Behind the Scenes with ISUOG BT

With this issue, we have decided to give you a special glimpse of the incredible work being done behind the scenes of ISUOG BT. We have dedicated this issue to testimonials from trainees (page 2) and trainers (page 3) and have commenced a new feature where we interview key players in BT, our first being with Dr. Maryam Mirpour (page 4).

2018 was very exciting for the education team here in our ISUOG office in London as well as throughout our global network. Our team worked closely with our task forces and committees on various educational projects, with Basic Training progressing at super high speed! We delivered courses around the world (Lebanon, the Netherlands, Malta, Greece, India and Singapore) to over 1,300 attendees whether they were onsite or via live-stream. One of our greatest accomplishments was signing off on our full Basic Training curriculum in June! Katharine, Andrew, Terri, Natasha, Flora, and I are now working with our committee members and ISUOG Ambassadors on translating our Basic Training curriculum into Spanish, Chinese, Brazilian Portuguese, and Russian in order to make it broadly available and make sure that language is not a barrier for providers around the world to ensure that every woman has access to a well-performed ultrasound scan. The year 2019 shall prove to be as exciting and we invite you to visit the BT page to find out more about the various Basic Training programs running throughout the year: Lebanon, Brazil, Colombia and China, with requests constantly coming in! These courses are available to attend onsite or via live-stream to individuals and they may also be set up as a satellite. Our focus now is on securing the perfect LMS (Learning Management System) to host all our educational offerings and to launch our ISUOG certification program in 2020, so stay tuned.

And for all our ambitious plans we need our members – you! So do keep an eye on our committee work openings on our website if you feel like being part of us and contact us should you wish to bring BT to you!

Eleni Xilakis, ISUOG Education Manager

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At the 28th World Congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Singapore I had the opportunity to participate in ISUOG’s Basic Training program “A practical approach to the ob/gyn ultrasound examination.” For two days, 82 young doctors gathered together for this pre-congress course. It was great to meet colleagues from all over the world and exchange experiences with them.

The program introduces young trainees in ultrasound to the key topics in obstetrics and gynecology. The first day was composed of theoretical lectures presented by experienced specialists. The lectures were on physical principles of ultrasound imaging, and fetal and gynecological ultrasound examination. Before the course started and at the end of the day we took tests for self-assessment of our knowledge. It was interesting to observe how those questions, which I found hard to answer at the beginning, became very clear for me after hearing the lectures.

The second day was dedicated to practice on simulator machines. High quality equipment and close communication with the experts provided the best learning outcomes. I’m thankful to the teachers for their patience and detailed explanations of how to get the right fetal scan planes, how to evaluate anatomy, and what tricks they use in practice to determine position of the baby.

At this Basic Training course, not only did I learn new information but it also motivated me to learn more. We all live a high-speed life in a fast-growing world and want to spend our time the best way possible. This training program allows you the full introduction to ultrasound in obstetrics and gynecology in just two days. It gave me an essential insight into basic principles of examination. The next time I was with a patient in front of an ultrasound machine I had a better understanding of what I wanted to do and how to do it. From my experience, participating in Basic Training was a good start to the ISUOG World Congress. It helped me to understand the main ideas of the lectures as I had already learned the key basics and I felt a part of this big international society of professionals. I would definitely recommend ISUOG Basic Training for young trainees in ultrasound, as it will take them one step further in achieving their goals.

Learn online with Basic Training

- Visit the Basic Training website, where the entire up-to-date 30-lecture Basic Training program is now available as an open-access video learning resource.
- View highlights and the most popular videos from past BT courses on the new ‘BT highlights’ page.
- Keep up-to-date with new BT courses and programmes on our upcoming events page, and find out more about bringing BT to your region by hosting your own satellite event.
In April, Basic Training will reach two milestones: delivering our first course in South America, and delivering our first course entirely in another language. The course, “A practical approach to the ob/gyn ultrasound examination” will be delivered in Portuguese as part of the International symposium in Sao Paolo, and will be the culmination of months of hard work by a team of volunteers who have translated the entire 30-lecture Basic Training curriculum into Portuguese.

