



European Board & College of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

EBCOG Annual Report

2022



Table Of Contents

Foreword	2
From the desk of the President	4
Who’s Who in EBCOG	6
From the desk of the President-Elect	10
Secretary-General Report	12
Treasurer Report	13
Educational Branch Report	14
Standing Committee on Examination Report	16
Standing Committee on Training and Assessment Report	19
Standing Committee on Training Recognition Report	22
Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements Report	23
Fellowship Working Group Report	26
Congress Report	27
Webmaster Report	30
ENTOG Report	32
Member Society Updates	35
Appendix	36
Appendix 1: A complete list of publications by the Standing Committee of Standards of Care and Position statements	



Foreword



What will the world look like after the COVID 19 pandemic? As we emerge from the crisis, we decide to capitalise on the benefits of innovations the pandemic has left behind. In “The pandemic is a Portal” Arundhati Roy writes “Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.” We have now truly entered the new digital world with the rise in digital behaviour such as remote working, teleconferencing, running digital courses and even delivering services. The future of work has arrived faster not only due to technological advances but also of considerations of health and

safety, and perhaps the effect of global warming.

Virtual meetings were the norm for officers and the first online course for the part 1 EFOG was delivered on 8th and 9th April 2022. Our franchised partner Study Medic provided the online platform, and the course was not only a great success with excellent feedback but clearly improved the visibility and reputation of EBCOG. Thanks to the Examination Committee.

It was not until May 2022 when we first had our hybrid Council meeting. Many of our Council colleagues joined remotely to Bristol Stephanie. Clearly it brought back many old memories, and we all cherished the value of human presence.

When the Russian tanks rolled into Ukrainian territory on 24th February morning it shattered European peace and shocked the world. It unleashed misery for millions of Ukrainians, forced displacement of millions of Ukrainian women and children to neighbouring countries and rocked global economy with soaring fuel prices and cost of living. EBCOG was in the forefront in condemning the illegal Russian invasion and urged the international community to act effectively to avoid conflict by sound diplomatic intervention and, reduce the consequences of armed conflict particularly on women and children.

“Veselo ho Rizdva” celebrations for most Ukrainians had been in candlelight and without electricity but they shared their hardship, danger, and determination to prevail. EBCOG stands shoulder to shoulder in supporting them in these difficult times. EBCOG contributed to the UEMS general fund for Ukrainian doctors and have separately funded two fellowship opportunities in Europe for training in obstetrics and gynaecology. Despite travel restrictions and difficulties in travelling we were grateful to see our Ukrainian colleagues attending the November Council meeting. Many of us were able to listen to their experiences of day-to-day work in a war-torn country. This gave us a true perspective of the harrowing effects of war.





Health policies should be based on high quality evidence and respect for human rights and autonomy. The United States Supreme Court's judicial decision on Roe v. Wade will certainly put women in a highly disadvantageous positions in seeking help for safe abortion and contraception services, and potentially leads to poor reproductive health outcomes. EBCOG believes that it certainly undermines women's reproductive rights and has produced a strong position statement calling for global action to help for women who may experience a reduction in their reproductive health as a fall out of the United States Supreme Court ruling. EBCOG's commitment to high quality education remains a priority. All standing committees are working behind the scenes to enhance EBCOG's Profile. This has been recently recognised by the award of European Commission Grant of 1 million Euros to EBCOG and ESGE for implementation of GESEA programme in the PACT curriculum. Thanks to Dr Rudi Campo and Professor Fedde Scheele. EFOG examination continues to be popular in Europe and beyond. With increasing popularity outside Europe, EBCOG plans to introduce an OSCE examination centre in Dubai, UAE.

The Council meeting in November was a full physical meeting as it was before the pandemic. It was well attended and provided an opportunity for networking and catching up. It was great to see so many friends after a period of isolation. We all enjoyed each other's presence and all of us were extremely happy to see our Ukrainian colleagues.

I am indebted to all Council members for their support to EBCOG. We look forward to a successful European congress at Krakow in May 2023.

Finally, Kate, we would not be able function without her help. I visited her at our office at Leuven, Belgium. EBCOG's work has increased phenomenally, and she is the bed rock of EBCOG and keeps all of us in our toes!

See you soon.

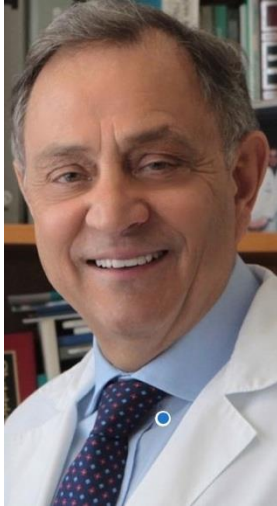
Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc MMed

Consultant Gynaecologist

Treasurer



From the desk of the President



On behalf of the EBCOG Executive Committee, I am very happy to present you our second Annual Report for the year 2022.

After two very difficult years due to the pandemic, 2022 brought clear signs that, thanks to vaccinations, the pandemic is getting under control. That gave us the opportunity to resume our in-person activities, i.e., the first Council Meeting and OSCE Part 2 Exam since the beginning of the pandemic. We were all thrilled to get together again, discussing issues, sharing dinner and a glass of wine. In the same context, we participated in-person at the 5th Panhellenic Scientific Congress of the Union of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Greece, with an EBCOG Session, in which we presented the work of EBCOG on education and training as well as on CME and CPD.

Unfortunately, as the impact of the pandemic was fading, a new calamity hit Europe, the Russian military attack on Ukraine, which caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and injuries, massive destruction of infrastructures and health care facilities, including maternity and pediatric services, as well as sexual violence against women and young girls, forcing millions of people to migrate. The Executive Committee of EBCOG immediately issued a statement in support of Ukraine and our colleagues there, condemning the Russian aggression. Furthermore, we issued a Joint Position Statement regarding the consequences of armed conflict on the health of women and newborn and sexual reproductive health. We also contributed to the Ukraine Common Fund, we participated with lectures in the virtual Obstetrics and Gynecology Congress that was organized by our Ukraine colleagues last September, we granted scholarships for training abroad to three Ukraine colleagues and we are making every effort to support the participation of Ukraine colleagues in the Krakow EBCOG Congress.

In the meantime, EBCOG continued all the activities promoting its mission in education and training. It is noteworthy that the EBCOG Post-Graduate Textbook won the 2022 BMA Medical Book Award in OB/GYN. At the same time, the process to update PACT has started, 31 hospital visits for accreditation of training programs have been completed and the exams (EFOG and EFRM) are continuing with great success. Thus, we launched pre-exam courses with StudyMEDIC, both online and in-person, and the online Part 1 Exams for EFOG are attracting increasing numbers of participants. Also, we fully support the ENTOG exchange program, which in 2022 took place in Oslo, with great success.

Consistent with our strong commitment to advocacy for women's rights, we issued a Position Statement on the United States Supreme Court ruling and Women's Reproductive Rights.

As part of our collaboration with UEMS, we regularly attend their business meetings on postgraduate training and European training requirements (ETRS), the Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment (CESMA), the newly established Thematic Federation for Medical Ethics (TFME), as well as the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and we resumed EACCME reviews for UEMS. EBCOG is also present



in the FIGO Board of Trustees representing Europe and we participate in the ECAC initiative with two projects, one on education and training in Europe and the other on inequalities in sexual and reproductive health issues in Europe. In addition, we are partners with the European Society for Gynecological Endoscopy (ESGE) and other institutions, in the consortium GESEA4Health, which won an EU4Health Grant of the European Commission, aiming to develop standardized learning modules applicable and recognized across Europe, modules for nurses and supporting staff, as well as standardization of the “training the trainers” program. This will be promoted through EBCOG, as part of the EBCOG-PACT framework.

