



# EBCOG

# Annual Report

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# 2024

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European Board & College of  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology



# Table Of Contents

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>From the Desk of the President</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Who’s Who in EBCOG</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>From the Desk of the President-Elect</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Secretary-General Report</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Treasurer Report</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Educational Branch</b>	
<b>Standing Committee on Examination Report</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Standing Committee on Training and Assessment Report</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Standing Committee on Training Recognition Report</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements Report</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Fellowship Working Group Report</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Congress Report</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>Webmaster Report</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>ENTOG Report</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>EBCOG Activities</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Appendix</b> .....	<b>43</b>
Appendix 1: A complete list of publications by the Standing Committee of Standards of Care and Position statements	



## Foreword



Time flies like an arrow. The Paris Olympic provided an evanescent moment of shared celebration in the backdrop of ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East. People in more than 60 countries (almost 50 percent of the world's population) went to the polls in 2024. Nearly 80% of office holders losing their seats. These political shifts, alongside the economic instability caused by inflation have undoubtedly influenced health care and workforce. Global health care cost increased to its highest level since 2015 but fortunately the rate of increase in Europe has been the lowest.

Technological developments, such as the EU's foremost guidelines on the responsible use of generative artificial intelligence and the first commercial spacewalk, show potential for human creativity, while natural disasters, like the

Noto Peninsula earthquake in Japan and widespread flooding and wildfires, served as stark reminders of the ongoing climate crisis.

Health care, particularly women's health care, is influenced by sociopolitical and climate changes. EBCOG remains committed in upholding and advocating reproductive rights of women and improving standards of care through training and assessment. The Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements has been in the forefront in addressing inequalities and effects of climate change through various position papers.

EBCOG's international profile was marked by an EBCOG session in the All India Congress in Hyderabad, India, in an international symposium with the Japanese society in Yokohama, Japan and a session in the AOFOG (Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Conference in Bussan, South Korea. Apart from exchange of scientific ideas, we soon realised that as federations, we all face the same challenges in improving reproductive health care and upholding reproductive rights. Our collaboration with the Japanese society benefitted ENTOG trainees in broadening their horizons by visiting local hospitals in Yokohama and participating in the congress with their peers.

The examination department has been extremely active, and it was great to see collaborative work with the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health to deliver the first Diploma examination (EDSRH) in sexual and reproductive health in the autumn. The committee chairs and the members had been extremely busy in hospital recognition, revising PACT curriculum and incorporating simulation training (GESEA) in the curriculum.

Finally, we look forward to the 2025 European congress at Frankfurt where "Europe meets the world". A lot of preparations are underway and the congress committee under the



leadership of Dr Nuno Martins is leaving no stones unturned to make a very successful congress.

The report represents our work and commitment to improve women's health. I hope you all have an exciting 2025 full of joy, happiness and success. I look forward to seeing you all in Frankfurt in June 2025. Please have the dates in your diary.....

Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc FICOG (Hon)

President-Elect

Consultant Gynaecologist and Associate Professor (Hon) Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust UK



Figure 1 EBCOG Congress May 2023



## From the Desk of the President



I was humbled and honoured to take up the mantle from my predecessor Professor Basil Tarlatzis in November 2023. It is an honour to serve as President of an organisation that represents thirty-four Member societies. I sincerely hope I will be able to follow in his footsteps. November Council also saw the election of three new Officers. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming our Treasurer Piotr Sieroszewski, Secretary-General Helle Karro, and President-Elect Sambit Mukhopadhyay. I have no doubt their deeds will enhance the reputation of EBCOG for the years to come.

In my capacity as President-Elect, I had strengthened our ties with FIGO, AOFOG, FOGSI and not the least the WATOG. I was humbled to be invited as guest of honour in the annual convocation for the Fellowship of the All India College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AICOG). EBCOG's reputation reached far beyond the shores of Europe. I had the privilege to accompany my predecessor and President-Elect to the Japanese Congress in the Spring of 2024. I was particularly impressed by the opportunities the Japanese Society gave to our trainees to observe high-quality practice in obstetrics and gynaecology in Japan. I accompanied the President-Elect in the Annual Congress of the Oceania Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, where I presented EBCOG's role in harmonizing EBCOG's role in training and education across geographic barriers in Europe.

EBCOG had been forefront in recommending high quality of care for women and their babies. The President-Elect has kindly agreed to Chair the Working Group to update the document of the Standards of Care. It's a mammoth task and I have no doubt the Working Group will do justice to this. I am particularly thankful to Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos for taking the lead in developing the systematic review and the interests of national societies are remarkable. The new curriculum for sexual and reproductive health was launched in 2024. I was pleased to see the collaboration with our partner ESCRH, working toward capacity building in sexual and reproductive health and rights. The first successful examination took place in October 2024. It was great to meet our Polish trainees at Lodz, Poland. Our Autumn Executive meeting coincided with the Polish Trainees' congress and I was very pleased to see so many trainees attending the EBCOG session. Thanks to our new Treasurer, and indeed some of the Polish trainees who were ex-ENTOG members. Our congress committee chair is working hard and produced an exciting scientific programme for our congress in Frankfurt in 2025. A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes and I am indeed grateful to the many eminent obstetricians and gynaecologists who are giving their valuable time to attend this congress at my place of



work, Frankfurt. I am indeed privileged. The Chair and Members of SCTA worked hard to incorporate the GESEA simulation package within the PACT. PACT is EBCOG's flagship curriculum project and indeed my team is going to put it in the ETR format for approval by our parent body – UEMS.

As I reflect on last year's achievements, I feel the real asset of EBCOG lies with our colleagues and friends who have made this organisation very proud and indeed one of the best Sections of the UEMS.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt.

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Frank A. Louwen

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



*Figure 2: Professor Louwen attending the Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (JSOG) in April 2024 as part of the exchange programme with JSOG*



# 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 34 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, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel (Observer), Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia\*, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Serbia was ratified to join Council as a Member in December 2024.



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).

