

ISUOG Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Sunday 14 September 2025, 11:25 AM / EST
Gran Cancún A, Cancún Center, Cancún, Mexico
(Meeting quorum achieved, 497 members)

Minutes

1. Report of the Board and Sub-Committees

Prof. Reem Abu-Rustum

Reem Abu-Rustum (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, she opened the meeting summarising key accomplishments for the past year in line with strategic objectives listed in the current Society's Strategic Plan. She thanked her predecessor, Prof. Laurent Salomon, as well as the Board of Trustees, Committees, Chairs and members, ISUOG CEO Wendy Holloway, and the management team for their dedication and commitment..

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

Reem outlined the very many successes of the flagship Journal Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology achieving over 6.2 million article downloads with an impact factor of 6.3 ranking the Journal in the 6th place out of 140 Ob/Gyn journals in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

Clinical guidelines: ISUOG Practice Guidelines continued to be one of the most valuable and influential resources for our membership community, ranking highly among members. Of the 140,000 guideline downloads recorded, the most popular was the ISUOG Practice Guideline on Performance of third-trimester obstetric ultrasound scan with nearly 35,000 downloads.

In 2024, our 34th World Congress took place in Budapest where we continued our commitment to reaching to our international community, welcoming more than 2,100 delegates from 104 countries. 95% of delegates ranked the annual conference the leading event in the field achieving 6.11 (out of 7) satisfaction score.

The Ultrasound Essentials 2-day event led by Prof. Kypros Nicolaides and Prof. Tom Bourne continued to be at the heart of ISUOG's philanthropic mission. In 2024, this free-to-attend online course organised predominantly for low-resource countries attracted over 10,000 delegates and achieved an impressive satisfaction score of 6.56 (out of 7).

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

Reem emphasised that ISUOG's education program offering remained at the heart of the Society's goal and the focus of our efforts in 2024.

Reem emphasised that ISUOG takes pride in the Basic Training Online Program (BTOP). By the end of 2024, the programme had welcomed more than 500 new learners. Particular emphasis was also given to BTOP's flexibility allowing learners to progress at their own pace, as well as to the Run a Basic Training Course initiative, which provides universities and training institutions with an opportunity to request BTOP slides from ISUOG and use them as a teaching tool in face-to-face lectures and training sessions. In 2024, the training was delivered face-to-face in USA, Botswana and Turkey.

A wide range of education and live-streamed courses were available, including 9 advanced hybrid and live-streamed courses featuring 105 international faculty speakers. These courses attracted a total of 3,700 attendees from 140 countries. The most successful program focused on fetal cardiology, led by Prof. Simon Meagher and delivered in August 2024. To meet the needs of our global community, ISUOG also continued to provide educational content in multiple languages, including Spanish, French and Portuguese.

ISUOG Academy continued to grow supported by the dedication of many volunteers who contributed countless hours to its development. This resulted in the publication of almost 20 advanced training curricula and the engagement of around 1,200 new learners, five more than in the previous year. With the introduction of advanced courses on demand, the Academy now offers 8 courses available for purchase, 3 of which are offered exclusively free of charge to members from low-resource countries.

Outreach remained a cornerstone of ISUOG's charitable activities, with the goal of empowering trainees to become competent trainers and helping to reduce inequalities in access to ultrasound care globally. These efforts contribute to advancing equitable healthcare and promoting safe and effective antenatal care for women worldwide. In 2024, ISUOG continued its outreach activities with 3 in-person Train-the-Trainer missions, 2 in Kyrgyzstan and 1 in Rwanda. A total of 38 participants received training, supported by 8 ISUOG faculty volunteers. In 2024, the outreach programme continued to undergo a comprehensive review, with the final outcomes expected to be presented in the following year.

VISUOG: The advanced learning resource and valued member benefit, VISUOG, celebrated its 11th anniversary in October 2024. The virtual encyclopaedia continued to grow, with 23 new chapters added during the year. The *Case of the Month* feature also proved highly successful, generating almost 5,000 views and further enhancing engagement with this valuable educational resource

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

With 17,000 members, including 400 active volunteers and 41 Ambassadors across more than 165 countries and 18 regions of the world, ISUOG is truly a global society. Reem emphasised that member retention remained a key priority and welcomed suggestions on how to further engage and retain members. ISUOG also remained committed to its regionalisation strategy, which aims to overcome language and cultural barriers, attract new members, and strengthen the Society's global community.

