



# ISPOG

International Society of Psychosomatic  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

## June 2015

# Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Dr Heather Rowe  
Logo based on painting by Omar Biscotti

## WELCOME TO THIS EDITION OF THE ISPOG NEWSLETTER

It is our sad duty to record the sudden and tragic death of Board member Lazar Levente in March this year. We open this issue of the Newsletter with a tribute from ISPOG President Carlos Damonte.

There is a lot of other happier news to share with members, the most exciting of which is the upcoming conference in Malaga, Spain in 2016. See the update and the call for contributions below.

ISPOG's indefatigable President, Carlos, has invested considerable energy to the fostering POG activities around the world and bringing new POG societies into the ISPOG family. The President's report contains a roundup of his activities and achievements.

As you know an important means of raising the profile of ISPOG internationally and of bringing the psychosomatic perspective to other societies, is presenting ISPOG symposia in other relevant congresses. A summary of these activities is provided for your interest and to whet your appetite for becoming involved in these activities yourselves.

Recent planning for future congresses has extended well beyond the Board to involve ISPOG members from around the world. The Board hopes to expand these activities further and in this Newsletter extends an invitation to all ISPOG members to become involved. Please consider joining a symposium or suggesting one of your own and encourage your colleagues to come and learn new ways of managing everyday challenges. You will find a list of planned congresses and an invitation to participate below.

You will also find updates on the new Perinatal Committee and the transfer of the Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology to a new publisher.

Finally we wish to remind you that the 2015 ISPOG Executive Committee meeting will be held at FIGO in Vancouver in October. Please see the details below and we look forward to seeing you there.

**From the Editor**



## TO THE MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND LAZAR LEVENTE 1974-2015

Lazar Levente was born on 31 July 1974 in Kézdivásárhely, Transylvania. He studied Medicine in Debrecen, was a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Geneticist, and his widow Eva told us that he also had an interest in and talent for fine arts, especially photography and painting.

Levente's death is a big loss for us the ISPOG family, and surely for Eva, his children and close relatives. His Hungarian colleagues must know that they were splendidly represented in ISPOG by Levente's hard work and dignity.

The sad news about Levente's sudden death prompted condolences from all national societies, especially from the people who knew him personally. Everybody respected, liked and admired him and appreciated his work, from when he first approached our Past President Klaas Wijma some 8 years ago offering his ideas about how to improve the website. He was always thinking about how to communicate ISPOG's vision and initiatives without any reward for himself. He was an excellent example for us all. Since 2013 Levente had been a very active and important member of ISPOG, and was also a member of the Board as Digital Secretary. It will be very difficult to find another person to fulfil the projects he was engaged in: maintaining and expanding the possibilities of the ISPOG website and preparing it for easy access, not only for information, but also for educational purposes.

We will miss the sweet way he had of sharing his opinions. The best way we may honour his memory is to keep alive his work, to which he had dedicated so much effort and time.

Good bye, dear friend, and thank you very much for your company over the years.

**Carlos Damonte Khoury**

[WWW.ISPOG.ORG](http://WWW.ISPOG.ORG)



**“Building Bridges to Better Care”  
18th International Congress of ISPOG  
12-14 May 2016 Málaga Spain**

The Spanish Society for Psychosomatic Gynaecology and Obstetrics invites you to visit Málaga in 2016, as we are organizing the 18th International ISPOG Congress.

Málaga is a captivating Mediterranean port city in the Andalusia region of southern Spain. It boasts a rich historical and cultural legacy and is a thriving tourist destination today. Come and enjoy the excellent scientific program and the beauty and interest of the surrounds.

**All ISPOG affiliated countries are invited to submit themed symposia or national symposia.**

Abstract deadlines:

Country symposia 15 September 2015

Papers and posters 1 December 2015

**Please See The Conference Website For Further Details <http://www.ispog2016.es/>**

We look forward to seeing you in Spain!

### **The Congress Organising Committee**

Dr Carlos Damonte Khoury  
ISPOG and Congress President

Prof. Daniel Lubian Lopez  
President of the Spanish POG Section of SEGO ([www.sego.es](http://www.sego.es)) and Congress Vice President

Prof Ernesto González Mesa  
President of the Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Jesús Florido Navío  
President of the Scientific Committee

Dr. Fermín Criado Enciso · National Scientific Committee President



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Continuing the policy of encouraging the creation of new societies and strengthening existing ones, I have participated as an invited speaker in the following Congresses

### **Brazil: Sao Paulo 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014**

In Brazil, a country of 200 million inhabitants, there is a Federation of Ob Gyn Societies.