The preparations for the next 28th EBCOG Congress are well underway. Thanks to the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Program is very exciting, addressing hot issues in the whole spectrum of our specialty and the sub-specialties, covered by world experts. Currently, we are assessing the more than 500 Abstracts received, allocating them into sessions. We are confident that it will be one of the best Congresses we ever had, not only because of the high-quality science but also because it takes place in the beautiful medieval city of Krakow. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Basil C. Tarlatzis, MD, PhD, FRCOG (hon)

Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics - Gynecology and Human Reproduction

President of EBCOG

Regional Trustee - Europe, FIGO Board of Trustees





Who's Who In EBCOG

Introduction

EBCOG was created in 1996 as the result of a fusion between the European Board of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (EBGO) and the European College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECOG). EBCOG is the Board of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Section of UEMS. The statutory purpose of UEMS is to harmonise and improve the quality of medical specialist practice in the European Union (EU). Education is a key element in this field, and UEMS has been pursuing the formulation of a common policy in the field of training for many years. EBCOG's aim is to improve the health of women and unborn and new-born babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care. EBCOG's core activities are education and training. We work with subspecialties, special interest societies, trainees and European interest groups to achieve this. We work and support European trainees' organisation, ENTOG, and offer fellowships to ENTOG trainees to improve their knowledge and skills and broaden horizons by visiting advanced centres in Europe.

EBCOG Structure: Who is who?

The EBCOG Council is the decision-making body of EBCOG and is made up of two national delegates from each of our 33 member countries. National delegates are members of both EBCOG and the UEMS Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Councils and Council meetings are joint meetings of the EBCOG and Section Councils. EBCOG has four Officers, (President, President-Elect, Secretary-General and Treasurer) and an Executive Committee. Subscription fees are payable annually and are calculated according to the UEMS 'key'. There are now 35 countries represented on our Council: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia (Observer), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia*, Serbia (Observer), Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Israel was approved to join as an Observer at the November Council meeting.

In addition, we also work closely with the four subspecialist societies: materno-foetal medicine (EAPM, the European Association of Perinatal Medicine), gynaecological oncology (ESGO, the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology), reproductive medicine (ESHRE, the European Society for Human Reproduction & Embryology), and urogynaecology (EUGA, the European Urogynaecology Association).





EBCOG EXECUTIVE

Officers

President

Professor Basil C. Tarlatzis (Greece)

Secretary-General

Dr Nuno Nogueira Martins (Portugal)

President-Elect

Professor Frank Louwen (Germany)

Treasurer

Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay (United Kingdom)

EBCOG Executive Members

Dr Rudi Campo (Western Region)

Professor Dimitrios Loutradis (Southern Region)

Dr Karen Rose (Northern Region)

Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova (Eastern Region)

Dr Petr Velebil (Pan-European Region)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)

Chair: Dr Karen Rose (until Nov 2022); Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe (Nov 2022 onward)

Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)

Chair: Professor Juriy Wladimiroff

Standing Committee on Examination (SCE)

Chair: Professor Ioannis E. Messinis

Scientific Committee, EBCOG Congress Krakow 2023

Chair: Dr Rudi Campo

Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements (SCSCPS)

Chair: Dr Tahir Mahmood

Fellowships Working Group

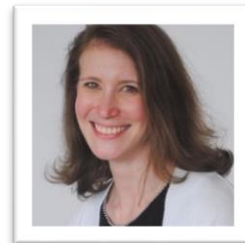
Chair: Dr Petr Velebil

Examination Secretariat

Mr Alexandros Peristeropoulos

EBCOG Central Office

Ms Kate Thorman



Webmaster

Dr Jure Klanjšček

European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG)

Dr Ferry Boekhorst - President

Dr Hajra Khattak – Treasurer

Dr Rafał Zadykiewicz – Webmaster

Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou - Member



SPECIALIST SOCIETIES

European Urogynaecology Association (EUGA)

Professor Stavros Athanasiou

European Association of Perinatal-Medicine (EAPM)

Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos

European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

Professor Rene Verheijen (through March 2022); Dr Maja Pakiz (March 2022 onward)

European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)

Professor Anis Feki (through Nov 2022); Dr Tatjana Motrenko (Nov 2022 onward)

European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (EURAPAG)

Professor Zana Bumbuliene

European Midwives Association (EMA)

Mrs Agnes Simon

European Society of Contraception (ESC)

Professor Gabriele Merki

Professor Johannes Bitzer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

(as of November 2022)

Austria	Professor Wolfgang Umek	Dr Philipp Fössleitner
Belgium	Dr Femke Delporte	Professor Sophie Alexander
Bulgaria	Assoc. Professor Milko Sirakov	Professor Blagovest Pehlivanov
Croatia	Professor Miroslav Kopjar	
Cyprus	Dr Marios Liassides	Dr Gabriel Kalakoutis
Czech Republic	Professor Marian Kacerovsky	Professor Vladimir Dvorak
Denmark	Professor Hanne Brix Westergaard	Dr Anna Aabakke
Estonia	Professor Helle Karro	
Finland	Professor Oskari Heikinheimo	Professor Hannele Laivuori
France	Professor Philippe Descamps	Prof Joëlle Belaisch-Allart
Georgia – OBSERVER	Professor Zaza Sinauridze	
Germany	Dr Klaus Doubek	Professor Frank Louwen
Greece	Dr Nicolas Linardos	Professor Alexandros Rodolakis
Hungary	Dr Nandor Acs	Professor Robert Poka
Iceland	Dr Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir	



Ireland	Dr Michael Robson	Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe
Israel	Professor Ron Maymon	
Italy	Professor Chiara Benedetto	Professor Yoram Jacob Meir
Latvia	Professor Dace Rezeberga	Dr Vija Veisa
Lithuania	Professor Diana Ramašauskaitė	Professor Zana Bumbuliene
Malta	Dr John Mamo	Professor Isabelle Saliba
The Netherlands	Professor Fedde Scheele	Dr Angelique Goverde
North Macedonia	Prof Gligor Tofoski	
Norway	Professor Yngvild Skåtun Hannestad	Dr Kirsten Hald
Poland	Professor Piotr Sieroszewski	Professor Sebastian Kwiatkowski
Portugal	Dr Nuno Nogueira Martins	Professor Teresa Almeida Santos
Romania	Professor Daniel Muresan	Professor Radu Vladareanu
Serbia – OBSERVER	Professor Sneža Radić	
Slovak Republic	Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova	Dr Mikuláš Redecha
Slovenia	Professor Ksenija Geršak	Professor Adolf Lukanovic
Sweden	Dr Lars Ladfors	Dr Michael Algovik
Switzerland	Professor Gabriele Merki	Professor Johannes Bitzer
Turkey	Professor Cansun Demir	
Ukraine	Professor Valerii Zaporozhan	Professor Vyacheslav Kaminsky
United Kingdom	Dr Edward Morris	Dr Stergios Doumouchtsis

*Membership of the Russian Federation is temporarily discontinued until the end of military action and removal of forces from Ukraine



From the desk of the President-Elect



As the world opened up and travel restrictions were gradually lifted, we made great progress in collaborating with our colleagues within Europe and beyond. We realised that to improve the health of women and their babies we have to work with other global organisations who also share our vision of upholding women's reproductive rights and standards of care. I firmly believe we are making the transition on influencing the global community through our commitment in education, training and assessment.

In my capacity as President-Elect, I have strengthened our ties with FIGO, AFOG, FOGSI and not the least the WATOG. Trainees are our future, and it is important we value and care for their educational need if we are to be serious about women's health of the future. Having trainees represented at FIGO and working with them in arranging series of workshops and empowering them to teach their colleagues in Europe and beyond had been a great achievement for promoting our vision.

I was privileged to accompany our President, Trustee of FIGO at the FIGO ECAC (Education, Communication, Advocacy Consortium) meeting at Cartagena, Columbia. Our vision of improving women's health through education and training and particularly our preliminary work on health inequalities in sexual and reproductive health were greatly appreciated. Needless to say, apart from usual networking a greater proportion of my time was occupied by running the workshop on 'Teach the Breech' for local trainees.

I am glad to see that the next world congress is going to be in our doorstep and preparations are already underway for the congress in the most beautiful city in Europe, Paris.

I think I should highlight our achievement of our presence in ECAC. Professor Phillipe Descamps who represents France at EBCOG Council, chairs the ECAC committee on his capacity as the Vice President of FIGO. With the participation of elected leaders all over the world, ECAC collaborates with various member societies, regional federations, and non-

OB/GYN Professionals to provide guidance on the production of FIGO educational materials and oversight of communications such as policy statements and practice guidelines, to ensure that these output materials are fit for purpose. Since its inception a year ago EBCOG has financially supported the first two meetings in the Europe.

Two projects were chosen for Europe based on input from EBCOG Council members:

- Setting standards in post-graduate training and education
- Unmet needs of sexual and reproductive healthcare





Finally, having celebrated a big birthday in 2022 it was great to feel young again with the trainees at their council meeting (ENTOG) in September at Norway.