However, this is just the start of a busy year for BT. From May 31st to June 3rd we will be running the first of two 4-day courses in Medellin, Colombia, in partnership with Fundared Materna. This course will include 2 days of theoretical lectures covering principles and techniques of the obstetric scan and an introduction to gyne, and 2 days of hands-on training on patients and simulators, so that delegates can reinforce their knowledge. Six months later, we will return for the second course, covering fetal anomalies and gynecology in more depth and this will also be also followed by 2 days of practical learning. These courses will be delivered entirely in Spanish, and are a wonderful opportunity for trainees in South and Central America to connect with ISUOG, either in person or via live-stream.

Later in the year, we will be travelling to Beijing where Basic Training will launch its program in Mandarin. We will start delivering courses in Beijing and will be live-streaming them to our Chinese speaking audience around the world.

In addition to these courses, and our ongoing training program in Lebanon, the next step towards our goal of improving access to Basic Training throughout the world is launching the ‘Run a BT’ program. This opportunity will be available to universities across the world who have their own faculty to deliver the Basic Training programme – ISUOG will provide all the necessary materials and support for you to run the course in your own institution, preparing Ob/Gyn residents to perform ultrasound scans by the end of their studies. Universities all over the world have expressed interest in this new opportunity. For more details on how to run your own BT program, or to register your interest for our courses in Colombia or China, get in touch with us at education@isuog.org, and remember to keep your eye on our Basic Training events page for new developments and courses, as the demand for BT continues to increase!
Dr Maryam Mirpour has been instrumental in introducing ISUOG Basic Training to Iran. Here, she talks about her experience of hosting a satellite live-stream event at her hospital.

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your hospital:

I have more than 25 years of experience as the chief responsible gynecologist in more than 10 hospitals in Iran. Now I work in Emam Zaman Charity Hospital in Mashhad, one of the biggest and best-equipped non-governmental hospitals in Mashhad, which has served people as a charity hospital for more than 32 years.

How did attending ISUOG Basic Training help your hospital?

A few gynecologists from our hospital participated in the event but we also had participants from all over the country, so the effects and benefits of the course went beyond our hospital. My colleagues from Emam Zaman Hospital used the training to improve their knowledge of reading and creating ultrasound examination reports.

How did this ISUOG Basic Training course compare to other training opportunities you have had?

In Iran, there is absolutely no training for gynecologists to help them improve their ultrasonography skills. What we are starting to do is to increase the knowledge of doctors who are directly responsible for the life of the mother and child, and enable them to perform non-invasive examinations. Our main reason for holding such online training is to make the relevant doctors more experienced in the usage and advantages of ultrasound. The cost of the ISUOG training for them is affordable, and they know that ultrasonography is the future and they should know more about this.

How was your experience of hosting a satellite?

It was really enjoyable. I managed a group of my colleagues and helped them to learn more and improve their skills. It was extremely helpful and since the event, we talk with each other daily and share our work and experience with ultrasound. We read ISUOG guidelines and try to understand more and more. They are all satisfied and find the satellite event really improved their abilities.

What was your experience of interacting with course speakers and ISUOG?

It was interesting. They always answered us precisely with patience even if we had very amateur questions. The experience was great. None of the participating specialists had experienced anything like this before.

What was the high point of the Basic Training course(s) you attended?

Everything was good but the Q & A sessions were great. Having such an interactive course via the internet is really valuable.

Would you recommend this course to other satellite hosts?

Of course. We are interested in hosting another satellite course for new gynaecologists who heard about the quality of the last course and its effectiveness on the doctors’ abilities.

Did the satellite attendees enjoy the course?

Of course they did. We meet each other in local scientific and clinical events and always talk about our experiences. The satellite event allowed us to create a virtual group in a social network to share our experiences on ultrasound usage in gynecology. Now we have more than 1100 experts in our group and talk about ultrasound education and also ISUOG events there.