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

Reem highlighted the crucial role of partnerships in extending ISUOG's influence and expanding its reach to disseminate science, education and research globally. She also emphasised the Society's free two-year trainee programme, which currently supports more than 140 trainee partnerships and over 4,000 trainees. Through the programme, trainees receive complimentary ISUOG membership, access to the flagship *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology (UOG)* journal, and reduced registration fees for ISUOG events. Reem encouraged members who work with trainees at any level, including radiology, obstetrics and maternal-fetal medicine (MFM), to explore opportunities to establish these valuable partnerships through the World Congress and other ISUOG events.

As part of the World congress in 2024, ISUOG successfully established two collaborations with the Hungarian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Hungarian Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, involving 23 industry partners. The Society also developed a highly successful collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), which it hopes to continue, while actively pursuing further partnerships at the local level. Reem emphasised that these collaborations are essential to ISUOG's commitment to advocating for patients and playing a critical role in improving the quality of their care. She also acknowledged the Society's strong partnerships with healthcare businesses, including medical device manufacturers, imaging companies and artificial intelligence companies.

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

The Patient Information Leaflet series demonstrates ISUOG's commitment to reaching a global audience while maximising its public benefit. By providing timely, reliable and accessible information, the series helps improve patients' understanding of pregnancy and gynecological conditions, enabling patients and their families to make informed decisions about their healthcare. The Patient Information Leaflet series is substantial and available in a wide range of languages, including 292 leaflets in English, 75 in Spanish, 168 in Mandarin (Chinese), 157 in Hindi, and many more. These leaflets can serve as valuable educational resources for healthcare professionals to provide patients with clear, reliable information when discussing a new diagnosis. In 2024, the patient information leaflets achieved almost 248,000 views.

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

Reem confirmed that, in 2024, ISUOG began a business transformation project focused on its office IT infrastructure. This included transforming the CRM database to enable the Society to connect more effectively with its membership community, better understand members' needs, and deliver more member-centred education. The Transformation Action Group (TAG), established in 2023, continued to support ISUOG in strengthening governance, promoting staff well-being, and enhancing the Society's policies and procedures. The session concluded with special thanks given to all members, volunteers, Board of Trustees, Staff and sponsors.

2. Approval of the previous AGM minutes (Budapest 2024)

Prof. Reem Abu-Rustum

Reem raised a motion to approve the minutes from the previous virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Budapest in September 2024. The members were invited to comment. Due to no objections being received, the minutes were unanimously approved by the membership. *The minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were approved without change.*

3. Report and Accounts for the year end 2024

Prof. Asma Khalil

Asma referred to the 2025 audit outlining the important take aways and financial information from the Society's 2024 Annual report and Accounts.

- In 2024, the Society's income was £3.9M, representing a 2% decrease from the previous year's figure of slightly under £4M. The overall expenditure increased to £4.6M, up from £4.3M in 2023, representing a 7% increase, and resulting in an overall deficit of approximately £696K. Investment income and net investment gains were both 55% lower than in the previous year. This was not due to poor investment performance; rather, approximately £400,000 of the Society's investments was used to fund staff restructuring costs.
- Congress remained the Society's largest source of revenue, accounting for 50% of total income in 2024. Education and other income contributed approximately 13%, Membership 14%, the Journal 8%, and investments 7%. Over the previous 8 years, Congress revenue had accounted for almost 60% of the Society's total income. The 2019 Berlin Congress generated the highest level of revenue, contributing more than half of the Society's income that year. However, the Congress income then declined significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic before recovering in 2023 and remaining relatively stable in 2024.
- In terms of the income trends, the income declined significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic but began to recover in 2023 and remained broadly stable in 2024. The decrease in Journal income in 2024 contributed to the overall 2% reduction in the Society's income. Education and investment income both increased between 2023 and 2024. Approximately £400,000 was drawn from investments to fund staff restructuring. Congress income continued to account for around 50% of total income, consistent with the trend over the previous 8 years. Although overall income and Congress income were significantly lower during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress continued to represent a broadly consistent proportion of total income. This remained the case in 2023 and 2024, when approximately half of the Society's income was generated by the Congress.
- Over the past 10 years, Congress income and expenditure have followed broadly similar trends, with Congress generating slightly more than half of the Society's income while accounting for a comparable proportion of expenditure. In 2024, total expenditure was approximately £4.6 million, with Congress accounting for slightly more than half. The remaining expenditure was allocated to Education (18%), Membership (11%), the Journal (10%), and Outreach (4%).
- The Society's reserves remained relatively strong in 2024. Total reserves stood at approximately £12.9 million, providing a solid financial foundation. Around £7 million was held in investments, representing more than half of the total reserves. The Society typically maintains sufficient reserves to cover approximately six months of operating costs, including Congress-related expenses, which accounted for around £2.3 million, or 18% of total reserves. A further 10% was maintained as a free reserve, providing additional financial flexibility.
- The Education Fund accounted for approximately 13% of the Society's fixed assets, with a balance of just under £900,000.