I take up the reins from our president at the end of 2023, I look forward to work with you all to face the challenges we all face in delivering high quality health care.

See you soon.

Professor Frank Louwen

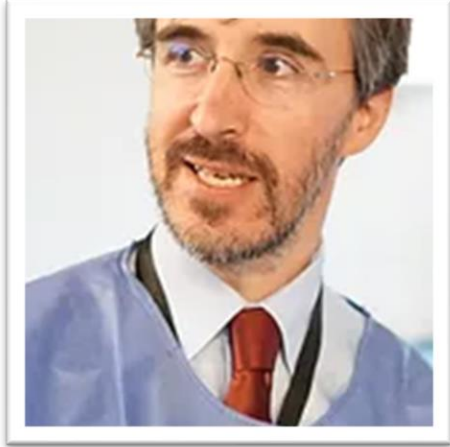
FRCOG (ad eundem), FAGOS, FICOG, FMOGS, AOGUkraine (hon), IsraelISOG (hon)

Adviser ECAC FIGO 2021-2023, Past SPC Chair FIGO 2021





Secretary-General Report



We are back to the “good old days” in EBCOG. 2022 was again a great year, allowing the return to in-person meetings for the Executive and Council members of EBCOG. This fact definitely contributed to strengthen the team spirit, as well as it made decisions easier and probably more effective, frequently blessed by consensus.

In terms of structure, we have created the fourth Standing Committee of EBCOG - the Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements, chaired by our Past President Dr Tahir Mahmood. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova was elected as EBCOG Executive Member for the Eastern Region

and Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe as Pan-European Executive Member.

The whole team is dedicated to make sure we have a great EBCOG Congress at Krakow, in 2023. It will also be a year of elections to the Treasurer and President Elect posts, and for the incoming President to start leading the future of EBCOG with the new team.

Dr Nuno Nogueira Martins

Secretary-General

Education Supervisor & Head Gynaecological- Oncology Unit of the Department,

Board member PCOG and Sociedade Portuguesa de Ginecologia

Serviço de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia Centro Hospitalar Tondela Viseu,

Viseu, Portugal



Treasurer Report



EBCOG being a body of UEMS its account comes under the umbrella of UEMS account along with other sections and bodies. UEMS being a non-profit organisation has a requirement in Belgian law to demonstrate fiscal propriety. Lack of financial governance can lead to loss of non-profit status and increased taxation. The negative interest rates levied by the banks in Belgium in summer 2022 on all funds above 500,000 led to losses from UEMS bodies of 25,000€ per year. Proportionate to our annual income EBCOG also contributed to the payment of charges from negative interest.

Moving funds out of UEMS accounts by fully paying off 2 loans linked to the purchase of the Domus Medica Europa (approx. 600,000€ total, made up of one loan of 200,000€ and another of 400,000€) will benefit UEMS bodies by reducing negative interest and allowing UEMS to pay internal interest rather than interest to a bank. EBCOG, had to contribute little over 72,000€ to this DME investment fund.

The DME6YB will last exactly 6 years i.e., it will mature in August 2028. This investment with a small return in six years (capital protected) will allow avoid the payment of negative interest.

EFOG examinations and membership subscriptions provided the greatest portion of revenue with revenue from exam and courses showing a positive trend year on year. The annual turnover in the current fiscal year was less than the previous year owing to the fact that we were little over 13,000€ overspent. However, taking account of the DME investment above, we are over 55,000€ on positive balance. However, expenses for November council are still outstanding. On a positive note, I was glad to see that UEMS has now started paying EACCME fees.

The total asset including outstanding CME funds from UEMS (Domus Medica old loan) and the recent DME loan stand at over 700,000 € at the end of 2022.

Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc MMed

Treasurer

Consultant Gynaecologist Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust UK

Chair, Professional Development Committee RCOG

Educational Branch Report



Since 2021, EBCOG Central Office aims to coordinate the activities of the Standing committee on Examinations (SCE), Standing committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA) and Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR) and establish a more efficient and interactive communication bridge with the Council members. Also, the scientific programme of the forthcoming EBCOG congress in Krakow, Poland is coordinated through the same services and tries to provide the correct biannual platform to bring the educational platforms together.

The Central Office under the responsibility of Kate Thorman has been extremely active and innovative in organising a robust communication platform with the Council members and offering a platform for the EBCOG Executives and different Working Groups.

The world of training and education is changing rapidly and it is the task of EBCOG to provide different nations correct guidelines and the necessary framework for optimal education and training of the European residents and trainers.

A major achievement in 2022 is the GESEA4EU European grant.

Under the lead of Professor. G. Grimbizis and Professor. G. Scambia, the European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE) has received a major grant called “GESEA4EU”. The ESGE programme of accreditation in gynaecological surgery “GESEA” is already recognised as the international standard with distribution in more than 158 countries. More info on the GESEA training and certification programme can be found on www.GESEA.eu.

The GESEA4EU grant aims in the following 2 years:

- To make an inventory and classification of the simulation training tools and training programmes as used in the scope of the GESEA Educational Programme
- To standardise European training modules as part of the GESEA Educational Programme for gynaecological surgeons
- To extend the GESEA Educational Programme by developing standardised training modules for nurses and non-medical staff and to develop a Train-the-Trainer programme.
- To implement and validate the developed learning modules and to provide credentialing recognised on a European level. In total 116 on-site courses executed during the project.



- To receive broad European recognition of the GESEA Training Methodology through the European Board & College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) and to solidify GESEA as the standard for training and certification in its field.
- To disseminate and exploit GESEA, extending the current network of Training Centres across Europe by providing a training curriculum in native languages

The task of EBCOG will be the implementation of the programme through the Standing



committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA), most important as part of the updated PACT programme but also the Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR) will play an important role in the implementation of the validated surgical training curriculum in the different training hospitals. The GESEA4EU EBCOG responsibilities will be

managed by Dr Ursula Catena from the University Gemelli Hospital, Rome Italy.

[An Introduction to EBCOG Education Branch Committees](#)

Since 2016, EBCOG has been conducting a final summative examination for specialty trainee doctors for the award of “European Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology – EFOG-EBCOG”.

The exam consists of 2 parts.

Part 1 is a knowledge-based exam (KBA) and is performed online. The part 1 exam can be taken at home as long as there is a good internet connection. Passing this exam is necessary to sit the Part 2 exam.

Part 2 is an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

The exam is today one of the best exams in the field and we would like to encourage all Council members to work on national implementation of this exam.

The SCTA has produced a new European Curriculum PACT and logbooks for both specialist and subspecialist training as well as recommendations for ‘Training the Trainers (TTT)’. The implementation of a pan European curriculum will create a workforce with comparable skills and training to ensure patient safety.

The Standing Committee on Training Recognition quality assures postgraduate training programmes in obstetrics & gynaecology in Europe at the highest possible standard in order to provide optimal care for women and their unborn babies. SCTR organises and carries out visits to ensure the highest quality training is provided in teaching hospitals. Currently more than 200 training units in 23 countries have been accredited.

Dr Rudi Campo

[EBCOG Chair, Educational Branch](#)

[EBCOG Executive, Western Region](#)

[EBCOG Chair, Scientific Committee, 2023 Congress](#)

Standing Committee of Examination Report

Committee Members

Professor Ioannis Messinis (Chair) ▪ Professor Charles Savona Ventura ▪ Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos ▪ Professor Johannes Bitzer ▪ Dr Tahir Mahmood ▪ Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay ▪ Dr Petr Velebil ▪ Dr Karen Rose ▪ Dr Mei Yee Ng ▪ Alexandros Peristeropoulos



The EBCOG Standing Committee on Examinations (SCE) conducted the 2022 exams as in previous years. Although the waning course of the pandemic made it possible to return to normality, decisions were made regarding the future of the exams. The committee decided to conduct the part 1 (KBA) exam online, while the Part 2 (OSCE) exam in person. The part 1 exam took place online on the 14th of May, and Part 2 exam onsite in person on 19-20th November in Lisbon, Portugal.

164 applications were submitted for this year's exams, which was the largest ever number. It is notable that most applications came from countries outside Europe with 64.6% from just four countries (India, Pakistan, Egypt, Sudan). Only 12.1% of the applications were from European countries.

