



## **ISUOG Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Monday 19 October 2020, 15:00 PM**

**Virtual meeting**

*(Meeting quorum achieved with 75 members present online)*

### **Minutes**

#### **1. President's opening address**

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia Bilardo (ISUOG President) welcomed the members to the ISUOG's Annual General Meeting. Similarly to the Society's World Congress organised via a virtual platform this year due to the circumstances surrounding the pandemic, she clarified that the general meeting would be conducted online for the same reasons. She also encouraged the attendees to actively participate in the meeting where relevant. Further to the introductions, she welcomed the new CEO, Johan Vos, who joined the Society in December 2019, and invited him to introduce himself. Johan thanked Katia and all members for welcoming him in the Society and expressed his delight to work with a dedicated team in the Society's headquarters in London as well as with Trustees and volunteer leaders. He noted that he spent his entire career working for global charities and professional associations helping support and strengthen their key activities and initiatives, including the patient groups and subject experts, in order to advocate and influence global agendas, and ultimately change the health outcomes of people. Consequently, this has become Johan's personal mission throughout his life. Being part of ISUOG, he looks forward to working with our international community to ensure that this mission continues.

Katia thanked Johan for his introduction and invited Boris Tutschek, ISUOG's Honorary Secretary, to clarify the proceedings of this virtual general meeting. Boris thanked Katia and ISUOG members for their participation in the meeting. He notified the members that the meeting would be recorded for the minute taking purposes, including any questions and comments raised by the members. In line with the current Constitution, he also confirmed that the meeting program as well as the notice to members were served in advance of the meeting on 28 September 2021 and would be regularly referred to during the presentations. The members will also have an opportunity to ask questions to any topics presented in the meeting with Johan moderating these and ensuring these are addressed. As in previous years, the members will also be invited to vote on various reports during the meeting and Boris walked the audience through the online voting process, including the test vote.

#### **2. Report of the Board of Trustees and Sub committees**

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia referred to the Society's Strategic Plan and summarised the activities throughout the last year, reporting on the key performance indicators that have been achieved in line with ISUOG's strategic objectives. The main accomplishments have been highlighted below, with more detailed information provided in the presentation that will be available to members upon request:

##### ***Strategic objective 1: To achieve (and be recognised for) the highest quality and standards in education research***

UOG: Katia outlined the many continuous successes of the Journal *Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology* last year and recognised particularly remarkable achievements in terms of its impact factor (5.6) ranking the Journal in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 82 journals in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Additional impressive 41% increase has been reported on the article downloads reaching 4 million. With increasing demands for Open Access, new tools continued to be offered to our community, including 5 video abstracts and 15 video clips available on the website and social media. 3 UOG Virtual issues were produced in 2019, including ongoing activities, such as UOG Monthly highlights available on the website, UOG Monthly alerts sent via email and UOG App.

ISUOG World Congress recognised as the leading event in the field reached its highest attendance rate ever in Berlin last year, with 3,535 delegates onsite, and Katia was delighted to confirm that this trend continues and that the 2020 Virtual World Congress has seen even higher number of online delegates present last weekend. Amongst other impressive metrics related to the congress, she noted gradual increase of participants from Hinari countries over the last couple of years as well as increasing delegate satisfaction score that reached its record high of 6.13 in Berlin.



Katia further embarked on the Virtual World Congress held last weekend and presented the members with even more activities, including delivery of 5 parallel streams, 6 plenary, 4 special lectures, 18 workshops, 36 oral communication and 33 Hub sessions, 232 invited talks and debates, 200 invited faculty, 149 oral communication presentations, 1,063 virtual posters in 68 virtual poster sessions, 5 sponsors and 1 satellite sponsor, and 18 exhibitors. To illustrate the many successes the Virtual Congress achieved this year, a number of breaking records were noted, including 2,971 paid delegates, 354 delegates from low-income countries, 756 delegates from middle-income countries, 367 trainees, and participants from 121 countries overall. The highest attendance by country has been observed in the UK, Australia, USA, China, India and Spain.