Sao Paulo State (population 44 million) has the biggest Ob Gyn Society in the country, SOGESP. Its 2014 congress had 8500 registrations (the largest in the Brazilian history the President said) and I was one of four foreign speakers. Psychosomatics was one of the “Top Themes”

Joseh Carlos Riechelmann, Ob Gyn, now Director of a group of hospitals in Sao Paulo area, is also a member of the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine. The next Congress is in August 2015 and he will act as a link between ISPOG and the ICPM.

Supported by Prof. Cesar Fernandes, President of the Scientific Committee and Dr Corintio Mariani Neto, Sec Gen of SOGESP, Riechelmann and Alexander Faisal Cury, who is well known to ISPOG, having chaired symposia at the Venice and Berlin ISPOG Congresses, are initiating a drive to establish a Brazilian POG Society.

### **France: Clermont-Ferrand 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

The Colloquium: LA CLINIQUE CONTEMPORAINE, concerned the difficulties of working as a practising doctor today. It was organized by Dr Marie Elizabeth Sanselme-Cardenas, a gynecologist and psychoanalyst, founder of the Psychoanalysis and Medicine French Society. She is the head of a group that started a POG commission within the Ob Gyn College National CNGOF, which will complement the French POG Society organized by Sylvain Mimoun. Dr Sanselme (Clermont Ferrand) and Dr Vacher-Vitasse (another gynecologist-psychoanalyst from Bordeaux) have participated as professors in the courses organized by the French POG Society and ISPOG Edinburgh 2004. They want to participate in our 2016 Congress. I have encouraged Dr Sanselme to link with the French Marcé Society. We hope that our French colleagues will become active in ISPOG Committees and other activities.

## Russia: Ekaterimburg

30<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014

Because of economic and cultural changes, the government and the Ob Gyn Societies encourage ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology). Our Israeli POG Society President, Dov Feldberg is well known by two key people in Russia: Dr Igor Portnov is an ART specialist who organises yearly congresses in Ekaterimburg, a very prosperous Russian city with 1.4 million people, and Viktor Radzinsky, well known Ob Gyn Professor in one of the two Moscow Universities, Peoples Friendship University. POG will be a topic in the next Russian Ob Gyn Congress in Sochi 2015 and they are willing send an observer to the Vancouver 2015 ISPOG Ex Co meeting.

## Brussels: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Launch of EBCOG's Standards of Care for Women's Health in Europe, in the European Parliament. The Standards of Care focus on the safety, care, dignity and treatment of women. ISPOG contributed to the Standards and was present at the launch to reinforce our presence in these psychosocially oriented standards that aim to improve and harmonise the quality care of women in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology across Europe.

## Lebanon: Beirut 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014

This Pan Arabic Psychiatric Conference had a Perinatal Symposium chaired by Dr Josyan Madi-Skaff, who is a Lebanese psychiatrist interested in the Perinatal Gynecology-Psychiatry interface. Our contact persons in ISPOG member societies reported the local situation. Broadly speaking it is interesting to know that the majority of countries, including the developed ones do not pursue this interdisciplinary work on a regular basis, only as individual initiatives. The Perinatal Section of the World Psychiatric Association WPA and ISPOG will collaborate in overcoming this situation, which is needed by mothers and their babies all over the world. I also had contacts with the Lebanese National Ob Gyn Society president Fayez Bitar, who was interested in having a POG group within the society.

## Spain:

1. Valencia. ASMI (Spanish WAIMH) Master in Perinatal Psychology Feb 2015. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year I participated together with Adolfo Gomez papi, Neonatologist from Tarragona, in a class showing interdisciplinary ways of providing better care to pregnant women and recent mothers. This work is reaching the Spanish Ob Gyn National Congress and will be shown in Malaga 2016.
2. Madrid 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 Linking with IMS and EMAS, the two most important Menopause societies, in order to participate in and advertise our respective next Congresses.
3. Madrid 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015. Perinatal link and Child Psychiatrist Francois Ansermet presented his new book in an interdisciplinary meeting at 12 de Octubre Hospital around Fertility care and "designer babies", organized by the Spanish Psychoanalysis and Medicine Network. They will participate in ISPOG Malaga 2016.

## Japan: Tokyo

22-25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 (IAWMH Congress)

See our Secretary General Heather Rowe's report on this Congress that had a strong ISPOG delegation.

## Italy: Torino May 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 Italian-Spanish POG Encounter

Chaired by Chiara Benedetto (Immediate Past President of EBCOG ) and myself, this meeting encouraged the rebuilding of the Italian POG Society, SIPGO, and included three Spanish presentations of Ernesto Gonzalez Mesa, Daniel Lubian and mine.

Prof Rosella Nappi the current SIPGO President showed a strong drive for the internal promotion of POG activity, participation in ISPOG Committees and Congresses and will be the contact person between our organization and the international Society of Gynecological Endocrinology ISGE.



