

The Report of 15th Biennial International Scientific Conference of SOGP

The 15th Biennial International Scientific Conference was organized by Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan at Islamabad Serena Hotel, from December 5 to 7, 2014. The theme of the conference was ‘Bridging the gaps in women health issues’.

Thirty-eight preconference workshops were organized all over the country and facilitated by the top resource persons of the medical field.



From left to right: Prof Kurian Joseph, Prof Khalida Waheed, Prof Rakhshanda Rehman, Prof Tasneem Ashraf, Prof Hassan Fatima and Dr Rekha Kurian at the end of a scientific session

The topics of the workshops were ‘Emergency obstetric care skills, diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy and laparoscopy, MVA, PPF, PPIUCD, cervical and breast cancer screening and scientific writing’.

The scientific program for the conference was designed in a way that the papers received from international and national participants were organized under specific categories based upon their relevance with the theme. State of the art lectures were delivered by the most proficient doctors from Pakistan and all over the world. More than 1200 doctors and medical professionals got registered for this event.

The SOGP council meeting was organized prior to the formal inaugural ceremony. December 5, 2014, marked the start of the conference with the scientific program. There were 12 scientific sessions with different topics (Fetal medicine, Outcome of medically complicated pregnancies, Obstetric emergencies, Urogyne, Basic and advance laparoscopy, Menopause, Cervical cancer screening, Contraception, Subfertility, Gynecology, Ultrasound imaging, current trends in cesarean section) having 5 to 7 lectures per session. There were three plenary talks (Evidence-based medicine in obstetrics and gynecology practice by Prof Alokendu Chatterjee, Averting maternal deaths and disabilities: The role of NCMNH by Prof Sadiqa Jafery, Infections in obstetrics by Prof Alison Wright and one SOGP symposium).

In the evening, the conference was formally inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Balochistan Dr Abdul Malik Baloch. Inaugural ceremony started off with the recitation of Holy Quran. The annual report of SOGP was presented by Dr Haleema Yasmeen (Secretary General of SOGP). Prof Aisha Siddiqua, the Organizing Secretary, also addressed the participants.



Audience sitting in inaugural ceremony

The President of SOGP Prof Tasneem Ashraf in her inaugural address briefed the chief guests and audience about women health issues in Pakistan and, especially in Balochistan, the activities of SOGP, specifically its role in decreasing the MMR of the country. Prof Tasneem Ashraf also explained the scope and domain of the activities of SOGP.

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, the Chief Minister of Balochistan, delivered a speech and praised the efforts of SOGP and congratulated the members of SOGP in organizing such an event which will definitely be a step toward improving the condition of women in Pakistan. The Health Minister Balochistan, Mr Rehmat Baloch, also praised SOGP for taking initiatives in Balochistan and assisting the government in uplifting health status of women in Balochistan.

Thematic lecture was delivered by Prof Rakhshanda Rehman. She gave us a fascinating insight into the history of women health issues and highlighted the ways the gaps can be bridged. Shields were distributed among the executive members, past presidents and the patrons. The ceremony concluded with the cultural program.

The second day also had 12 scientific sessions (SAFOG session, Early pregnancy loss, Management of antenatal complications, Health and social status of women, Antenatal and intrapartum care, FIGO session, Anemia in pregnancy (RG sym), Safe motherhood, Endoscopy, General gynecology, Research and audit, Postpartum care). There were four plenary talks (My journey as a laparoscopic surgeon by Prof Kurian Joseph, Sudden postpartum collapse by Alokendo Chatterjee, Role of RCOG in South Asia by Allison Wright and one panel discussion on PCO, AUB and endometriosis moderated by Prof Rakhshanda. The day concluded with the SOGP's general body meeting and Gala Dinner. Participants were invited to join the Gala Dinner ceremony in which shields were distributed to honor the foreign delegates and to the preconference workshop organizers. A very entertaining musical program was organized after the dinner.



SAFOG President—Prof Alokendo Chatterjee

The final day, December 7, 2014, also had the same schedule of scientific sessions (Thalassemia, PUGA session, PROM, Research in gyne and obstetrics, Free papers, miscellaneous paper session) and three plenary talks [Unmet family planning need of women in Pakistan, a second talk on Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) (2012-13) by Dr Naseer Mohiuddin and Prenatal diagnosis by Dr Mishal] were delivered.

The closing ceremony concluded with the closing remarks of President of SOGP and executive members. Shields were distributed to the main sponsors, event organizers and those who worked tirelessly to organize the conference.

All the speakers, chairpersons, cochairs and moderators were given certificates and shields at the end of each session to honor them and appreciate their efforts.

The event was a huge success, and the layout of the conference's program was highly appreciated. In conclusion, it was by all accounts a successful conference with a diverse program reflecting the variety of applications of scientific research within the field of gyne and obstetrics.

Prof Tasneem Ashraf
President of SOGP