***Strategic objective 2: To ensure comprehensive, innovative education programs targeted to all members: to teach, teach teachers and to improve clinical care***

Katia outlined that ISUOG's global education portfolio encompassed our World Congress, International Symposia, and Basic Training as well as approved courses, outreach initiatives and BT satellites deployed worldwide.

Basic Training is the Society's flagship and in 2019, theoretical and practical (including simulation) BT programme has been disseminated worldwide. These included courses held in Brazil (2), Colombia (2), China (2), Lebanon, South Africa and Russia, with 1,093 delegates onsite, 39 individual livestreamed and 597 through satellites. The courses were delivered and available in multiple languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Portuguese. A simulation workshop was run in Berlin and the simulators were also incorporated into the practical part of the first BT course in Colombia. The BT has awarded the participants with ISUOG Certification of Completion of the BT programme and provide assessment of learning on both theoretical and practical levels. As part of ISUOG's response to the COVID pandemic, the Society also introduced and offered the BT Flex programme, a digital form of administering the basic training, which was very successful and continues to be followed by trainees.

Outreach support programs have also continued to be offered to different parts of the world in 2019 whilst partnering with local Ministries of Health (Oman, Rwanda). Virtual mentoring was provided by 11 mentors to 12 mentees.

The Society also continued to develop livestreamed courses and increase access to education in order to reach to larger audiences. In 2019, an increasing number of courses and attendance onsite (1,028) as well as livestreamed (685) has been achieved.

***Strategic objective 3: To engage, retain and grow membership to remain relevant and increase reach and influence***

ISUOG membership continues to grow to more than 13,000 members, which reflects an on-going trend of increased member engagement in 140 countries at the end of 2019. The proportion of members in different regions is becoming more balanced and whilst the largest single member region (34%) remains Europe in 2019, the largest growth region (23%) is Asia (Far East) followed by membership increase in South and Central America (14%).

The annual membership survey provided further insight into the member satisfaction and engagement. In 2019, 97.9% members would recommend ISUOG with 70.7% members expressing their desire to be more active in the Society. The majority of the members noted that the main reason for being part of ISUOG was to assist their professional development and access out online educational resources. The most useful resources the members benefitted from were ISUOG guidelines, journal and online learning.

***Strategic objective 4: To develop strategic partnerships and collaborative ventures to establish ISUOG as the leading authority in the field***

Katia reported that in 2019, ISUOG continued to develop and increase specialty collaborations and partnerships through ① the International Symposium with more than 500 delegates, ② new partnerships have been signed with ENTOG, WFUMB and ISPD and the partnerships also grew ③ through the 67 approved courses organised in 28 countries and in 7 languages.

Our trainee partnership programme to engage young practitioners early in their professional careers with 2-year free trainee membership offering, including access to the journal through partner institutions also continued to grow and by the end of 2019, we had 127 partner societies, 3,614 trainee members in 63 countries, including 49 new or reactivated partnerships (new countries added: Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Sweden and Venezuela).



**Strategic objective 5: To establish communication strategies to engage with stakeholders, to increase ISUOG's recognition and influence, and to improve on patient care**

A new patient information website series 'Empowering Women' introduced and promoted in Berlin Congress saw 52 new patient information leaflets being launched and available on the website, of which 43 are available in Chinese. 250,000 views have been achieved in one year. Written in a language the patients are familiar with and from the point of view of a woman, the series provide information on fetal conditions and challenges that the women can encounter, and empower them to ask the right questions to ensure they receive the right standard of care at the right time. VISUOG has also grown throughout 2019 with 16 new chapters and now including the new Patient Information Series as well as Image of the Month on social media.

The global communication through ISUOG website continued to grow with 60,000 visits per month in 2019 and more than doubled in 2020 to 171,000. Social media and emailing reach has also seen 20.5% increase to 105,000. Our PR activities included customised monthly newsletters and UOG alerts as well as Education challenge in social media and UOG Video Abstracts.

**Strategic objective 6: To strive for excellence and efficiency in operations through continuous improvement towards best practice in governance, management, employment and learning**

Katia summarised the many activities in this area, particularly the Society's immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic that included:

- Organising 10 free webinars, including two in Spanish, one in French and one in Arabic;
- Lessons learned from webinars translated into different languages;
- Published in UOG: guidance, safety statements, consensus statements, reviews;
- Free UOG virtual issue;
- Patient Information leaflets available in 24 languages;
- World Congress re-imagined in virtual setting, and
- BT and advanced courses delivered exclusively online.