## STRUCTURE

### **Officers**

#### President

Professor Frank Louwen (Germany)

#### President-Elect

Assoc. Professor (Hon) Sambit Mukhopadhyay (United Kingdom)

#### Secretary-General

Professor Helle Karro (Estonia)

#### Treasurer

Professor Piotr Sieroszewski (Poland)

### **EBCOG Executive Members**

Dr Ferry Boekhorst (Western Region)

Professor Dimitrios Loutradis (until Dec. 2024); Professor Luigi Nappi (Dec. 2024 onward) (Southern Region)

Dr Karen Rose (until Nov. 2024); Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke (Nov. 2024 onward) (Northern Region)

Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova (Eastern Region)

Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe (Pan-European Region)

#### Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)

**Chair:** Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe

**Past-Chair:** Dr Karen Rose

#### Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)

**Chair:** Dr Petr Velebil

**Past-Chair:** Professor Juriy Wladimiroff

#### Standing Committee on Examination (SCE)

**Chair:** Professor Ioannis E. Messinis

#### EBCOG Congress Frankfurt 2025

**President:** Dr Nuno Nogueira Martins

#### 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) (as of Sept. 2024)

Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou – President  
Dr Esther McNeill – Treasurer  
Dr Rafał Zadykowicz – Secretary-General  
Dr Mei Yee Ng – Webmaster  
Dr Sara Vodopivec – Member

European Urogynaecology Association (EUGA)

Professor Stavros Athanasiou

European Association of Perinatal-Medicine (EAPM)

Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos

European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

Dr Maja Pakiz

European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)

Dr Tatjana Motrenko  
Dr Borut Kovacic, Embryology Representative  
Professor Antonis Makrigiannakis, ATCRM Working Group Coordinator

European Society of Gynaecological Surgery (ESGE)

Dr Ursula Catena

European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology (EURAPAG)

Professor Zana Bumbuliene (until June 2024) Professor Zoran Stankovic (June 2024 onward)

European Midwives Association (EMA)

Professor Victoria Vivilaki

European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESCRH)

Professor Johannes Bitzer

European Federation For Colposcopy (EFC)

Jana Zodzika

International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISPOG)

Sibil Tschudin

International Society for the Vulvovaginal Disease (ISSVD)

Pedro Vieira Baptista



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

(as of December 2024)

<b>Austria</b>	Professor Wolfgang Umek	Dr Philipp Fössleitner
<b>Belgium</b>	Dr Femke Delporte	Dr Mathieu Luyckx
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Assoc. Professor Milko Sirakov	Professor Blagovest Pehlivanov
<b>Croatia</b>	Professor Miroslav Kopjar	
<b>Cyprus</b>	Dr Marios Liassides	Professor Gabriel Kalakoutis
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Professor Marian Kacerovsky	Professor Vladimir Dvorak
<b>Denmark</b>	Professor Hanne Brix Westergaard	Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke
<b>Estonia</b>	Professor Helle Karro	Dr Piret Veerus
<b>Finland</b>	Professor Marjo Tuppurainen	Professor Päivi Polo
<b>France</b>	Professor Philippe Descamps	Professor Joelle Belaisch Allart
<b>Germany</b>	Dr Klaus Doubek	Professor Frank Louwen
<b>Greece</b>	Dr Nicolas Linardos	Professor Alexandros Rodolakis
<b>Hungary</b>	Dr Nandor Acs	
<b>Iceland</b>	Dr Matthildur Sigurdardottir	
<b>Ireland</b>	Dr Michael Robson	Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe
<b>Israel (OBSERVER)</b>	Professor Ron Maymon	
<b>Italy</b>	Professor Luigi Nappi , Dr Giuseppe Trojano	Dr Annalisa Tancredi
<b>Latvia</b>	Professor Dace Rezeberga	Dr Lāsma Līdaka
<b>Lithuania</b>	Professor Diana Ramašauskaitė	Professor Zana Bumbuliene
<b>Malta</b>	Mrs Isabelle Saliba	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Professor Fedde Scheele	Dr Angelique Goverde
<b>Republic of North Macedonia</b>	Professor Gligor Tofoski	
<b>Norway</b>	Dr Ragnar Kvie Sande	Dr Birgitte Sanda
<b>Poland</b>	Professor Piotr Sieroszewski	Professor Sebastian Kwiatkowski
<b>Portugal</b>	Professor Helder Ferreira	Professor Teresa Almeida Santos
<b>Romania</b>	Professor Daniel Muresan	Professor Radu Vladareanu
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova	Dr Mikuláš Redecha
<b>Slovenia</b>	Dr Lili Steblovnik	Professor Borut Kobal
<b>Sweden</b>	Assoc. Professor Mehreen Zaigham	Dr Kristin André
<b>Switzerland</b>	Professor Gabriele Merki	Professor Johannes Bitzer
<b>Turkey</b>	Professor Cansun Demir	
<b>Ukraine</b>	Professor Vyacheslav Kaminskyy	Dr Dmytro Ledin
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Dr Raneer Thakar	Professor 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



A year has gone, and time has come to look back at 2024. I was humbled and excited to be elected as President-Elect and along with my fellow Officers, I must say it was an exciting and productive 2024.

The year started with an EBCOG session in the All-India congress at Hyderabad, India where I accompanied the President. The EBCOG session was well attended, and it was great to see a local EFOG Fellow presenting her study on the interest of additional postgraduate qualifications of local postgraduates. EBCOG's international profile was further heightened by participation in the international symposium at the congress of the Japanese society at Yokohama and the biannual congress of Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Bussan, South Korea. I was fortunate to attend both the congresses and was particularly pleased to see ENTOG trainees being hosted by the Japanese society to visit local hospitals. It provided opportunities for the trainees to understand health systems outside Europe and of course networking with their Japanese counterparts. I am very thankful to Japanese and AOFOG for their kind invitation and hospitality.

Back home, I attended the Spring Council meeting of UEMS. It was interesting to note the workforce crisis of health care professionals across Europe and difficulties in delivering services safely. EBCOG is undertaking a study on workforce issues across Europe. Hopefully it will give us new insights about problems we are facing with recruitment and retention of trainees and specialists. Discussion centred around competence-based curriculum, and various specialties were in their formative stage of developing such curriculum. Clearly, we are way ahead with our PACT curriculum and I am grateful to the Chair and committee members of SCTA for incorporating simulation in the curriculum following a European Union Grant for the GESEA project.