**18th ISPOG CONGRESS**

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHOSOMATIC OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AND 20th CONGRESS OF THE PSYCHOSOMATIC SEGO SECTION



## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH TOKYO MARCH

Carlos Damonte Khoury (2015 President); Sibil Tschudin (President Elect) Marieke Paarlberg (Immediate Past President) and Heather Rowe (Secretary General); Pauline Slade (Joint Editor in chief of JPOG) were present and participated in a program of presentations, meetings and other activities.

We were warmly welcomed by our Japanese colleagues Professor Hideo Honjo and Professor Kiyoshi Takamatsu. The Japan POG symposium entitled 'Problems of modern working women/ How are they going to challenge it?' was an excellent demonstration of the strength of the JSPOG and their commitment to multidisciplinary approaches to women's mental health in Japan.

We were very pleased to strengthen our links with the IAWMH executive: Prof Helen Herrman (Australia; President IAWMH; President-elect World Psychiatric Association); Prof Marta Rondon (Peru; Immediate Past President IAWMH); Prof Jayashri Kulkarni (Australia; President-Elect IAWMH) and Dr Prabha Chandra (India; Secretary IAWMH).

ISPOG presented a **Symposium** entitled 'Communicating about difficult topics in obstetrics and gynaecology', which was chaired by Professor Toshiko Kamo (Japan) and Dr Heather Rowe (Australia) and included speakers from five countries Professor Pauline Slade (UK); Dr Heather Rowe (Australia), Dr Reiko Ohkawa (Japan), Dr Carlos Damonte Khoury (Spain); Professor Jane Fisher (Australia) and Dr Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland). The interactive case-based workshop discussion among the panel of speakers and the audience was regarded as highly successful.

Dr Vivian Pramataroff (Germany) presented the **Workshop** 'A Balint Group at Work', which was very well attended and received.

During the conference, meetings were held executive officers of the **World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH)**, **Lebanese Psychiatric Society**, the **Women's Mental Health Section of the World Psychiatric Association**, the **International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health**: It was resolved to pursue mutual promotion and support, joint ventures including Position Papers and a joint special issue of JPOG on perinatal mental health.

## SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF TRAINEES IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY (ENTOG) UTRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

On June 11th, 2015, the Scientific meeting of the European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) was held at the University Medical Centre Utrecht, the Netherlands. The residents in Ob/Gyn who attended the meeting circulated through skills stations. One of the major skills trainings was the ISPOG workshop 'Dealing with difficult patients in Ob/Gyn practice'. Sibil Tschudin and Marieke Paarlberg gave two workshops of 3 hours. There were 30 participants in total. Workshop participants were actively engaged in the theme and the organising committee gave very positive feedback. The same workshop will be given as a pre-congress course at FIGO 2015, October 4, in Vancouver. CD also attended the meeting and discussed collaborations with members of the ENTOG Board.



### ANNUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2015**

**Vancouver, Canada**

ISPOG will be holding the 2015 ExCo meeting during the FIGO meeting in Vancouver, Canada. Papers will be circulated prior to the meeting.



## REPRESENTATION OF ISPOG IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES: INVITATION TO BE INVOLVED

ISPOG aims to promote mutually beneficial relationships with other like-minded societies. Already, ISPOG has created links with The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics ([www.figo.org](http://www.figo.org)), the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology ([www.ebcog.org](http://www.ebcog.org)), the International Association for Women's Mental Health ([www.iawmh.org](http://www.iawmh.org)), the World Association for Infant Mental Health ([www.waimh.org](http://www.waimh.org)), the International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health ([www.marcesociety.com](http://www.marcesociety.com)), The European Society of Contraception ([www.escrh.eu](http://www.escrh.eu)) and the International Menopause Society ([www.imsociety.org/CAMS](http://www.imsociety.org/CAMS))

As an important means of strengthening these relationships, forming new collaborations, and demonstrating ISPOG's inter-disciplinary work, the Board intends to continue to offer ISPOG-themed symposia in the congresses of these other international societies and request reciprocal activities in ISPOG's congresses.

The board is keen to expand these activities to include as many ISPOG members as possible.

**The Board welcomes suggestions from ISPOG members for other relevant conferences, as well as expressions of interest to be part of ISPOG symposia.**

Please contact the President Carlos Damonte Khoury ([carlosdamontek@gmail.com](mailto:carlosdamontek@gmail.com)) or the Secretary General ([heather.rowe@monash.edu](mailto:heather.rowe@monash.edu)) if you are interested in participating.