The education offering has not finished with the Virtual Congress and the members were invited to participate in the following initiatives:

- Cardiac advanced online series
  - Malformation of the fetal semilunar valves (12 September 2020)
  - Override anomalies (14 November 2021)
  - Transposition of the great arteries (12 December 2020)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Virtual ISUOG International Symposium, Calgary, Canada (17-18 April 2020)
- ISUOG's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday: Commemorative Celebratory Webinar (January 2021)

**3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Berlin, 2019**

**Prof. dr. Caterina (Katia) M. Bilardo**

Katia asked the membership for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous AGM in Berlin. The members were invited to cast their vote via an online voting platform. Prof. Tutschek confirmed 96% approval rate of the minutes of previous AGM in Berlin. *The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in Berlin 2019 were approved without change.*

**4. Report and Accounts for the year end 2019**

**Prof. Christoph Lees**

Christoph thanked the previous Society Treasurers, Prof. Tom Bourne and Dr Alfred Abuhamad, as well as AJ Finn, a new Director of Finance and Resources, for their contributions to the financial reporting and increasing accessibility and understanding the financial management of the Society.

Key highlights of the financial performance and success of the Society in 2019 were outlined as follows:

- Net increase in funds to £1.5m (compared to £200k in 2018) which was mainly due to net (paper) gain in investments the Society held;
- Successful financial performance of the World Congress in Berlin (68% of the Society's income), education income (6%), member income (17%) and Journal income (9%). Looking at the Society's trends related to the income streams, it is clear that ISUOG continues to be increasingly reliant on the income from the Congress (compared to 55% of Congress income 10 years ago), whereas other income streams (education, membership and Journal) tend to be rather static in the course of the past 10 years.

- In terms of the expenditure, the costs reasonably mirror the income streams coming in with Congress costs totalling 60%, education 20%, membership 9% and Journal 11% of the Society's costs. The 10-year trend in income and costs shows that the costs more or less track with the income. With increased total income, the costs also increase as well as the Society's operating surplus.
- The market value of investments did particularly well throughout 2019 up until end of 2019 / January 2021 when the investments alarmingly plunged likely due to the COVID pandemic however, since then - namely in Q2 - the investments largely recovered.
- ISUOG continues to maintain reasonable approach towards the financial reserves available with 6-month operating costs, incl. congress as well as 18-month operating budget and several upcoming financial investments into education in the near future. Although it is not advisable to hold large reserves as charity, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated in practice why these are important in order to provide an avenue to mitigate any potential financial risks and losses.

## 5. Appointment of the auditors

Prof. Christoph Lees

Christoph further addressed the Society's audit successfully conducted in 2019 and the audited accounts signed off by the Board of Trustees in July. Since there were no questions to the accounts, Christoph proceeded to proposing a motion of approval to re-appoint the current auditors (Sayer Vincent LLP) for the next financial year. The members were invited to cast their vote via the online voting platform to approve the auditors for the 2020 financial year conducted in 2021. Prof. Tutschek confirmed 96% approval rate with 4% of members abstaining. *The Sayer Vincent LLP was approved as 2021 auditor without change.*

## 6. Appointments and retirements

Prof. Boris Tutschek

In line with the Trustee rotations, Boris addressed the individuals retiring from the Board of Trustees at the time of the AGM in 2020. The members were notified in advance of the meeting about:

- ① retirement of the following Trustee - Andrew Ngu (Australia),
- ② resignation of the following Trustee – Gustavo Malinger (Israel), and
- ③ re-appointment of the following Trustee – Daniela Fischerová (Czech Republic)

### Appointment of the new Trustees in 2020

- Daniela Fischerová (Czech Republic)
- Asma Khalil (UK)
- Aly Youssef (Italy)

Boris asked the membership for a motion to approve the retirements and appointments to the Board of Trustees via the online voting platform. *These were accepted with 97% approval rate with 3% of members abstaining from the vote.*