One hundred and twenty-seven (127) candidates sat the Part 1 exam. The pass mark was set using the modified Angoff method and performance of candidates in each paper.

In total, 62 candidates passed Part 1 exam (48.81%). Validation of the Part 1 exam is a regular process that is carried out after the results are published. This process includes the calculation of the difficulty of the questions, its discriminative power and its reliability (reproducibility). The Cronbach's alpha index was greater than 0.7 for both obstetrics paper (0.74) and gynaecology paper (0.77) showing the reliability of the test.

Regarding Part 2 exam, there were 75 applications from eligible candidates. Of them, 57 participated compared to about 40 in previous years. This year, the Part 2 exam was held in 2 days, i.e., 37 candidates were examined on the first day and 20 on the second day. The OSCE (objective structured clinical examination) included 10 stations. Although the same examiners were used on both days, the topics of the stations were different. In both tests, the pass mark of each station was set as the median score of the station's borderline candidates, as rated by the examiners. In total, 42 candidates passed Part 2 exam, and this was the number of the new Fellows of EBCOG for the year 2022.

The creation of the Question Writing Group (QWG) in September 2021 was helpful in creating a question bank. 148 new questions were collected for the Part 1 examination. The existence of this group ensures the continuous renewal of the question bank, a process which



is necessary to support the exam. All questions in the bank are reviewed by the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC). The last QAC meeting took place with physical presence in Brussels in November before the Council meeting.

Preparatory Courses:

EBCOG started a collaboration with a private company known as Study MEDIC from India, with the aim of organizing pre-exam courses. Study Medic is a professional group engaged in delivering courses for many postgraduate examinations. EBCOG entered a franchised agreement with the group thereby allowing EBCOG to share the profit without incurring any financial loss. In April, Study Medic and the EBCOG organized the on line part 1 Pre-exam course, while in October two Part 2 courses were held in Dubai and Mumbai. EBCOG members participated in the faculty in all these courses.



CESMA

The chair of the SCE represents EBCOG at the meetings of the Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment (CESMA). This council sits under the UEMS and is responsible for guiding the various medical specialties in the organization of their examinations. Two meetings take place each year. In 2022, meetings were in person. The first meeting took place in Venice in May, during which various issues related to the organization of the exams in the post-COVID period were discussed. In a survey, in which participants were asked to express their opinion, most agreed that the written exams should be conducted online and the oral exams in person. The second meeting took place in Brussels in December 2022. The main topics were the appraisal of the exams in general, the preparation of the exam organisers for their appraisal, the 5-year strategy of CESMA and its possible role in the training programs.

Two assessors from CESMA recently attended in Lisbon to appraise our part 2 exam, Appraisal of Part 1 exam was done in May 2019.

EBCOG's collaboration with the subspecialties is an established process, particularly with the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). There is a joint committee, which conducts ESHRE/EBCOG exam. This exam has two parts. Part 1 exam took place online in June 2022 and Part 2 exam in person in July during the ESHRE Annual Meeting in Milan. Twelve new fellows received EBCOG-EFRM fellowship.

The collaboration of EBCOG with the European Urogynaecological Association (EUGA) is in its early stages. Currently, EUGA's Executive Board is working on developing the curriculum. A joint EUGA/EBCOG committee has been created, which will run the exams. Co-operation has also started with the European Society of Contraception (ESC) to develop curriculum and examination.

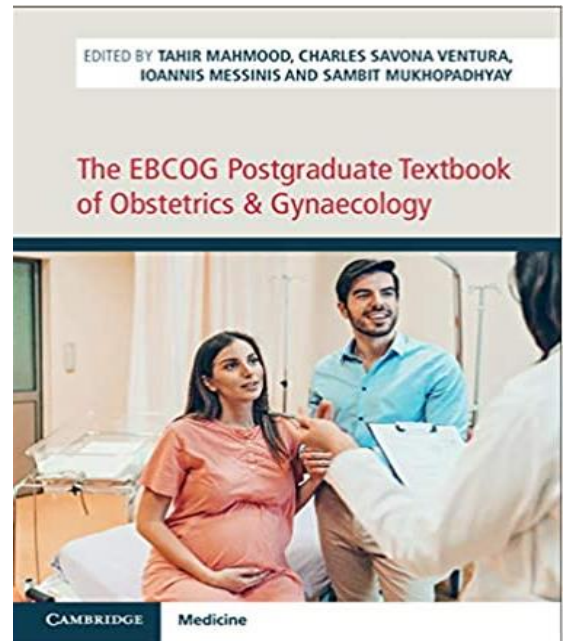


Although the exams are becoming more and more popular in countries outside Europe, the SCE is trying to expand them to European countries as well. The efforts are made to enhance communication with national societies and ENTOG to promote the exam at the country level. Krakow congress will also give us the opportunity to promote our exam. With increasing popularity of the exam, committee has decided to conduct the part 1 exam twice a year from 2023.

The ECOG Postgraduate Textbook of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Finally, “The EBCOG Postgraduate Textbook of Obstetrics & Gynaecology” was the winner of the British Medical Association (BMA) awards for the year 2022. The panel who reviewed the book made the following comment:

“This was a very useful trainee textbook for all stages of Obstetrics and Gynaecology training and a very good starting point for trainers and educators in the specialty. It was a very practical general guide into Obstetrics and Gynaecology, with a very thorough breakdown of all the topics without being overwhelming. Very readable book.”



Professor Ioannis E. Messinis

[Chair SCE](#)



Standing Committee on Training and Assessment Report

Committee Members (as of Nov 2022)

Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe (Chair) ▪ Dr Karen Rose ▪ Dr Angelique Goverde ▪ Professor Fedde Scheele ▪ Dr Anna Aabakke ▪ Dr Annalisa Tancredi ▪ Dr Jure Klanjšček ▪ Dr Goknur Topcu ▪ Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova ▪ Dr Mark Formosa ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou (ENTOG Representative) ▪ Dr Joan Lennon (trainee in Ireland)



In this report an overview will be given of all activities carried-out by the EBCOG SCTA in the year 2022.

Change of team members

Dr Karen Rose announced in early September that she wished to step down as chair of the SCTA due to time constraints with increasing work commitments, but wished to continue working for the SCTA and would support the incoming chair. The resignation from the post was accepted by the officers and the decision was made to appoint Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe as chair, which she thankfully accepted, prior to the announcement at the

September 2022 Executive meeting. Dr Rose provided the final SCTA report at the November 2022 Council meeting, following which Professor McAuliffe officially took over the chair.

Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos also announced at the September Executive meeting that he wished to step down from his role within the SCTA due to other work commitments. The SCTA thanked him for his support over the years and wished him well.

Dr Alexandra Kristufkova was subsequently appointed to replace his post as SCTA member and she volunteered to lead in the projects related to e-Learning/Simulation group, along with Dr Goknur Topcu.

Dr Mark Formosa was proposed and accepted as a new SCTA member at the Nov 2022 council meeting.

SCTA structure

The SCTA had 4 working groups throughout 2022, which included the following tasks:

1. To update the PACT/European Training Requirements (ETR) for the core postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
2. To Implement PACT/ETR across Europe
3. To update the TTT courses
4. To develop e-learning and simulation modules in both Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Leads

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. TTT group | Angelique Goverde |
| 2. Update PACT group | Fionnuala McAuliffe + Karen Rose |
| 3. Implementation of PACT group | Fedde Scheele + Anna Aabakke |
| 4. E-Learning/Simulation Group | Alexandra Kristufkova + Goknur Topcu |

TTT Group Activities

The TTT group's goals for 2022 were to:



- Update the remaining TTT lectures (some were updated in 2020)
- Develop online lectures/webinars to create a more hybrid course
- Find a way around the language restrictions (especially in hybrid courses)
- Recruit both EBCOG TTT trainers as well as local TTT trainers.

Unfortunately, due to the SCTAs efforts being concentrated on the updating of the PACT/ETR and Dr Angelique Goverde's own personal work commitments, most of the 2022 goals were not completed. Dr Goverde has identified Annalisa Tancredi and Goknur Topcu to support the TTT Group and hopes to complete the tasks in 2023, as well as hold TTT courses in Estonia and Austria in the first half of 2023.

The TTT group also introduced a new TTT facilitator Professor Helle Karro at the EBCOG council meeting in Nov 2022, who will be a great asset to the team.