I was invited to the annual European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health Congress in Bilbao, Spain. It was the tireless work of Professor Bitzer which led to a successful collaboration between these two societies and development of a Diploma examination in sexual and reproductive health. The Annual Congress of ESCRH provided the opportunity



*Figure 3 Sambit Mukhopadhyay lecturing at the Polish Society Congress for Trainees in September 2024*



to present the combined work of ESCRH and EBCOG in developing the Diploma examination and in autumn we introduced the first European Diploma in Sexual and Reproductive Health (EDSRH).

EBCOG remains committed in improving standards of care of women and their children through training, education and assessment. A new guideline working group is formed under the stewardship of Professor Diogo Ayres De Campos. The group will have an arduous task to review PICO questions and generate systematic reviews.

A second working group, chaired by me is updating the Standards of Care document which is over 10 years old. The Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements remains prolific and continues to publish position papers and surveys looking at women's health care service provisions and delivery. EBCOG's work has increased phenomenally, and I am grateful to all committee members and the chairs who have given their valuable time to improve women's health across Europe.



We are now well settled in our office at Leuven, Belgium. However, on invitation of the President of the Polish society we had our Autumn Executive meeting at Lodz, Poland. We are indeed thankful to the President of the Polish society (who is the EBCOG Treasurer!) as we all like some variation and change of scene and it indeed allowed us to meet many local members and trainees.

We welcomed two new Executive Members in the Executive team – Professor Luigi Nappi and Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke. I look forward to 2025 which I am sure will be exciting with new challenges and achievements. I am certainly looking forward to the biggest events in Europe – the 29th European Congress at Frankfurt and the FIGO World Congress at Cape Town, South Africa. It is significant event for EBCOG as EBCOG president takes the reins of FIGO.

Best wishes

Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc FICOG (Hon)

[President-Elect](#)

[Consultant Gynaecologist and Associate Professor \(Hon\) Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust UK](#)

[Chair, Professional Development Committee RCOG](#)

# Secretary-General Report



I have been elected to the position of SG in the end of the year 2023. I am happy to present my first, year 2024 report.

One important Project undertaken in 2024 was **revision of the EBCOG constitution and Bylaws**. I and my fellow Officers and Executive members continued the process initiated by past SG. The revisions fall into the following categories:

- Ensuring all information is correct and up-to-date.
- As a Section of UEMS, revisions have been made to ensure consistency with our legal entity.
- Past-President as a position and term lengths for

Committee Chairs have been proposed.

- Executive geographic regions are clarified.
- The subspecialties are stated to be recognized.
- Transition arrangements are proposed in case of the unplanned departure of an Officer, Executive, or Chair.
- Mention of Working Parties has been removed in favour of Working Groups where relevant.
- Removed reference to “non-starred items” as this is specific to RCOG.
- Minor edits have been made for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

A first draft of the revised Constitution and Bylaws was circulated for Council review in February 2024 and second time in June 2024. Additional comments were surfaced in the Executive meetings in March and September 2024. Online voting through the Election Buddy platform was used to collect votes and results were announced at the Council meeting in December 7. Out of 32 EBCOG member countries, 30 were eligible for voting and all voted in favour for amendment.



To improve the training in women’s health and to enhance collaboration between EBCOG and subspecialty organisations **the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was developed and agreed between Officers of EBCOG and leaders of relevant Subspecialty organizations. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with ESGO and ESHRE. Conversations have started with EUGA and EAPM. MoUs are also in progress with other partner societies, such as ESGE and ESCRH.

**Elections:** voting for **Northern Region Executive** was held in May 2024 and for **Southern Region Executive** in December 2024. Anna Aabakke was elected as Northern and Luigi Nappi as Southern representative. Electronic voting system was used. The next election will be held in Spring Council 2025 for Eastern Region Executive.

Due to the organisational focus on education and training, EBCOG is asked to endorse various courses or educational programmes. Therefore it was important to agree about the



principles on which kind of events to endorse. The endorsement principals have been finalized and described in “**Endorsement policy of EBCOG**”. Courses and educational activities by divisions of EBCOG are unconditionally endorsed; other courses and events will be reviewed. EBCOG will not endorse industry events. When endorsement is agreed, the course organisers may use the EBCOG logo, and the event will be listed on the EBCOG website. When the course has prior approval from UEMS EACCME program, both UEMS and EBCOG logos may be used.



EBCOG joined with the **Coalition of Fertility** - the main objectives of the Coalition are to act as a united voice to raise the issues of (in)fertility in EU political decision-making circles, remove barriers and reduce inequalities in access to fertility education and treatments and to increase policymakers’ awareness.

EBCOG is as strong as **member societies**. Outreaching of national organisations and Council Members is very important. Collaboration and discussions between regional Executive Member and Council Members will help to endorse it. To make it easier for new members to get into the swing of EBCOG functioning, an introductory document is under development. In a post-council survey, some council members reflected the wish to have more interactive discussions during the Council meeting. To receive and address feedback from Council members continues to be important. On the other hand, to reach countries, regularly updated contact information and response from countries is required.

The EBCOG is committed to promoting the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of girls and women and their equitable access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and services. To reduce unmet needs, it is important to keep women’s sexual and reproductive health issues high in the agenda in Europe and globally. EBCOG aim in “to improve the health of women and unborn and newborn babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care.” To achieve this aim, the prerequisite is that whole EBCOG family will work together to promote education and training.

The war in Ukraine began on 24 February 2022, causing thousands of civilian casualties and destroying infrastructure, including hospitals. Assisting and supporting Ukraine remains priority.



I would like to thank all Council and Executive members who elected me. I am honoured to serve as Secretary-General and to collaborate with EBCOG family.

Looking forward for successful EBCOG congress in Frankfurt.

Helle Karro

Secretary-General

Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Tartu

Board member, Estonian Gynaecologists’ Society

# Treasurer Report



EFOG examinations and membership subscriptions provided the greatest portion of revenue with the incomes from exam and courses. The annual income in the current fiscal year ending 31st December 2024 was around 215,000€ which is little less than the previous year. At the end of the year, we were overspent by over 104,000€. This is higher compared to previous year figure of 54,000€. The additional expenses were related to expenses related to EBCOG's participation at the FIGO congress, preparations for the EBCOG Congress 2025 and organising overseas OSCE at Dubai, UAE.