Further to the Officer / presidential rotations taking place in 2020, Boris announced the following:

- Katia Bilardo (The Netherlands) becomes immediate Past President
- Tom Bourne (UK) take over as President
- Laurent Salomon (France) becomes President Elect
- Josh Copel (USA) retires from the Officer positions
- Boris Tutschek (Switzerland) starts his regular term as Honorary Secretary

## 7. 2020 Awards and Acknowledgements

Prof. Boris Tutschek

Boris 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:

- Andrew Ngu (served on the Board of Trustees and in various Officer roles between 2004-2020)
- Gustavo Malinger (served on the Board of Trustees from 2012-2020)

Boris also acknowledged a service of Josh Copel who completed his presidential term in the Board of Trustees in 2020 and retires from the Officer positions.

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

- Josh Copel (Chair of the Honours Committee, 2018-2020)
- Laurent Salomon (Chair of the Scientific Committee, 2018-2020)



Further to that, Boris also welcomed new Committee Chairs:

- Katia Bilardo (Chair of the Honours Committee)
- George Condous Chair of the Scientific Committee)

Boris also announced that Reem Abu-Rustum is retiring from the BT Task Force and thanked her for her contributions to and leading of the Task Force during the last three years. Reem has been succeeded by Gihad Chalouhi who was appointed a new Chair of the Task Force.

The last acknowledgement which was omitted last year was dedicated to Alfred Abuhamad as a long-standing member who led the Finance & Risk Committee as ISUOG Treasurer between 2011-2015 and continued to be involved in the Committee work until 2019. Boris thanked Alfred for his leadership and contributions.

Boris also announced the two highest distinguished awards for this year:

- The Ian Donald Gold Medal is awarded once a year to an individual who has made a significant scientific contribution to the advancement of diagnostic ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology and who has changed the way ultrasound is practiced through research or innovation. Boris recognised the fantastic work of Prof. Davor Jurkovic among his many achievements, including pioneering the use of three-dimensional ultrasound in gynecology as well as founding of the RCOG training course in early pregnancy and gynecological ultrasound.
- Stuart Campbell Award for Education is bestowed on an expert in ultrasound scanning – an inspirational figure who has demonstrated a true commitment to spreading the latest ultrasound advances in innovative and imaginative ways whether at international meetings or in small groups. The recipient has also shown the ability to stimulate research and audit and inspire the next generation of ultrasound specialists, and has shown enthusiasm to teach outside his / her own geographical area and, ideally, to teach in and stimulate developing communities in different parts of the world. Boris notified the membership of this year's winner Prof. Philippe Jeanty, a pioneer of teaching and training in diagnostic fetal ultrasound who contributed extensively to ultrasound education through courses, lectures, outreach activities and mentoring. His particular successes include founding TheFetus.Net website, an open access forum for ultrasound education and the largest repository of fetal ultrasound diagnostic images and clips generating regular and intense engagement in case studies from respondents from more than 60 countries each week.

Boris referred to the governance review about which the members were notified in 2018 in Singapore as well as in 2019 in Berlin. He outlined that the Trustees continued to review the Society's governance processes and procedures in order to increase transparency and accountability. The main aims of the review are to:

- harmonise the Society's processes and procedures and align them closely with the ISUOG Strategic Plan;
- increase member engagement across all volunteer groups in the Society, including Committees and Sub-committees; and
- increase the Society's regional representation through work of ISUOG Ambassadors and regional offices.

Boris thanked the members for previously voting in the three new Trustees and welcomed them officially to the Board of Trustees.

## 8. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society

**Prof. Boris Tutschek**

Boris referred to the 5-7 January 1991 when the first scientific meeting of our Society was held in London, and consequently, is regarded as the birth of our Society. As part of the 30-year anniversary celebrations, a special commemorative webinar will be organised on the same date in January 2021. Boris invited the members to watch the video timeline during this meeting with key milestones in the life of the Society which was prepared as part of the celebration. The anniversary webinar will feature our founding members, including Prof. Campbell, as well as lectures by Ian Donald Gold Medal and Stuart Campbell awardees, and provide an outline of the vision for the Society's next 30 years. Boris encouraged the members to stay tuned for further announcements coming soon.