4. Appointment of the auditors

Prof. Asma Khalil

Asma further addressed the Society's audit successfully conducted in 2025 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 (2025), which was approved by the membership. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was approved as ISUOG auditor for the 2025 financial year without change.*

5. Honorary Secretary Report

Prof. Alex Sotiriadis

Alex outlined several agenda items that will be part of his session some of which will require approval from the members. These include:-

- Notification of appointments & retirements across Committee / Sub-Committee Chairs and Honorary Officers
- Re-instatement, re-appointment & new appointment of ISUOG Trustees [for membership approval]
- Special resolution: Amendments to ISUOG Articles of Association [for membership approval]
- Changes to ISUOG Governance structure
- ISUOG Service Awards & Acknowledgements

Notification of appointments & retirements across Committee / Sub-Committee Chairs and Honorary Officers

In 2025, following Honorary Officers completed their term of service and retire from their Officer duties:

- Asma Khalil (Honorary Treasurer)

New Honorary Officers are taking over at the time of the AGM:

- Suresh Seshadri (Honorary Treasurer)
- Alexandros Sotiriadis (President Elect)

In 2025, following Committee Chairs completed their term of service across relevant volunteer groups and retire from the Committees:

- Fabricio da Silva Costa (Chair, Scientific Committee)
- Asma Khalil (Chair, Finance & Risk Committee)
- Hisham Mirghani (Chair, Outreach Committee)
- Angela Ranzini (Chair, Education Committee)

New Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs were appointed to continue to deliver on the remit of these groups:

- Helen Feltovich (Vice Chair, Scientific Committee)
- Suresh Seshadri (Chair, Finance & Risk Committee)
- Lina Youssef (Vice Chair, Education Committee)

In 2025, following Sub-Committee Chairs complete their term of service across relevant volunteer groups and retire from the Sub-Committees:

- Stuart Campbell (Chair, Ian Donald Gold Medal Sub-Committee)
- Sarah Cohen (Chair, Patient Information Sub-Committee)
- Nikos Vrachnis (Chair, Accreditation & Certification Sub-committee)
- Lina Youssef (Chair, Online Education Sub-Committee)

New Sub-Committee Chairs were appointed to continue to deliver on the remit of these groups:

- Ahmet Baschat (Chair, Ian Donald Gold Medal Sub-Committee)

Re-instatement, re-appointment & new appointment of ISUOG Trustees [for membership approval]

- Katia Bilardo and Jessica Preisler Romanow completed their second term of service as ISUOG Trustees and retire from the Board.
- Laurent Salomon completes his Trustee term of service and is automatically re-appointed to the second term by virtue of his role as Past President.
- Fabricio da Silva Costa is automatically reinstated as ISUOG Trustee after completion of his term of service as Chair of the Scientific Committee.
- Steven Goldstein is appointed as a new ISUOG Trustee following successful completion of the Trustee recruitment process.

A motion of a vote has been raised and the members unanimously approved automatic re-appointment of Laurent Salomon, reinstatement of Fabricio da Silva Costa as well as new appointment of Steven Goldstein into the Board with immediate effect.

Special resolution: Amendments to ISUOG Articles of Association [for membership approval]

Alex invited all members present at the meeting to vote by a show of hands following the presentation of the special resolution. He clarified that votes submitted by members who were unable to attend but had provided proxy forms in advance of the AGM would also be counted. He explained that member approval was required to amend the existing ISUOG Constitution.

It was further explained that existing Article 23.5 of the ISUOG Articles of Association provided for a Trustee to be suspended from their trusteeship while serving as Chair of the Scientific Committee or Education Committee. By abolishing this provision, the governance structure would be simplified, ensuring that Committee or Sub-Committee Chairs cannot simultaneously serve as Trustees. Alex emphasised that the change was intended to strengthen the independence between the Board of Trustees and the Committees / Sub-Committees, while reinforcing the Society's Accountability Framework. Under the revised structure, Chairs of Committees and Sub-Committees would no longer serve as Trustees for the duration of their active Chairmanship, helping to strengthen internal governance and avoid potential conflicts of interest.