On the background of political instability, rising inflation and the current financial situation of the UEMS which do not generate any return. A new initiative was introduced by the UEMS in investing unused funds from the sections and bodies to

investment accounts to generate some income from savings. It has been proposed by UEMS that the interest from the common savings account will be used to support the UEMS bodies and proportionally support contributing UEMS bodies. This will also allow offsetting part of the total management fees charged UEMS. EBCOG invested over 230,000€ in a common savings account in January 2024 for three months. It needs to be seen the amount of investment return plunged back to EBCOG account at the end of three months term. However, given the fact that in the next financial year EBCOG needs to invest a substantial amount in guidelines development, updating Standards of Care documents and co-funding the GESEA4EU project, a substantial sum of money going into the investment account was not to sustain.

An important milestone in the history of EBCOG was receiving a grant over 125,000€ for GESEA4EU project to incorporate simulation into the PACT curriculum. EBCOG has agreed to co-fund 40 % of the financial expenditure related to implementation of the simulation project in the curriculum. We had to take expert advice from EU accountants and the EU grant office. Thanks to Kate for her diligent work and attention to the details we have now been able to claim the money and reimburse some of the expenses.

Taking account of 52,000€ from the outstanding EACCME fees from CME and 6 years DMEYB 6-year bond (matures 2028) of 72,000€, the total asset at the end of December 2024 was over 500,000€. Unfortunately, it seems unlikely we will receive the outstanding CME income from UEMS in the near future.



It was an honour to serve as the Treasurer of the Board. I learned a lot during my first year of duty as Treasurer. I hope the further collaboration with all of you will go seamlessly. I look forward to seeing you all in the next Council meeting at Frankfurt, Germany.

Prof. dr hab. n. med. Piotr Sieroszewski

Treasurer

Head of the 1st Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Department of Fetal Medicine and Gynecology, Medical University of Lodz

President of the Polish Society of Gynecologists and Obstetricians



Figure 4 Prof Sieroszewski promoting the EBCOG 2025 Congress



## Educational Branch

### Standing Committee of Examination Report

#### Committee Members

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



One of the main activities of EBCOG is the European Fellowship Examination in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EFOG-EBCOG). The Standing Committee on Examinations (SCE) is responsible for conducting the exams on a regular basis. The examination attracts candidates from countries within and outside Europe.

In 2024, both Part 1 (KBA) and Part 2 (OSCE) exams were held twice each. The Part 1 written examination was held online on 16th of March and 31st of August, while the Part 2 oral examination was held onsite on 29th of June in Lisbon and 9th of November in Dubai. Pre-Exam courses were also organised for both parts before each examination.

Applications for the Part 1 exams (March and August) were submitted by 139 candidates, of whom 122 paid both the administrative and registration fees. A total of 103 candidates finally sat the Part 1 exams (47 in March and 56 in August). This shows an equal distribution of candidates on the two dates and it was therefore decided that the 2025 Part 1 exam will also be held twice (March and August). As for the Part 2 exams, the number of candidates was only 9 in Lisbon and 40 in Dubai. It was therefore decided that the 2025 Part 2 exam will be held once, not in Dubai this time, but in a European city, most likely Istanbul, after investigating whether it meets the requirements.

The exams have maintained their reliability over time since they were first introduced in 2016. For the Part 1 exam, the pass mark was set as always using the modified Angoff method by a panel of judges who have gained experience over time. In this process, the performance of the candidates was also taken into account. Of the 103 candidates, 49 passed the Part 1 exam (29 in March and 20 in August), a passing rate of 47.57%. After each Part 1



exam, the test was validated by calculating the difficulty of the questions, the discriminative power and the reproducibility using Cronbach's alpha. Candidates who passed the Part 1 exams became eligible for the Part 2 exams.

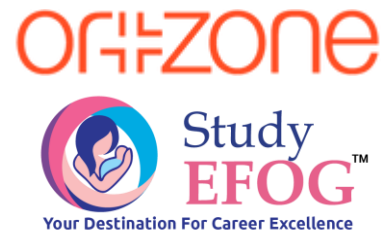
The Part 2 exams were, as usual, in the form of an OSCE with 10 stations. The pass mark was set separately for each station as the median score of the borderline candidates, as rated by the examiners. Of the 49 candidates who participated, 43 passed (a passing rate of 87.70%) (9/9 in Lisbon and 34/40 in Dubai).

The overall passing rate of the EBCOG exams (Part 1 and Part 2) for the year 2024 was 41.74% (43/103). Therefore, the total number of new fellows (EFOG-EBCOG) for the year 2024 is 43.

Towards the end of the year, the Part 2 exam Lead, Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos, stepped-down and the SCE appointed Dr Mark Formosa from Malta as the new Lead.

The questions for the Part 1 examinations are written by members of the Question Writing Group (QWG) as well as other experienced volunteers. All questions are reviewed by the Quality Assurance Group (QAG) before being used in the two examination papers. Most QAG meetings in 2024 were virtual meetings, except for one in-person meeting in Leuven.

The EBCOG exams are conducted with the support of ORZONE from Sweden through its electronic platform. On the other hand, EBCOG continues its collaboration with the company StudyMEDIC from India in organising Pre-Exam courses. In 2024, two courses for Part 1 and two courses for Part 2 were held, one of which was onsite (Dubai).



EBCOG collaborates with European scientific societies to conduct exams in subspecialties of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The first collaboration began in 2017 with the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) and continues to this day with success. In this fellowship examination (EFRM-ESHRE/EBCOG), for the year 2024, 15 candidates participated in the Part 1 written exam held online on 8th of June (34 applications submitted - 16 approved) and 9 of them (56.2%) passed. The Part 2 examination (OSCE) took place in Amsterdam on 6th of July at the ESHRE annual meeting. A total of 12 candidates participated of which 9 (75%) passed the Part 2 examination. Thus, the total number of new fellows (EFRM-ESHRE/EBCOG) for the year 2024 is 9.





Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between EBCOG and the European Society of Contraception (ESC) for cooperation in the organisation and conduct of examinations. Individuals from both parties have worked together and have defined two projects, one is a diploma and is aimed at young doctors, midwives, nurses or pharmacists and the second is a fellowship and is aimed at senior Obstetricians-Gynaecologists with



experience in the field of contraception and sexual health. The first Diploma examination was held this year on 12th of October and was an online written examination with multiple choice questions (MCQ). A total of 19 doctors (Obstetricians and Gynaecologists or trainees) participated and 13 of them (68.42%) passed. The Diploma examinations are already

scheduled for 2025 (April and October) and the Fellowship examinations for July.

The Council of European Specialist Medical Assessment (CESMA) is an advisory body to UEMS. The Executive Committee and the Council meet twice a year in-person only. The Council is composed of representatives of the medical specialities, which are sections of UEMS. EBCOG is represented by the Chair of SCE. The agenda of the meetings includes items related to the exams (organisation, type, quality assurance, questions, setting the pass mark, exam security, avoiding cheating, etc.). An important activity of CESMA is the appraisal of European exams upon request. It is worth recalling that our EFOG-EBCOG fellowship exam has been positively appraised by CESMA/UEMS. In the year 2024, one CESMA meeting was held in May in Antwerp and the other in December in Brussels. In recent meetings, the usefulness of Artificial Intelligence in exams has started to be discussed.

Overall, the EFOG-EBCOG examination has been established as a tool that enables candidates to gain a qualification in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The examination has been particularly well received in countries outside Europe. Further expansion of EFOG-EBCOG fellowship exam and EBCOG collaborative exams should be a priority.

Professor Ioannis E. Messinis

Chair SCE



Figure 5 Part 2 OSCE Exam, Lisbon, 29 June 2024



# Standing Committee on Training and Assessment Report

## Committee Members

Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe (Chair) ▪ Dr Karen Rose (immediate Past-Chair) ▪ Dr Angelique Goverde (Past-Chair) ▪ Professor Fedde Scheele ▪ Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke ▪ Dr Annalisa Tancredi ▪ Dr Jure Klanjšček ▪ Dr Goknur Topcu ▪ Dr Ursula Catena ▪ Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova ▪ Dr Mark Formosa ▪ Dr Anabela Serranito ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou (ENTOG Representative) ▪ Dr Helena Bartels (trainee in Ireland)



This report gives an overview of activities carried-out by the EBCOG SCTA in 2024.

## **SCTA structure**

The SCTA had 4 working groups throughout 2024, which included the following tasks:

1. To update the (Project in achieving consensus in training) PACT/European Training Requirements (ETR) for the core postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
2. GESEA4EU European Project
3. To implement PACT/ETR across Europe
4. To continue Train the Trainers (TTT) courses
5. To develop E-learning modules in both Obstetrics and Gynaecology Talk With The Experts (TWTE)

## Leads

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Update PACT group            | Fionnuala McAuliffe + Sofia Tsiapakidou     |
| 2. GESEA4EU European Project    | Sofia Tsiapakidou                           |
| 3. Implementation of PACT group | Fedde Scheele + Anna Aabakke + Mark Formosa |
| 4. TTT group<br>Topcu           | Angelique Goverde+ Karen Rose + Goknur      |
| 5. E-Learning Group             | Alexandra Kristufkova + Goknur Topcu        |



## Update PACT/ETR

A survey of European trainees and Council members on the 2018 version of PACT was undertaken in 2022. During 2023 and 2024 SCTA met regularly to incorporate these comments into the next version of PACT. We are aware that the original PACT was the outcome of a DELPHI process so it is important that in our amendments we keep to the core content of PACT, which is the consensus view of trainers in Europe. Feedback has been obtained from the specialty societies in the amended version.

Clinical Leadership (led by Dr Anabela Serranito) received significant support from ENTOG and SCTA members alike and was incorporated into the ‘non-technical skills’ section of PACT during 2024. Revision of PACT requires a considerable amount of work and the committee has demonstrated exceptional dedication to this.

Final version following a rigorous consultation and revision phase was approved by EBCOG Executive and Council during 2024. Prof McAuliffe presented revised PACT at UEMS council in Brussels on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. We plan to submit PACT 2025 to UEMS for approval in 2025.

## GESEA4EU European Project (<https://gesea.eu/gesea4eu-about2/>)

In 2022 ESGE in collaboration with EBCOG led on a successful grant application led by Dr Rudi Campo and Prof Fedde Scheele to improve training in gynaecological endoscopy throughout Europe, with EBCOG as a collaborator. The project runs from Oct 2022 to Feb 2025. The outputs of GESEA have been incorporated into PACT 2025.



## GESEA4EU Project summary

With the introduction of endoscopy, advanced imaging techniques, and robotics, modern surgery is becoming increasingly more digital and requires adaptations to the educational model to address the demands for new skills as needed not only by surgeons but also by healthcare professionals in general. The increase in complexity that these developments bring, demands an equipped operating room, where surgeons, nurses and other supportive staff can operate in synergy and with increased efficiency. The GESEA Educational Programme is well established and provides certification to gynaecological surgeons with more than 3,200 certificates issued to date. While certification and diploma modules of GESEA’s Educational Programme for gynaecological surgeons are standardized and implemented in Diploma Centres across Europe and beyond, the training itself is much less standardised.

The aim of this project is to develop standardised learning modules applicable and recognised across Europe based on our consortium partners’ experiences. ESGE wishes to expand the scope of the programme to include training also for nurses and supporting non-clinical staff, including related industries. Endoscopy and robotics require a high level of skills and teamwork between all parties of the health workforce which can only be achieved through efficient and

validated training. Lastly, standardisation of the training of the Trainers that will execute the programme is also important for quality assurance.

During the scope of this project, new learning modules were developed and trialled in 12 centres within the existing network. These modules were taken up in the GESEA Educational Programme to be implemented across Europe and will be promoted through the European Board & College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as part of the EBCOG-PACT framework.

During 2023 a survey on current status of obstetric and gynaecological simulation facilities was carried out and informed the PACT curriculum in gynaecological endoscopy and obstetric simulation skills.