Update PACT/ETR

The working group, led by Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, has been very productive this year. The PACT questionnaire was designed and disseminated to the country representatives at both specialist and trainee level by the EBCOG Executive meeting in March 2022. The results were collated and preliminary results were shared at the council meeting in May 2022. The SCTA has since been using the feedback from the questionnaires to review and update each section of the current PACT and intends to collate and review the amended sections with the SCTR, SCE and Subspecialities in 2023, before sharing it with UEMS and hopefully launching it by the end of 2023.

PACT Implementation

Professor Fedde Scheele has been actively involved over the last year with the EU4Health Programme (EU4H) with the European Commission and along with Professor Rudi Campo, has assisted in potentially obtaining an EBCOG Grant of €86,670. Professor Fionnuala



McAuliffe has been given the arduous task of assisting them in completing the essential paperwork to secure the grant.

The EU4Health programme was adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and was designed to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU. EU4Health is one of the main instruments to paving the way to a European Health Union, and the implementation of PACT across Europe falls within their remit of “Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making” as well as “Integrated work amongst national health systems”.

Obtaining the grant will assist the SCTA in implementing the updated PACT across countries that have been more challenging to reach during the original PACT implementation attempts. The PACT implementation group intends to identify local leads for each centre to disseminate PACT across each of the sites and to introduce educational principles according to PACT. Professor Fedde Scheele invited the council in Nov 2022 to suggest creative ideas to assist the SCTA in PACT implementation.

e-Learning/Simulation group

Whilst the SCTA has focused this year on updating PACT, there has been some work done on commencing the development of a virtual “Maternal diseases in pregnancy” and “Intra-



partum fetal monitoring” courses, as well as hybrid international virtual/hands-on “Teach the Breach” workshops as a joint venture with ENTOG.

Assistance was given earlier in the year to the team in the Masaryk University Hospital in Brno Czech Republic regarding simulation training. Professor Jacky Nizard and Dr Karen Rose met virtually with Dr Martin Huser and Dr Matej Anton to support them in developing a local simulation training programme using their newly acquired simulation equipment. Several suggestions were made regarding attending well established international courses as examples of what can be achieved in simulation training both in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Future Meetings

The working groups intend to meet regularly (virtually) to work on the various projects, whilst the core members will join 4 times a year, in timing with the EBCOG Council and Executive meetings. The EBCOG officers informed the SCTA that they will fund 1 in-person meeting a year, the timing of which is up to the committee/chair of the SCTA.

The SCTA will aim to meet with the subspecialities 1-2x a year as well as with the Educational Leads (Chair of the Education Branch, SCE and SCTR).

Dr Karen Rose

[Chair SCTR](#)



Standing Committee on Training Recognition Report

Committee Members

Professor Juriy Wladimiroff (Chair) ▪ Professor Jaroslav Feyereisl ▪ Professor Philippe Judlin ▪ Professor Ioannis Messinis ▪ Dr Jure Klanjšček ▪ Dr Karen Rose ▪ Professor Sebastian Kwiatkowski ▪ Professor Cansun Demir ▪ Dr Dmytro Ledin ▪ Dr Ferry Boekhorst ▪ Dr Nuno Martins ▪ Dr Rudi Campo



Also this year the focus was on 1st visits and re-visits of training units in general obstetrics & gynaecology across Europe. A total of 31 visits has been conducted in 12 countries, of which 7 were first visits and 24 were re-visits. Most of the visits were conducted on-line. The visits took place in the following countries: Belgium (Flanders), Ireland, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Greece, Turkey, Latvia, Slovenia, Hungary and Spain.

The system of a seven-year rotational system with an on-paper visit for the years 4-7 was abandoned for quality reasons. Instead, an 8-year cycle was introduced with on-site/on-line audits at year 0, yr 4 and yr 8.

The system of local Co-ordinators works well, ensuring a joint responsibility between EBCOG and national Societies of Obstetrics & Gynaecology regarding quality assessment of training through hospital visiting. Currently the following countries/areas have such a system in place: Flemish Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Greece and Poland.

For each of these countries it was decided to have the logo of its national Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecology on the Visiting Report and the signature of the local Co-ordinator added to the EBCOG Accreditation Certificate.

The large number of hospital-visits each year puts considerable pressure on the current volume of hospital visitors. There is a need for Training the Visitors courses to ensure the requests can be met in the future. A Training the Visitors Course will be organised at the Krakow Congress in May next year with focus on our colleagues in Poland.

The UEMS had requested information about the EBCOG Hospital Visiting Programme. A short historic overview and current policies were provided. A total of 106 training units in obstetrics & gynaecology in Europe is currently accredited by EBCOG, of which 68% has been audited and accredited by EBCOG more than once before.

The SCTR Chair was invited to give a presentation on the EBCOG hospital visiting programme at the ESHRE Training the Visitors Course in Brussels on 22nd November 2022 and a similar presentation at the UEMS CESMA meeting in Brussels on 10th December 2022.

Professor Juriy Wladimiroff

Chair SCTR

Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements Report

Committee Members

Dr Tahir Mahmood (Chair) ▪ Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay ▪ Professor Ioannis Messinis ▪ Professor Charles Savona Ventura ▪ Professor Johannes Bitzer ▪ Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos ▪ Dr Nuno Martins ▪ Professor Basil Tarlatzis ▪ Professor Frank Louwen ▪ Dr Hajra Khattak ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou



EBCOG was the first European professional organisation within EU to establish a multidisciplinary working group in 2010, during the presidency of Professor Peter Hornnes. The working group was chaired by Dr Tahir Mahmood. This working group produced two documents describing standards of care in Obstetrics and Neonatal Care and in Gynaecology. These two documents were launched at the EU parliament in October 2014 during the Presidency of Professor Chiara Benedetto. These standards of care were translated in Russian language by financial support from UNFPA-EECA Region and the Russian Version were launched at the EBCOG Congress in Torino, 2016.

In parallel to the work of the Standards of Care Working Group, EBCOG council approved the appointment of Professor Allan Templeton as: “Position Statements Lead” in 2013, who led in this role till his retirement from the EBCOG Executive Board in November 2017. During these four years, he worked alone and recruited key individuals as required to produce position statements. During these four years, six position statements were published.

Dr Tahir Mahmood was invited by Professor Jacky Nizard, President EBCOG to lead the new working group, “Standards by of Care and Position Statements” in November 2017, with an enhanced role to promote standards of care.

Over the past six years, profile of the working group has incrementally changed. The group has been proactive in expanding its horizon and making it more relevant to promote the women’s reproductive sexual rights and standards of care women through advocacy. The working group had also worked very closely with other stake holders such as UNFPA, FIGO, EMAS, EAPM and other professional organisations like European Society of Contraception, European Colposcopy society, ISIDOG, EURAPAG and CNGOF.





Based upon the enhanced role and productivity of the working group, The Council of EBCOG agreed that the working group should be elevated to a full standing committee, named, “EBCOG Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements” in May 2022. A full list of publications is attached (Appendix 1).

The new Standing Committee has been very active during 2022 to deal with new challenges affecting the SRH rights of women in Ukraine and in the USA by the timely publication of following position statements.

- *The consequences of armed conflict on the health of women and newborn and sexual reproductive health – A position statement by the European board and college of obstetrics and gynaecology (EBCOG)* Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Nuno Martins, Frank Louwen, Basil Tarlatzis. *EJOBRR* 2022; 274:80-82 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.05.015>)
- *The United States Supreme Court ruling and Women’s Reproductive Rights - A position statement issued by The European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)*. Frank Louwen, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, Nuno Nogueira Martins, Basil Tarlatzis on behalf of EBCOG *EJOBRR* 2022; 279: 130-131 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.012>)

The standing committee has also published some other position statements related to current developments within the speciality related to the care of women generally.

- *Commercial Air And High-Altitude Travel by Pregnant Women: A scientific review commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)* *EJOBRR* 2022; 272:217-219. Savona-Ventura Charles, Mahmood T.
- *The role of traditional complementary physical interventions in obstetrics- A scientific review commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)*. •Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood *EJOBRR* 2022; 279: 84-87 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.009>)
- *Folic acid fortification of flour to prevent neural tube defects in Europe – A position statement by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)* Sarah Petch, Fionnuala McAuliffe , Sharleen O’Reilly , Cliona Murphy , Sam Coulter-Smith, Diogo Ayes de Campos , Hajra Khattak , Tahir Mahmood. *EJOBRR* 2022; 279: 109-111 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.010>)



New Projects

The standing committee has invested a large amount of time on this new initiative. The objective is to investigate how services are being delivered within Europe, identify issues related to service delivery modelling and how inequalities within systems can affect outcomes.

