

SAFOG Activities

SAFOG Secretary General's Report (2013–2015)

From 1st March to 4th March 2013, Agra—'City of The Taj', India had the privilege to host the 9th (SAFOG) conference in collaboration with Federation of Obstetrical and Gynecological Societies of India. The conference was a landmark in the history of SAFOG, reminiscent of the first SAFOG conference of Lahore, being extremely well organized, full of scientific content and loads of activities. The new SAFOG council was elected on 28.02.2013 with Professor Alokendu Chatterjee as the President, Dr Shyam Desai and Dr Malik Goonewardhane as the two Vice Presidents, Dr Rubina Sohail as the Secretary General, Dr Ashma Rana as the President Elect, Dr Marlene Abeywardne as the treasurer and Dr Narendra Malhotra as editor of Journal of SAFOG.



It was decided that the theme of SAFOG for the next two years would be 'Caring for women's health through current evidence.' Activities were planned for the coming 2 years. The activities planned included conduct of SAFOG session at the annual national obstetrics and gynecology society conferences, increasing international collaboration, building of linkages, roping in of Maldives and Bhutan for some academic endeavors. Understanding their constraints, it was decided to send a delegation to these two countries and to hold a session or CME on a topic of their choice.

Activities in 2013

The year started on a very positive note and commitment by the new council to work hard and to make its present felt at the national and international front and to for SAFOG to find more inroads leading to improvement in women's health. The first activity was the conduct of SAFOG session at the 12th NESOG National Conference from 5th to 6th April 2013. The topic selected was Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia. This topic was chosen because it was a common problem and one of the important causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. The session highlighted the trends in management of severe pre-eclampsia.

A council meeting was held along with the conference to plan upcoming activities of SAFOG. The SAFOG sessions were discussed in detail. Three important things were discussed at the meeting due to the increasing number of GDM patients in South Asia; it was selected as a topic for upcoming SAFOG sessions. An invitation received by RCOG was accepted to hold a session at Hyderabad the coming year and the most exciting proposal from FIGO facilitated by Dr Rohana Hathotowa was discussed to hold a category B conference with FIGO hosted by SAFOG and a country society. It was suggested by the Secretary General to use our good offices to have a SAFOG session at the AOCOG conference in Bangkok.

The next SAFOG session was held during the 4th international conference on Reproductive health and ART, Lahore, Pakistan from 26th to 27th April 2013, The topics for this session was Controversies in Obstetrics and breech, VBAC and induction of labor was discussed. This was a full hall session and was fully audience participated session highlighting the controversies efficiently and also putting forward the opinions from the South Asian perspective as well.

The session on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus was conducted at the 22nd International Scientific Conference of OGSB at, Dhaka, Bangladesh on the 6th of September 2013. It was a good topic to bring up for discussion and was well received by the audience. Panelists from all SAFOG countries were represented here. The secretary general Dr Rubina Sohail moderated the session.

In May 2013, a meeting was held in Colombo with the President FIGO—Prof Sabaratnum Arulkumaran, President SAFOG—Prof Alokendu Chatterjee President SLCOG, Secretary General of SAFOG and SLCOG and other members of SAFOG and SLCOG council to discuss the upcoming FIGO SAFOG conference and to plan the details. The meeting decided the modus operandi and set the path for further course of action. The role played by Prof Arulkumaran was commendable in fine-tuning the whole affair.

For the year 2013, the last session was conducted at the 23rd Asian and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Bangkok, Thailand conducted from the 20th to 23rd October 2013 again bringing forward the issues of gestational diabetes and what it meant for the South Asian region. The second session conducted by SAFOG was

on maternal health. A council meeting was held during the conference in which the main point of discussion on the agenda was the forthcoming FIGO SAFOG SLCOG conference. Roles were allocated to various members and Dr Rohana presented a report on the planned activities of the conference and update on the preparations of the event.

Activities in 2014

The year started with big conference of FOGSI at Patna, India from 1st to 5th February, where a session was conducted by SAFOG on postpartum hemorrhage. The next event was RCOG world congress at Hyderabad, India on 28th – 30th March 2014 in which the important topic of managing problems of GDM in South Asia was conducted. The session highlighted the importance of diabetes and its effect on pregnant women and also the long-term repercussions on the women. On 29.03.2014 the SAFOG council meeting was held in Hyderabad.