In 2024 a GESEA beginners' course was held from Sep 23-24<sup>th</sup> and hosted 10 ENTORG trainees. SCTA is grateful to EBCOG for the support towards travel and accommodation for our trainees to attend this course.



Figure 6 GESEA4EU Basic Training September 2024

### PACT Implementation

Implementation of PACT remains a priority for SCTA and the GESEA4EU project will assist in this will the roll out of GESEA4EU into many new centres. The aim is to identify local leads in each centre across Europe for PACT implementation.

In 2024 agreement was reached within the SCTA (with Prof Fedde Scheele and Dr Mark Formosa leading) together with SCTR leads Prof Wladimiroff and Dr Petr Velebil to incorporate a PACT implementation survey into the hospital visits. The survey now lists ten knowledge and skills in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and non-technical skills as outlined in PACT to assess how centres are implementing PACT. The aim is to stimulate interest in PACT and for centres applying for EBCOG accreditation to consider how to incorporate PACT principles and training into their training programmes. Final version of the survey was approved in 2024.



### Train the Trainers (TTT)

The overall aims are twofold:



- To help trainers, supervisors and programme directors develop the educational skills they need to support the training delivery,
- To establish, on a national basis, EBCOG supported TTT courses in those countries that currently do not have a TTT programme.

The TTT group’s goals for 2024 were to continue with TTTS courses. There are also plans to apply for CME points for TTT course participation.

### E-Learning group - Talk With The Experts (TWTE)

The first Talk With The Experts (TWTE) was held on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and hosted on MedAll. There were 95 registered and 50 attendees. The feedback received was excellent. The second one was held on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 on fertility preservation in adolescent girls with cancer.

SCTA would like to explore if we could host these valuable educational sessions on an e-learning platform. This opens up the possibility of offering CPD for viewing these educational sessions.



### Future Meetings

The working groups will meet regularly (virtually) to work on the committee projects, whilst the core members will join 4 times a year, in timing with the EBCOG Council and Executive meetings. The SCTA will continue to meet with the subspecialties 1-2x a year as well as with the Educational Leads (Chair of the Education Branch, SCE and SCTR).

I am honoured to Chair this committee of exceptionally motivated and enthusiastic individuals and look forward to another productive year of committee work.

Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe

### Chair SCTR



Figure 7 SCTA Committee, May and December 2024

## Standing Committee on Training Recognition Report

### Committee Members

Dr Petr Velebil (Chair) ▪ Professor Juriy Wladimiroff (Past-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 Rafal Zadykowicz ▪ Dr Nuno Martins



The SCTR met four times: on line three times and on-site once. In 2024 the main focus has been on conducting first visits and re-visits on-site and on-line to training units across Europe.

Eleven visits hospital visits have been completed:

Czechia	Ostrava, Bulovka
Flemish Belgium	Brugge, Kortrijk, Tienen, Aalst, Leuven, Merksem
Poland	Warsaw 2 x
Turkey	Ankara

Several visits, formerly proposed for 2024 were postponed for 2025.

There were five Local Co-ordinators in 2024: Prof Mikulas Redecha for The Czech Republic and Slovakia; Prof Alexandros Rodolakis for Greece; Dr Guy Orye for Flemish Belgium; Prof Sebastian Kwiatkowski for Poland and Prof Helle Karro for the Baltic States. In 2024, the local coordinators were consecutively invited to join the on-line SCTR meetings.

The plan for conducting a Training the Visitors course at the EBCOG Congress 2025 in Frankfurt was outlined in 2024.

The EBCOG SCTR and SCTA collaborated on amendments of the forms related to the accreditation visits in order to obtain better information on how each training unit is currently implementing the PACT and to what extent; both Chair and Past-Chair of the SCTR participated in SCTA meetings related to this issue.

The procedure of informing the EBCOG Treasurer about planned hospital visits was reviewed. The Visiting Agreement Form describing the financial conditions for the visit and signed by the Head of Department of the training unit to be visited should be sent to the EBCOG Treasurer at least one month before the planned visit. The Certificate of Accreditation can be issued only if the financial obligations were fulfilled after the visit.



Professor Sebastian Kwiatkowski successfully re-activated EBCOG Hospital Visiting in Poland – two centres were visited in 2024, another one is being planned.



There has been ongoing activity from the SCTR on the amendments of the visit-related forms: Visiting Report template (finalized), HOD Application form, and Trainee Application form. Also steps to unify the documentation for the first and repeated visits and for on-site and on-line visits were undertaken, with a view of digitalization of the process in future.

With respect to the EBCOG and hospital accreditations, there are currently three modalities of EBCOG involvement:

1. EBCOG accreditations with clear rules and requirements (fee, Executive Board approval, EBCOG Certificate, published on the EBCOG web). This is the current model for the hospital visitations by the SCTR.
2. Nationally run EBCOG accreditations, fully in line with the EBCOG rules and principals (fee, Executive Board approval, EBCOG Certificate, published on the EBCOG web) – currently five local coordinators. Belgium is an excellent example of this model and the newly established Polish system is promising.
3. National accreditations using the EBCOG example, with closer or looser links to EBCOG and PACT (without fee, without EBCOG certificate, not being published on the EBCOG web). This model needs further attention in 2025.

The Chair of the SCTR with support of the EBCOG webmaster and the EBCOG Central Office continued work on the electronic repository of accreditation visits.

All the aspects of the SCTR work in 2024 were substantially supported by experience and wisdom of the Past-Chair Professor Juriy Wladimiroff. The current Chair Dr. Petr Velebil very much values this cooperation and contribution to the smooth continuation of the SCTR activities. Great thanks to Professor Wladimiroff for his work!

Petr Velebil, MD. PhD.