1. Health inequalities in the provision of antenatal care within Europe:

A study group was established by the executive board to: “Address issues around health inequalities in the provision of antenatal care within Europe and EBCOG’s response”. This group was led by Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay and had concluded its work now by producing following publications. Furthermore, findings of this project will be presented at the EBCOG Congress in Krakow, 2023.

- *Antenatal care in Europe- A scientific study commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)* Goknur Topcu, Savona-Ventura C, Ayres-de-Campos D, Mukhopadhyay S, Messinis I, Mahmood T, Cassar OA, Sultana SG. *EJOGRB 2022; 272:30-36.*
- *EBCOG Position Statement: Inequalities in antenatal care provision in Europe: In the wake of an EBCOG survey.* Hajra Khattak, Ioannis E. Messinis, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, on behalf of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG). *EJOGRB 2022; 279: 107-108* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.011>)

2. Health inequalities in the provision of Sexual Reproductive Healthcare and the provision of Contraception

This joint project with European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health is being led by Professor Johannes Bitzer and Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay. A questionnaire had been used to collect data which are being analysed.

3. Health inequalities in screening for gynaecological malignancies in Europe.

This project is being led by Dr Nuno Martins to ascertain the current practice of screening for gynaecological malignancies by using a standardised questionnaire. Data have been collected and the working group is now analysing it. The findings of this project will be presented at the EBCOG Congress, Krakow, 2023.

Dr Tahir Mahmood CBE

Chair SCSCPS

Past-President EBCOG

Fellowship Working Group Report



The working group (WG) continued its work in assessing 11 fellowship applications and evaluating 9 eligible ones for 2022 (with extended deadline by February 28th, 2022). Three selected fellows were granted Fellowships in 2022. We have reported our activities during the Executive Board meeting in March 2022 and during Council in May 2022. New calls for Fellowships 2023 were made with a deadline of September 30, 2022. The WG considered 10 applications and 7 eligible were evaluated and 3 fellows for 2023 were selected. Reports of WG activities were presented during the Executive Board meeting in September 2022 and selected fellows were

announced during Council meeting in November 2022.

During the Executive meeting in March 2022 a proposal was made to award additional fellowships to Ukrainian doctors (trainees or consultants). This would be for a 3–6-month period for a total of €3000-6000). That proposal was approved by EBCOG Council in May 2022, and the WG was asked to create the rules and criteria for the fellowships.

We prepared draft rules for such fellowships and consulted them with Ukrainian representatives. The final draft was finalized in November 2022 and circulated among the members of Executive Board. The rules were completed by the end of the year and announcement for those additional fellowships will be posted on the EBCOG and ENTOG websites with a deadline for applications for 2023 by February 28th, 2023.

Membership

Peter Velebil
Sambit Mukhopadhyay
Ferry Boekhurst

Dr Petr Velebil

[Chair Fellowship Working Group](#)





Congress Report

International Perspective



The 28th EBCOG congress will take place on the 18-20 May 2023 at Krakow, Poland in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration of the Polish Society.

Regular meetings of the Scientific Committee, with the Congress President Basil Tarlatzis, and Polish Society President Piotr Sieroszewski, took place both virtually and in-person. The PCO (MedicaExpert), led by Mateusz Lubarski, has provided us with great support. The website launched in June 2022 and registration and abstract submissions opened in August 2022.

By the end of 2022, a robust scientific programme was developed. Five keynote speakers lead the programme, speaking on a wide variety of topics.

Twenty-four parallel sessions cover obstetrics, gynaecology, endometriosis, infertility, urogynaecology, lifestyle, minimally invasive surgery, innovation, and social issues. At least ten societies will contribute to the programme with their own sessions. Each day ends with hands-on training and masterclasses, the signature of each EBCOG congress and of major educational value.

An exciting social programme including a gala dinner is under development.

2022 also saw the launch of congress marketing efforts. National societies and special interest societies have received marketing materials such as a save the date and promotion video for distribution. Regular updates have been posted to our social media channels and boosted by ENTOG. The newsletter functionality on the EBCOG website was relaunched and used for mailings. Personalized outreach to EFOG-EBCOG Fellows and EBCOG accredited centres have activated our closest contacts to support the congress. The PCO has led sponsor outreach and have engaged various industry contacts. These efforts have resulted in reaching thousands of interested individuals within Europe and throughout the world.

In short, our efforts in 2022 have set the stage for an engaging congress in 2023.



Figure 1: ICE Congress Centre Krakow



The Scientific and Organizational Committees is very happy to announce over 500 abstract submission already received and we will continue working in 2023 to ensure an amazing success in Krakow.

Do not miss the opportunity to be there and plan your trip now!!

More info on <https://www.ebcog2023.com/>

Dr Rudi Campo

EBCOG Chair, Scientific Committee, 2023 Congress

EBCOG Chair, Educational Branch

EBCOG Executive, Western Region

Local Perspective



The 28th EBCOG Congress is planned for 18-20 May 2023 in Krakow, Poland. We are sure that it will be the biggest event in the calendar of Polish gynaecologists and obstetricians this year. The Congress will be held in the ICE CONGRESS CENTER, the most impressive and modern venue in Poland. We can provide services for 3000 participants if necessary. We have booked the entire venue with 4 lecture halls and over 20 meeting rooms. The capacity of the main hall is about 1900 people. We can organise 4 parallel sessions and 10 workshops per day.

The Polish Society of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians has 2500 active delegates, and we hope that at least 50% of them will be interested in attending the European Congress.

More than 45 speakers have been invited from Poland and more than 110 in total.

Many local and global medical companies are interested in booking exhibition booths and other services at the Congress.

The 28th EBCOG Congress will be very important for Polish gynaecologists and obstetricians because we have an important anniversary this year. 100 years ago the first official congress of the Polish Society was organised. It will be a great celebration for us and we are glad to be able to celebrate it with our European colleagues. This is the reason



Figure 2 Lecture Hall at ICE Congress Centre



why we will prepare an additional session on the history of the Society and other Polish medical sessions in parallel.

Professor Piotr Sieroszewski

President, PTGiP (Polish Society)

EBCOG Council Member



Figure 3 ICE Congress Centre Krakow

28th EBCOG CONGRESS
KRAKOW · 18th–20th MAY · 2023



See You in Krakow!



Discover more on:
www.ebcog2023.com

*Women's Health in Europe
facing up to the challenges*



Webmaster Report



WEBSITE

New website on WordPress platform was launched in January 2022. New website allows more flexibility, easier upgrading, better visibility on all devices.

Our website had over 50,000 views in year 2022, with more than 22000 visitors. Most visited part of webpage was Exam subpage (29% of views), followed by homepage, Congress and Fellowship subpages. Most visitors to our website were from United Kingdom, followed by Saudi Arabia, India and UAE. 31 posts were published. The most read post was “*Exam News: Two Dates for Part 1 KBA Exam in 2023, Additional Centre for Part 2 OSCE*”. Most visitors visit the website directly (54%), 38% are referred

from Google search and 1.8% from Congress website.

NEWSLETTER

We reactivated Newsletter sending in the end of 2022. In December, one newsletter was sent, which was delivered to 2202 subscribers, 564 reads and 58 clicks. We currently have 2475 subscribers.

FACEBOOK

Our FB page had 9568 followers and 9281 likes on 31.12.2022. We gained 700 new followers and 450 likes in 2022. 23 posts were published, with reach between 159 and 14,500. The most liked post was »Happy New Year« with 247 likes, and the post with most clicks (588) was post about Congress on 4.12.2022.

Facebook is the only social network that was active for EBCOG before 2022 and it still has by far the highest reach.

LINKEDIN

LinkedIn EBCOG group was reactivated in June 2022. It currently has 220 members (21 new members in 2022). 14 posts were published, most viewed post had 205 views.

TWITTER

Twitter account was launched in October 2022. It has 40 followers; 13 tweets were made in 2022.

INSTAGRAM

Instagram account was launched in December 2022. It has 138 followers, 11 posts were published in 2022, with 6-19 likes.