The council was informed of the invitation by FIGO for the next FIGO conference in Vancouver to conduct a session on 'SAFOG's agenda on post MDG'—FIGO Congress on 4th to 9th October 2015 and AOFOG invitation for 3rd – 6th June 2015 at Kuching, Malaysia. During the meeting Dr Arul Kumaran presented a novel idea of conducting an workshop Advance life support in Obstetrics (ALSO) for young gynecologists from all representative countries of SAFOG free of charge for 35 to 40 participants from the SAFOG countries. This offer was accepted with thanks from Dr Harsha, Dr Alokendu, Dr Rubina and other members of the council. Dr Rohana presented a report on FIGO-SAFOG-SLCOG conference.

The next SAFOG session was conducted during the 13th NESOG National Conference from 4th to 5th April 2014. the topic under discussion was Issues in Obstetrics and Gynecology. These were individual topics and panel discussion was not carried out this time. From 25th to 27th September the SAFOG session was conducted at OGSB on the occasion of 23rd International Scientific Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Pre-eclampsia was the selected topic for panel discussion again.

The feather in the cap of SAFOG was 30th October 2014, on a beautiful evening in Colombo when the FIGO-SAFOG-SLCOG conference was inaugurated with the untiring efforts of Dr Rohana Hathotowa, Dr Malik Goonewardene, Prof Alokendu Chatterjee and the executive council of SAFOG, in the presence of presidents and heads of many colleges including the RCOG and RANZCOG and around 1,000 guests. The opening ceremony was held at the BMICH on the 30th evening and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and the Minister of Health Hon. Maithripala Sirisena was the Guest of honour. The conference was from 29th Oct to 2nd Nov 2014 and the total number of registered participants was 704 out of which 505 were from overseas. The theme of the congress was 'Unmet needs in Women's Health'. Multiple international organizations were a part of this conference including WHO, UNFPA, March of Dimes, ALSO, Diabetes in Pregnancy study group in India and Sidra Medical and Research Centre, Qatar, participated. AOFOG, RCOG, RANZCOG, ASPIRE, International Menopause Society, South Asian Federation of Menopause Societies, ISUOG, International Society for fallopian tubes and Reproductive Surgery and European society of Infectious Diseases in obstetrics and gynecology also participated in the conference. Pre-Congress Workshops were held on the 29th and 30th of October on Scientific Writing and Critical Appraisal of Publication, Recent Advances in Fetal Medicine (ISUOG), Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (WHO), Diagnostic and Operative Endoscopy (AOFOG), Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO), Controversies and Quality in Reproductive Technology (Aspire), High Risk Obstetrics and High Dependency Units. All the workshops were well attended and were very well appreciated by the participants.

This grand event was followed by a CME in Male, Maldives on 3rd November 2014. The theme of the CME was Girls—Adolescents to Adults. SAFOG delegation consisting of senior members of executive from member countries including Past-Presidents of SAFOG, Secretary General, deputy secretary general and President-Elect was led by Prof. Alokendu Chatterjee, President SAFOG. The CME consisted of a presentation, a round table session and a skill session followed by a meeting of the SAFOG delegation with the Health Minister, CEO of the hospital and the Director General of Health Services.

Activities in 2015

The New Year started with the SAFOG Session at the 58th All India congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology, hosted from 21st to 25th January, 2015 at Chennai, where a session was conducted on Preterm labour. The session was well attended and was graced by a enthusiastic audience.

By the untiring efforts of Prof Alokendu Chatterjee, for the first time a SAFOG was invited to Myanmar to do a session in 11th Myanmar Obstetrical and Gynaecological Congress, Yangon held from the 21st to 22nd February 2015. The topic of the session was 'A Bouquet of common OBGY Problems in South Asia'.

This brings to conclusion the term 2013 to 2015 of the existing SAFOG council led by the President SAFOG, Prof Alokendu Chatterjee, assisted by the Secretary General, Prof Rubina Sohail and the executive of the SAFOG.

The SAFOG journal has sustained itself and managed to start making a small amount of profit, thanks to the dedication, commitment and untiring efforts of Dr Narendra Malhotra. More contribution in terms of quality papers and case reports will help in taking the journal even further.

At the very end I with the depth of my heart want to thank, Prof Alokendu for his leadership qualities in steering SAFOG in the right direction and continuously pushing SAFOG forward. I want to acknowledge the contribution of all members of the SAFOG executive, specially the two vice presidents, Shyam Desai and Malik Goonewardene, Editor of JSAFOG, Narendra Malhotra and Director international relations Rohana Hathotowa for their immense hard work and contribution towards the progress of SAFOG.

Rubina Sohail

President Elect, SAFOG