[Chair SCTR](#)

[Chair Fellowship Working Group](#)



## Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements Report

### Committee Members

Dr Tahir Mahmood (Chair) ▪ Assoc. Professor Sambit Mukhopadhyay ▪ Professor Ioannis Messinis ▪ Professor Charles Savona Ventura ▪ Professor Johannes Bitzer ▪ Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos ▪ Dr Petr Velebil ▪ Professor Gligor Tofoski ▪ Dr Ferry Boekhorst ▪ Assoc. Professor. Alexandra Kristufkova ▪ Dr Hajra Khattak ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou ▪ Professor Juriy Wladimiroff (invited member) ▪ Professor Sophie Alexander (invited member) ▪ Dr Zixing Zhong (honorary member) ▪ Assoc. Professor Mehreen Zaigham (joined Dec 2024) ▪ Dr Agnieszka Horała (until Dec 2024) ▪ Dr Mei Yee Ng (until Dec 2024) ▪ Professor Frank Louwen (Ex-Officio) ▪ Professor Piotr Sieroszewski (Ex-Officio) ▪ Professor Helle Karro (Ex-Officio) ▪ Kate Thorman (EBCOG Secretariat)



EBCOG was the first European professional organisation within the EU to establish a multidisciplinary Working Group in 2010, to develop standards of care for women's health services under the Chair of 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 documents were translated in the Russian language with financial support from UNFPA-EECA Region and these documents were launched at the EBCOG Congress in Torino, 2016.

Professor Allan Templeton was invited to lead a newly established "Position statements working group" in 2013, and he led in this role till his retirement from the EBCOG Executive Board in November 2017. In November 2017, the existing Working Group was renamed as "Standards by of Care and Position Statements Group" and Dr Tahir Mahmood was appointed as a new Chair. Based upon the enhanced role and productivity of the Working Group, the Council of EBCOG agreed to elevate the Working Group to a Standing Committee in May 2022.

The main thrust of the committee's work is to promote the women's reproductive and sexual rights and standards of care not only in Europe but globally through advocacy. We work very closely with other stakeholders such as UNFPA-EECARO, FIGO, EMAS, EAPM and other professional organisations like European Society of Contraception, European Federation for Colposcopy, ISIDOG, EURAPAG and CNGOF.

The Standing Committee has remained very active in 2024 by working in following key areas:



- Publishing position statements,
- Addressing issues of inequalities in healthcare in Europe by carrying out surveys,
- By setting up a working group to review standards of care documents which were published in 2014
- Publication of EBCOG's biannual congress in EJOGRB.

All papers produced by the standing committee are published in the European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology (EJOGRB).

### *Papers published during 2024*

- Variations in sexual and reproductive health services for the provision of comprehensive contraceptive and abortion services across Europe: A questionnaire-based study commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (EBCOG) and European Society of Contraception (ESC) Hajra Khattak, Sofia Tsiapakidou, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, Sharon Cameron, Ali Kubba, Gabriele Merki-Feld, Charles Savona-Ventura, Jure Klanjšček, Johannes Bitzer. EJOG 299 (2024); 350-358
- Omega-3 fatty acid supply in pregnancy for risk reduction of preterm and early preterm birth: A position statement by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Frank Louwen. EJOG 295 (2024); 124-125
- European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) position statement on the use of laser vaginal devices for treatment of genitourinary syndrome of menopause, vaginal laxity, pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence Ilias Giarenis, Sofia Tsiapakidou, Martino Zacche, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood. EJOG 299 (2024); 342-244
- European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology position statement on maternal mortality surveillance in Europe Athanasios F. Kallianidis, Petr Velebil, Sophie Alexander, Alexandra Kristufkova, Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Sambit Mukhopadhyay. EJOG 299(2024); 345-349
- Current status and future of genomics in fetal and maternal medicine: A scientific review commissioned by European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) M. O'Brien, S. Doyle, F.M. McAuliffe, Frank Louwen, Tahir Mahmood. EJOG 299 (2024); 336-341
- The effects of climate change and environmental pollution on human reproduction: A scientific review commissioned by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and





Gynaecology (EBCOG) Ferry Boekhorst, Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Sambit Mukhopadhyay. EJOG 301(2024):19-23

- Safer sex: Access, Availability and Quality of sexually transmitted infections healthcare across Europe; Call for action by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Healthcare (ESC): S Tsiapakidou, H Khattak, S Mukhopadhyay, T Mahmood, Charles Savona-Ventura, I Messinis, J Klanjšček, J Bitzer. \*\* EJOG 303 (2024); 349-354
- Caesarean section rates across Europe and its impact on specialist training in Obstetrics: A qualitative review by the Standing Committee of Hospital Visiting Programme for Training Recognition of the European Board and College of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG): J Wladimiroff\*\*, S Tsiapakidou, T Mahmood, P Velebil. EJOG 305 (2025); 77-83
- Robson Ten Group Classification Systems for Caesarean Sections across Europe: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Viktoria El Radaf, Leticia Nunes Campos, Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Mehreen Zaigham\*\*. DOI: [10.1016/j.ejogrb.2024.11.052](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2024.11.052)

#### *On-Going 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 Assoc. Professor Sambit Mukhopadhyay.

- **Capacity building: Workforce for the provision of SRH Services in Europe and UNFPA-EECA Region**

This project is being led by Professor Johannes Bitzer and Dr Tahir Mahmood in close association with European Society of Contraception (ESC). The work of this group has led to setting up a joint examination committee to deliver post graduate examinations in SRH. First examination for the “European Diploma in Contraception and SRH (EDSRH) for Nurses, Midwives and Family Doctors was held in October 2024.

- **Workforce challenges in Europe**

Medical and Midwifery services are facing huge challenges all over the Europe. There is a serious concern about pressure of work, stress and a higher incidence of trainees dropping out of training programmes. This project is being led by Professor Stergios Doumouchtsis and Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou (President ENTOG) and is overseen by the Officers group.



- **“Preservation of fertility and newer techniques in oncology fertility”**

This project is being led by Dr Hajra Khattak, Professor Ioannis Messinis, and Professor Basil Tarlatzis.

- **Secular trends in Caesarean sections at country level in Europe:**

This project is being led by Dr Petr Velebil and Dr Tahir Mahmood in collaboration with colleagues in Euro-Peristat. This paper will be



accompanied with a long commentary entitled, “understanding factors contributing to the rising rates of Caesarean Sections in Europe”, which will help to describe evidence-based strategies to deal with rising rates of Caesarean Section.