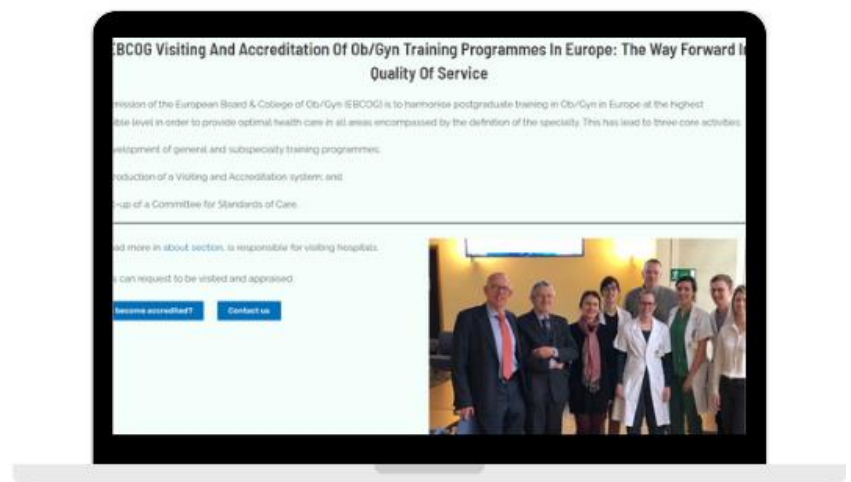
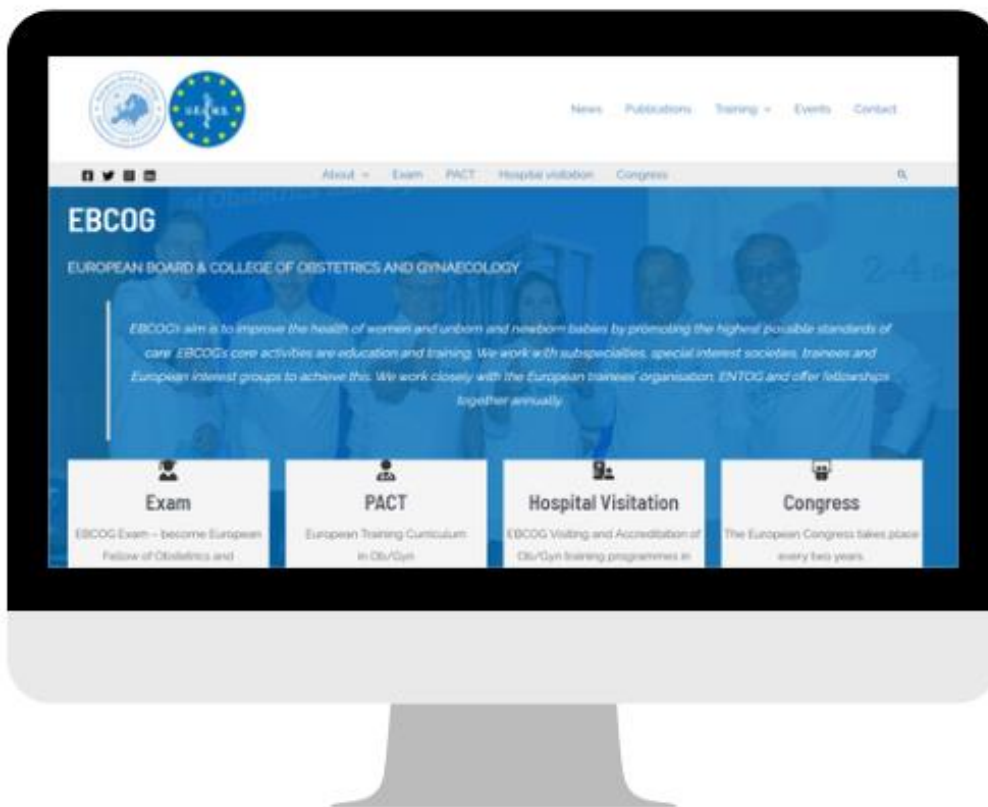


PLAN FOR 2022

- Improve website – in close cooperation with Standing Committees
- Expand the reach of social media accounts – at least to the level of our FB account
- Encourage Council members to follow all our accounts and share/like our posts as much as possible – especially from national societies' accounts

Dr Jure Klanjšček

EBCOG Webmaster



ENTOG Report



The European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) is a non-governmental, independent and non-profit organisation. ENTOG was officially founded at the 1st ENTOG Council in Athens, Greece, in 1997 in accordance with the Belgian Act of 25 October 1919, as amended by the 6 December 1954 Act. ENTOG is an official body of EBCOG (European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and therefore UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes). As such, ENTOG acts under the Belgian legislation and its headquarters are based in the UEMS building at Rue de l'industrie 24, B-1040, Brussels.

ENTOG celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

ENTOG Executive committee 2022-2023

On Friday 16th of September, the ENTOG council meeting took place. During the council elections took place for the new Executive committee of 2022-2023. Available positions were treasurer and member-webmaster.

ENTOG Executive committee for 2022-2023 (see Figure 1) is:

Position	Name	Country	Other Activities
President	Dr Ferry Boekhorst	The Netherlands	Member of SCTR and EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowship working group
Secretary-General	Dr Mei Yee Ng	Ireland	Member of SCE
Treasurer	Dr Hajra Khattak	United Kingdom	Member of SCSCPS
Member-Webmaster	Dr Rafał Zadykowicz	Poland	
Member	Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou	Greece	Member of SCTA and SCSCPS

Salient activities in 2022

A successful ENTOG Exchange took place in Norway from 12th to 16th of September 2022. Norwegian trainees hosted 48 European trainees for three days in their hospitals in 13 Norwegian cities. Afterwards the trainees met in Oslo where they were welcomed at Sogsvann lake for snacks and drinks around a bonfire. The next day, during the scientific meeting in Legenes hus in Oslo all trainees learned vaginal breech delivery skills. After this day of intensive learning the group moved to harbour for a dinner cruise in the Indre Oslofjord.



Figure 1: (left to right: Mei Yee Ng, Sofia Tsiapakidou, Ferry Boekhorst, Hajra Khattak, Rafal Zadykowicz)

Election of ENTOG Exchange in 2024 took place during the council meeting in Oslo. Out of three candidates the council elected Switzerland to be the host country of 2024.

ENTOG representatives in WATOG from 2021 until 2023 are Ferry Boekhorst and Sofia Tsiapakidou. Collaborating with WATOG ENTOG is preparing the organisation of a worldwide exchange programme called ‘One World Exchange’, which will take place in October 2023.

Scientific meetings: ENTOG contributed to and was actively involved and/or co-organising in the following scientific meetings:

- Paris Santé Femmes – International trainee workshops, Paris, May 2022.
- RCOG World Congress, London, June 2022
- FIGO Workshop Implementation Strategies of Sustainable Vaccination Programme for women, Prague, July 2022.
- ESGE YEP Exchange and ESGE Annual Meeting, Lisbon, Oct 2022.
- EUGA Annual Meeting, Antibes, Oct 2022.
- Slovakia Trainee Meeting, Banská Bystrica, Nov 2022.

ENTOG Publications in 2022:

1. Topcu EG, Khattak H, Boekhorst F, Horala A, Henriques MG, Roos EJ. Postgraduate Training in Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology: Trainees' Perspectives. *J Pediatr Adolesc Gynecol.* 2022; S1083-3188(22)00222-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jpag.2022.06.001

2. Goncalves-Henriques M, Horala A, Goknur Topcu E, Boekhorst F, Khattak H. The implementation of the European Working Time Directive in Europe and its impact on training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: a ten-year follow-up, *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol.* 2022, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.08.022>



EBCOG hospital accreditation visits

ENTOG took part in 3 on-site and 17 on-line hospital accreditation visits in close collaboration with the Standing Committee on Training Recognition of EBCOG.

Fellowships

3 fellows finished their 3-month EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships in 2022. Sofia Tsiapakidou from Greece visited Policlinico Augustino Gemelli in Rome, Ecem Eren from Turkey visited the University Hospital of Florence and Maria Petra Agius from Malta visited the University Hospital of Leuven.

For 2023 the fellowship grants are awarded to Elzbieta Bumbul-Mazurek from Poland, Fabiana Interlandi from Italy and Andreea Elena Dumitru from Romania.