A motion of a vote was raised, and members were asked to raise their hands to indicate whether they were in favour of the special resolution, against it, or wished to abstain. The resolution received unanimous support in favour of the special resolution from the members present, and the proposed amendment to the existing Constitution was therefore approved.

Changes to ISUOG Governance structure

Following announcements in relation to ISUOG governance structure have been made:

- Completion of remit of the Accreditation & Certification Sub-Committee: Alex thanked the Sub-Committee Chair and members for their dedication and contributions to this Sub-Committee.
- Merger of the CME and Online Education Sub-Committee into a new Digital Learning Sub-Committee chaired by Divya Singh.
- Merger of the Patient Information and VISUOG Sub-Committee into a new VISUOG Sub-Committee chaired by Karen Fung-Kee-Fung.
- Establishment of the Ian Donald Gold Medal Sub-Committee chaired by Ahmet Basschat.
- Establishment of the Stuart Campbell Award Sub-Committee chaired by Dario Paladini.

ISUOG Service Awards & Acknowledgements

As per previous announcement, individual retiring Trustees, Honorary Officers, Committee Chairs and Sub-Committee Chairs were invited to the stage to receive their respective acknowledgements. All esteemed members were thanked for their invaluable contributions to both the Society and ultrasound in women's health.

6. Presidential address

Prof. Reem Abu-Rustum

Reem introduced *Every Little Heart Matters*, a new global initiative by ISUOG aimed at improving the detection and management of congenital heart defects (CHD). She reaffirmed ISUOG's mission to ensure that every woman has access to quality ultrasound and competent care, with the ultimate goal of achieving earlier diagnosis and better clinical outcomes. Referring to earlier congress presentation on congenital heart disease and screening, Reem highlighted that CHD affects approximately 1 in 100 live births and remains the most common type of birth defect. Despite advances in equipment and clinical guidelines, CHD remains significantly underdiagnosed, particularly in low-resource settings. Evidence shows that training improves detection, while early prenatal diagnosis can improve survival and quality of life. Reem emphasised that ISUOG, as a leading authority in prenatal ultrasound and fetal diagnosis, is uniquely positioned to raise awareness, educate healthcare professionals and improve access to screening and diagnosis for congenital heart defects worldwide.

Reem highlighted the importance of giving greater prominence to the patient voice, an area she felt the Society had not focused on enough in the past. Through *Every Little Heart Matters*, ISUOG aims to make a meaningful difference by bringing together healthcare professionals across disciplines and borders to reduce congenital heart disease-related infant mortality worldwide. The initiative will focus on raising awareness among multidisciplinary healthcare professionals about the importance of suspecting congenital heart defects and the value of early screening and detection. It also aims to address gaps in knowledge and access, particularly in underserved regions. Reem emphasised the importance of empowering sonographers with simple, practical approaches to cardiac screening, not necessarily to identify the specific anomaly, but to recognise when something may be abnormal and requires further assessment. The campaign aims to simplify cardiac screening, reduce fear around assessing the fetal heart, promote equity in education and detection, and build diagnostic confidence. February marks Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, with Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Day falling on Valentine's Day in 2026. ISUOG is also planning a global forum bringing together key stakeholders to develop

recommendations and has established dedicated *Every Little Heart Matters* pages on its website, alongside free educational resources to support the campaign. Reem acknowledged Professor Simon Meagher for dedicating the *Fetal Cardiac Handbook* to the campaign.

Reem also acknowledged the Journal Team for its work in preparing a virtual issue dedicated to fetal heart health, featuring previously published articles from *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology (UOG)*. A further dedicated issue is planned, with submissions to be invited later in the year. A global marketing and communications campaign is also being developed to support *Every Little Heart Matters*, and the Board of Trustees has signed a pledge in support of the initiative. Reem noted that a global forum is also in development, while a fetal heart conference is planned for Seville in May 2026. She encouraged members to support the campaign by volunteering their time, helping to develop and distribute materials, sharing educational resources and using social media to raise awareness. She emphasised that there are many ways to contribute, including making a pledge of support, and thanked members in advance for helping ISUOG maximise the campaign's global impact.

Reem highlighted the Society's extensive resources, including its Journal, educational offerings and Annual World Congress. She emphasised that ISUOG is a multidisciplinary society, welcoming not only gynaecologists but also cardiologists, radiologists, paediatric cardiologists, sonographers and trainees at all levels.

Reem then moved to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved. She thanked all members for attending and formally declared the AGM closed.