## 9. ISUOG Presidential handover

**Prof. Boris Tutschek**

As previously announced, Boris invited Katia Bilardo, ISUOG outgoing President, for her closing remarks and presidential reflections. Katia thanked Boris and reflected on her presidential mantra introduced during her presidential inauguration speech in Singapore in 2018. These included engagement, openness and inclusiveness. In the context of the past 2 years of her presidency, she emphasised the key highlights and achievements during her tenure, including the new CEO, Johan Vos,

30 dedicated staff members in ISUOG Headquarters and the two largest congresses organised in 2019 in Berlin as well as the Virtual Congress held last weekend. In the context of her presidential aims, she outlined the following successes:

- **Engagement:** ISUOG nimbly responded to the pandemic organising COVID-19 webinars and widened education offering with BT Flex, Doppler course and Cardiac webinar series.
- **Openness:** ISUOG leadership is proactively discussing a possibility of opening more regional offices in other parts of the world, including Latin America and Africa as well as organising more International Symposia regionally.
- **Inclusiveness:** A process of rejuvenation is taking place within the ISUOG Board of Trustees, with three young Trustees joining this year and a greater emphasis put on increasing the women representation amongst the Trustees as well as across our volunteer groups, including the Committees, Task Forces and Ambassadors.

Katia expressed her joy over the many accomplishments achieved during the past two years, including a fully digital BT Flex program available to members online for which she thanked to the outgoing BT Task Force Chair, Dr Reem Abu-Rustum. She passed her presidential medal onto Prof. Tom Bourne, the incoming ISUOG President and encouraged him to continue to build on the very many successes of the Society in the future.

Tom thanked Katia for her contributions to the Society and for being a role model to him for her effective and compassionate leadership. Despite the COVID pandemic affecting Katia's presidency, she led the Society through a difficult period of time mentoring and motivating others. Further tributes were paid to the retiring Trustees, Prof. Josh Copel and Dr Andrew Ngu and welcoming Prof. Laurent Salomon as a new President-Elect. Particular acknowledgement has been also given to the Society's Founder, Prof. Stuart Campbell, and to his lifelong commitment and dedication to ISUOG alongside his colleagues, Prof. Larry Platt, Prof. Sturla Eik-Nes, Prof. Juriy Wladimiroff, Prof. John Hobbins, Prof. Karel Marsal and Prof. Manfred Hansmann. Prof. Campbell's legacy inevitably continues with other leading members in the field. The COVID pandemic taught us a different approach to the way we work and increased accessibility to our education portfolio as well as the World Congress. Tom thanked Johan for quickly responding to the needs of our international community and 'taking ISUOG online' organising informative webinar series and education courses. Special thanks were also given to a significant work done on a number of ISUOG guidelines and safety statements for which Tom thanked to Christoph Lees, Liona Poon and the Journal team. Tom also addressed his vision for the next two years with a particular focus on promoting wellbeing and compassionate leadership as well as improving the culture and supporting clinicians, including the young N-Gen Group, through the pandemic in order to produce good and sustainable patient care. In terms of the education, the main aim includes identifying and engaging the best talent and opening opportunities for younger generation to join the Committees and Task Forces, and other volunteer groups. Expanding on the educational opportunities at low or no cost in LMIC's and development of NGO relationships will help drive ISUOG forward and improve access and diversity. Enhancing the quality of the World Congress and offering a hybrid format will be a key vehicle to expansion of the international scientific meetings held regionally in multiple languages. Improving regional presence and local opportunities will be an important step in the regional development and communication with a view to opening two offices. Communication with various audiences, including members, the profession, policy members, the public and patients will drive the standards and influence health policies. As president with gynecology background, Tom will also pay attention to creating better gynecology and early pregnancy structure and making stronger links with colleagues in the field of oncology, reproductive medicine and urogynecology. The last but not least will be Tom's commitment to governance ensuring ISUOG becomes more open, accessible and transparent with a stronger accountability framework.

Boris thanked both Katia and Tom and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favour. Boris thanked the members for attending and declared the AGM closed.