Financial situation

ENTOG is supported financially by EBCOG with a €6500 annual contribution. The account is held by the EBCOG Treasurer. Due to the pandemic ENTOG did not spend the full amount in previous years. It added up to €11.577,64 by the end of 2021. The current balance by Nov 2022 is €10.193,29.

2023 is expected to be a busy year for ENTOG. This year will be the first year, in which ENTOG is going to organise three exchanges (Mini Exchange in Poland, ENTOG Exchange in UK and One World Exchange in Paris). ENTOG will be involved in the EBCOG Congress in Krakow (PL), the FIGO Congress in Paris (FR) and congresses of IPVS, EURAPAG and EUGA and probably many other events.

Dr Ferry Boekhorst

President, ENTOG





Member Society Updates

NFOG

The Nordic congress is taking place in Trondheim, Norway from 27-30. August 2023. The congress language is English. For further information please visit www.nfog.org.

NFOG 2023 27.-30. August 2023
Trondheim, Norway

**42nd Nordic Congress of Obstetrics
and Gynecology**

Women's health. A gate to wealth.

[Read more](#)





APPENDIX

A complete list of publications by the Standing Committee of Standards of Care and Position statements (Updated January 2023)

1. Public Health importance of antenatal care (2013)
2. Mahmood T & Hornnes P. Scaling up the screening. (in) Public Service Review- European Union issue 21 (March 2011): 214-217 (www.publicservice.co.uk)
3. IVF Treatment and Single Embryo Transfer
4. Medical Abortion
5. Obesity and women's Health
6. Alcohol and Pregnancy
7. Violence against women
8. Caesarean sections in Europe
9. Female Genital Mutilation
10. Improving Standards of Care in Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Eastern and Central Asian Region. *Entre Nous* 2015; 83: 26-27 (ISSN: 1014-8485)
11. Migrant women's Health Issues: Addressing Barriers to Health Care for Migrant Women with irregular status. *Entre Nous WHO Europe*: 2016;85: 18-21
12. Perinatal mental Health: Bridging the gaps in Policy and Practice. *Entre Nous WHO Europe*: 2016;85: 22-23
13. Ageing and Sexual Health: A joint opinion paper by EBCOG and EMAS
14. Paris Consensus on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Screening 2018: Joint Position statement issued by EBCOG and the European Diabetes in Pregnancy Study Group (DPSG), supported by FIGO.
15. Joint Position Statement produced by the European Association of Perinatal Medicine, FIGO and EBCOG on Screening for Gestational Diabetes.
16. Travelling during Pregnancy
17. Public Health Role of Sexual Health and Relationship Education
18. Vaccination in pregnancy



19. Herbal medication during pregnancy
20. Should we advise women that pre-labour caesarean section prevents pelvic floor dysfunction?- A joint scientific opinion paper by CNGOF and EBCOG: EJOGRB publication
21. Ethics of Stem Cells Research- EJOGRB
22. Gender Neutral HPV Vaccination for Young Adults- A joint position statement by EBCOG, ISIDOG, EFC, and EURAPAG. EJOGRB
23. The SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF WOMEN: Unfinished Business in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region
A joint Position Statement by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) and the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESCRH)
Tahir Mahmood, Johannes Bitzer, Jacky Nizard and Mary Short
On behalf of EBCOG and ESCRH
Issued to mark the 25th anniversary of the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Nairobi, 2019
(Published simultaneously in the European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology and European Journal of Contraception (2020)
24. Accelerating progress in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia- Reflecting on ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit.
EJOGRB invited commentary by Mahmood and Bitzer (2020)
25. How to reduce the potential risk of vertical transmission of SARS-COV-2 during vaginal delivery? Andrea Carossa, Stefano Cosma, Paola Serafini, Chiara Benedetto, Tahir Mahmood, (EJOGRB, July 20)
26. Ethical analysis of Cross-Border Reproductive Care, Françoise Shenfield, Ioannis Messinis, Tahir Mahmood (EJOGRB August, 20)
27. Simulation based training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology during COVID-19 pandemic: Erin Zimmerman, Nuno N. Martins , René H.M. Verheijen, Tahir Mahmood (EJOGRB February 2021)
28. EBCOG position statement on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant and breastfeeding women: Inés Martins, Frank Louwen, Diogo Ayres-de- Campos, Tahir Mahmood (EJOGRB May 2021)
29. EBCOG position statement: Inequality in fertility treatment in people of colour
Ioannis E. Messinis, Christina I. Messinis, Georgios M. Anifandis, Alexandros Daponte, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood (EJOGRB October, 2021)
30. EBCOG Position Statement to mark “ World patient safety day-safe mother and newborn care” on 17th September 2021 Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Basil Tarlatiz, Tahir Mahmood
EJOGRB October 2021
- 31: Publication of Abstracts from the EBCOG Congress 2021 published 2022 EJOGRB.



32. Goknur Topcu, Savona-Ventura C, Ayres-de-Campos D, Mukhopadhyay S, Messinis I, Mahmood T, Cassar OA, Sultana SG. Antenatal care in Europe- A scientific study commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) EJOGRB 2022; 272:30-36.

33. Savona-Ventura Charles, Mahmood T. Commercial Air And High-Altitude Travel by Pregnant Women: A scientific review commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) EJOGRB 2022;272:217-219.

34. Charles Savona-Ventura , Tahir Mahmood , Sambit Mukhopadhyay , Nuno Martins , Frank Louwen , Basil Tarlatzis. The consequences of armed conflict on the health of women and newborn and sexual reproductive health – A position statement by the European board and college of obstetrics and gynaecology (EBCOG) EJOBRRB 2022; 274:80-82) (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.05.015>)

35. The United States Supreme Court ruling and Women’s Reproductive Rights - A position statement issued by The European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG). Frank Louwen, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, Nuno Nogueira Martins, Basil Tarlatzis on behalf of EBCOG EJOGRB 2022; 279: 130-131 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.012>)

36. The role of traditional complementary physical interventions in obstetrics- A scientific review commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.009> Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood. EJOGRB 2022;279: 84-87

37. Folic acid fortification of flour to prevent neural tube defects in Europe – A position statement by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) Sarah Petch, Fionnuala McAuliffe, Sharleen O’Reilly, Cliona Murphy, Sam Coulter-Smith, Diogo Ayes de Campos, Hajra Khattak, Tahir Mahmood. EJOGRB 2022; 279: 109-111 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.010>

38. EBCOG Position Statement: Inequalities in antenatal care provision in Europe: In the wake of an EBCOG survey. Hajra Khattak, Ioannis E. Messinis, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, on behalf of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG). EJOGRB 2022; 279: 107-108 (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2022.10.011>)

Mini Symposia Series Published

1. Obesity and Gestational Diabetes Mellitus in Europe (Three papers series, published in 2015)
2. Infertility in Europe (Three papers series, published in 2016)
3. Paediatric and adolescent Gynaecology- three papers series jointly developed by EURAPAG and EBCOG published in 2019
4. Mini Symposium on Breech Presentation: Published in September 2020 (EJOG)
A series of 4 research papers,
Three invited commentaries, and
One Clinical Guideline from the French College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists



New EBCOG Initiative on health inequalities in Europe:

A concept paper written by Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, Ioannis Messinis and Charles Savona- Ventura was approved by the executive board in September, 20.

A study group was established by the executive board to : “Address issues around health inequalities within Europe and EBCOG’s response”.

First project involved investigating the provision of antenatal care in Europe.

This part of the initiative has been jointly delivered with the cooperation of European association of perinatal Medicine (Diogo Ayres-de-Campos) and ENTOG (Goknur Topcu).

Outputs

- Dr Goknur Topcu presented a paper on behalf of the study group at EBCOG Congress in Athens.
- One paper based on the data collected from the questionnaire-based study is ready for publication in the EJOGRB:
- A commentary has also been published on this project,
- EBCOG position statement to address issues of inequalities as identified in this project, has been published in EJOGRB.

Current ongoing Projects

Health inequalities in the provision of Sexual Reproductive Healthcare and the provision of Contraception

This joint project with European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, is being led by Professor Johannes Bitzer and Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay. A questionnaire has been used to capture data from the European countries to ascertain current status of the SRH services.

Health inequalities in the provision of screening for gynaecological malignancies in Europe. This project is being led by Dr Nuno Martins and his team to gather data from the EBCOG member countries by using a standardised questionnaire. The European Society of Gynaecological Oncology is also supporting this project.