### ISPOG IS INTENDING TO OFFER PSYCHOSOMATIC SYMPOSIA IN THE FOLLOWING CONGRESSES

#### 1. International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)

4-9 October 2015 Vancouver

<http://figo2015.org/>

- Pre-congress workshop: **Dealing with difficult patients in Ob Gyn Practice**. Marieke Paarlberg, The Netherlands and Sibil Tschudin, Switzerland. ACCEPTED
- ISPOG presents: **Psychosomatic issues in gynecology**. Convenor: Jonathan Shaffir USA. ACCEPTED
- ISPOG presents: Psychosocial topics in obstetrics and perinatal medicine. Convenor: Jonathan Shaffir USA. ACCEPTED

#### 2. 14<sup>th</sup> Congress ESC European Society for Contraception and Reproductive Health

4 to 7 May 2016 Basel Switzerland

Theme: Contraception from molecular biology to social science and politics.

<http://www.escrh.eu/events/esc-events/2016>

Abstract submission deadline: 15 November 2015

- ISPOG Workshop: How to prevent and minimize contraceptive failure – the psychosomatic perspective and approach. Convenors: Sibil Tschudin and Heather Rowe ACCEPTED
- Joint ESC/ISPOG Symposium: Sexual Health over the life course – the bio-psycho-social perspective. Convenor Johannes Bitzer Switzerland ACCEPTED

#### 3. EBCOG European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

18-21 May 2016 Istanbul Turkey

<http://www.ebcog2016.org/>

Abstract submission deadline: 15 January 2016

- Workshop: Prevention of professional burnout in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sibil Tschudin (Switzerland) and Carlos Damonte Khoury (Spain)
- Symposia:
  - Comprehensive gynaecologic and perinatal care – the significance of the psychosocial and psychosomatic perspective Chair Sibil Tschudin (President elect ISPOG);
  - Turkish POG Symposium. Chair Prof Dr Kamile Kukulcu Akdeniz University Turkey ACCEPTED

#### 4. 15th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health

29 May-2 June 2016

Prague Czech Republic

Abstract submission deadline: 15 September 2015.

<http://www.waimh2016.org>

#### 5. International Marcé Society

26-28 September 2016

Melbourne Australia

Theme: Frontiers in Perinatal Mental Health.

Looking to the Future.

<https://marcesociety.com/>

#### 6. International Menopause Society:

Prague 28 September-1 October 2016

[http://www.imsociety.org/world\\_congress.php](http://www.imsociety.org/world_congress.php)

#### 7. International Association for Women's Mental Health

2017 Dublin Ireland

Further details when available.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO CARLOS OR HEATHER

## EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

An update on the activities of the Educational committee will be presented in the next Newsletter.

## PERINATAL COMMITTEE

In health care provided to women globally, there are changes in protocols, laws, health care cost policies, medical science, education and training that affect obstetric and gynaecological practice and bring new challenges for the proper integration of mental health care. ISPOG aims to offer educational and research tools to assist with overcoming these challenges. In order to achieve this purpose we intend to act as a bridge between science and clinical practice, to be a link between Ob/Gyns Paediatricians, Psychologists and Psychiatrists to enhance the wellbeing of patients and professionals, and to make links with other societies with overlapping scopes.

Perinatal care is a good example of healthcare that entails interdisciplinary cooperation and understanding. Several international societies already exist: The International Marcé for Perinatal Mental Health (<https://marcesociety.com/>), the World Association of Infant Mental Health (WAIMH <http://www.waimh.org/>) and the World Association of Perinatal Medicine (<http://www.wapm.info/>). A suitable interface between Psychiatrists and Obstetricians/Gynecologists does not exist in the vast majority of countries. An interdisciplinary approach can improve the care not only of women suffering psychiatric conditions, drug addictions or gender-based violence, but of all women, their children and the professionals involved who experience increasing difficulties managing the psychical/mental – biomedical/somatic gap in their clinical practice.

To this end ISPOG has recently established a perinatal committee. Details of the Committee's function and scope will be discussed at the ExCo meeting in Vancouver and reports on committee activities will be presented in future Newsletters.

## UPDATE ON THE JOURNAL OF PSYCHOSOMATIC OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

As you may know online access to ISPOG's official journal is available to all members for the reduced fee of €40 / USD 52 / GBP 32. The subscription gives online access to all current and past content of the journal and represents very good value.

To subscribe please go to the link on the ISPOG website at:

<http://promo.informahealthcare.com/landingpages/ispo-g-reg/>

We also wish to inform you that Informa HealthCare, the publisher of JPOG is moving across to the Taylor & Francis Group. The move to the new publisher should have no impact on subscriptions or online access for members. However, there will be benefits to the journal including alt-metric, article level download and citation data, a versatile mobile version, Most Read and Most Cited article information, inclusion in T&F's sales deals that have extended reach and accessibility, improved marketing, and an Editors' Resources website. The move is expected to take place in July-August 2015.



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