurent for his commitment during his presidency, as he transitions to his Past President's function to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees and some of the governance Committees.

Laurent invited Reem to present her first presidential address to ISUOG membership.

10. Presidential address

Prof. Reem Abu-Rustum

Reem thanked ISUOG founders, presidents, Trustees as well as members, colleagues and partners whilst taking on her role as 14th ISUOG President and the 3rd female President in the history of the Society, following Prof. Ann Tabor and Prof. Katia Bilardo. As the 1st President from the Middle East, she addressed ISUOG's true commitment to diversity, global inclusion and representation. Born and raised in Lebanon, she praised her father's notable contributions to Ob/Gyn that guided her personal life.

At the age of 17, she was sent to USA which consequently, exposed her to brilliant role models who shaped and empowered her. She particularly acknowledged Alfred Abuhamad, Beryl Benacerraf, Katia Bilardo, and Patrick Duff as well as Kypros Nicolaides, Ann Tabor, Dolores Pretorius and Keith Stone who inspired and mentored her throughout her career. After completing her training, she returned to Lebanon where her ISUOG journey and turning point in her professional career commenced 20 years ago in September 2004 when she attended her very first congress (otherwise the 14 ISUOG's World Congress in Stockholm). She became involved in outreach and established SANA Medical NGO dedicated to outreach in Lebanon, and participated in two ISUOG outreach missions to Sudan. She was also heavily involved in basic training serving as Chair of the Basic Training Task Force to develop and disseminate the BT curriculum. After her return to USA in 2018, she was elected ISUOG Trustee shortly after. Given the support and trust received from the Board, she was ultimately elected future ISUOG president in 2019.

As part of her presidential testament, she will continue to support ISUOG's mission and vision with a focus on impact, and expanding ISUOG's reach, free of political agendas and with full transparency. She outlined her six main pillars personally symbolising impact:-

- *Inclusion* to everyone in the Society and whilst making our educational offering available and affordable to our marginalised colleagues. This is with hopes of closing the gap of inequity and disparity.
- *Modernisation* of our approach to maintain ISUOG as a role model in leadership of providing highest quality education through our world congress, courses, online academy as well as dissemination of cutting-edge research through our Journal.
- *People* are the beating heart of our Society and the key to our distinction and success, including the staff and interim CEO as well as volunteers, trustees, members, partners, past and present, within organisations, societies and industry. She will aim to unite our synergistic efforts in order to maximise utilisation of all our resources.
- *Advocacy* and supporting initiatives that are related to women across their lifespan, especially to issues related to reproductive health.
- *Certification* for all of our offering to ensure that ISUOG remains the key provision of ultrasound education.
- *Teaching* and continuation of legacy of our founders as well as other ISUOG members.

This will become Reem's personal mission for the years to come supported by her core values of passion and commitment. She invited all members to continue to serve together with impact.

Laurent made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favour.

Laurent thanked the members for attending and declared the AGM closed.