- **Care of women with third- and fourth-degree perineal tear**

This project being led by Dr Justina Kacerauskiene and Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou, and overseen by Associate Professor Sambit Mukhopadhyay and Dr Tahir Mahmood.

- **Maternal morbidity associated with third stage of labour:**

**Within this theme,**

- *Enhanced Maternal morbidity surveillance project (Assoc. Prof. Kristufkova and Ass. Prof. Anna Aabakke)*
- *Rising incidence of Post-Partum Haemorrhage in Europe (Dr Hugo Madar and Professor Sophie Alexander)*
- *Post Partum Hysterectomy in Europe (Dr Serena Donati and Professor Sophie Alexander)*

- **RSV vaccination in pregnancy**

Professor Diana Ramašauskaitė to lead, along with Dr Tahir Mahmood and Professor Charles Savona-Ventura.

- **Safe use of medicine during pregnancy**

Dr Jure Klanjšček to lead, being supervised by Professor Charles Savona-Ventura.

- **Review of Standards of Care in Obstetrics and Neonatal Care**

The Working Group is jointly led by Associate Professor Sambit Mukhopadhyay and Dr Tahir Mahmood.



### **EBCOG and UNFPA Achievements over the past ten years of collaboration:**

EBCOG has been working with UNFPA- Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region (EECARO) since 2014 as a scientific partner. During this collaboration significant achievements have been made.



- Standards of Care translated in Russian (2016) and launched at the EBCOG Congress, Torino in 2016. These documents are accessible at the UNFPA-EECARO website as well.
- Implementing standards of care training workshops in Ukraine and Lithuania (2014).
- PACT Project (European Requirement for Training) has been published for Specialists Training – web linked at UNFPA-EECA.
- UNFPA/EBCOG Visiting Fellowships programme visit the centres of excellence (2016-2018).
- Building SRH Experts Capacity via Master Programme delivered in Georgia (2017).
- Country level support to embed Standards of Care and assess compliance (North Macedonia) 2018.
- Supporting Country level policies (Antenatal care for women with disabilities (Georgia) 2021 –
- Supported Central Asia UNFPA professional event “Reducing Maternal Mortality” – Uzbekistan 2022 Via Zoom.
- Web-seminars during Covid-19 Pandemic (delivered by Jacky Nizard, Johannes Bitzer, Tahir Mahmood) 2021
- Regional UNFPA meeting of all countries of EECA-Region attended by delegates from 24 Countries. Delegates comprised of all UNFPA country teams, MOH representatives and three ministers (Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).
- Dr Tahir Mahmood delivered two keynote lectures on strategies: Reducing Maternal Mortality and SRH Services provision and took part in discussion about the development of regional strategy.
- UNFPA has requested more practical assistance from EBCOG around capacity building for the provision of SRH Services. EBCOG and ESC has nominated six senior consultants with expertise in maternal and SRH to provide support in future.
- EBCOG-ESC Project: The commitment to develop tools for an integrated SRH Service – tool development led by Johannes Bitzer.
  - Handbook has been published on SRH and contraception by Cambridge Press to support Diploma Examination.
  - EBCOG Post-graduate Textbook on SRH is in press with the Cambridge Press. This book will support Fellowship Examination in future.
  - Online material at ESC website.

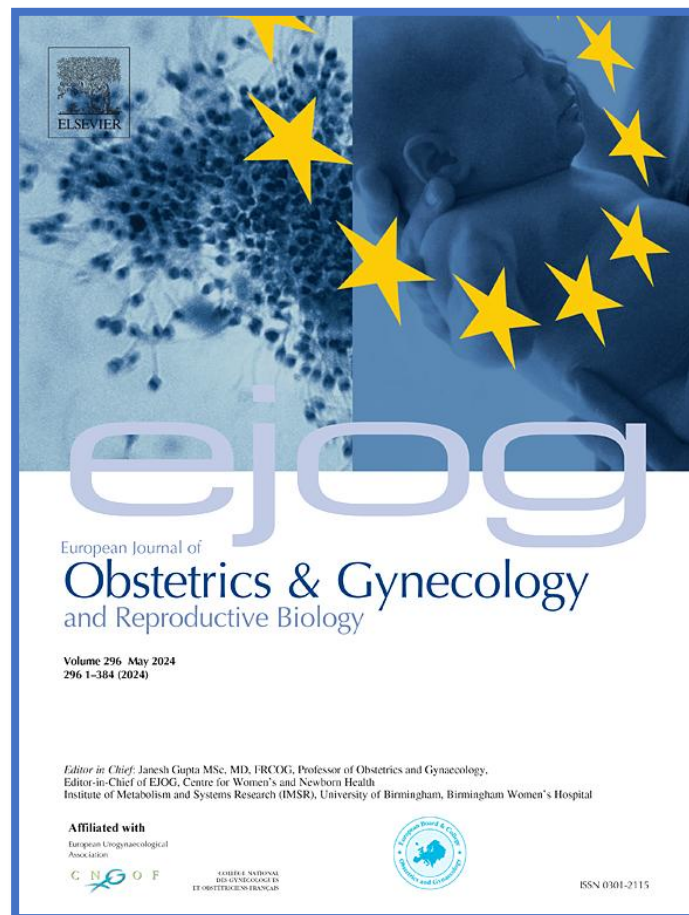


- Workforce developments (Examination).
- European Diploma in SRH Care (EDSRH: EBCOG/ESC) Examination.
- European Fellow in SRH Care (EFSRH: EBCOG/ESC) Examination.
- Web hosting of UNFPA materials on the EBCOG website in a dedicated section (<https://ebcog.eu/ebcog-unfpa-collaboration/>).
- Joint session of UNFPA-EECARO and EBCOG to be held at the 29th EBCOG Congress, 5th-7th June, 2025, Frankfurt.

Dr Tahir Mahmood CBE

Chair SCSCPS

Past-President EBCOG





# Fellowship Working Group Report

## Working Group Members

Dr Petr Velebil (Chair) ▪ Professor Piotr Sieroszewski ▪ Dr Jure Klanjšček ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou



The EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships WG continued its work on regular Fellowships for trainees, and on a fellowship programme for Ukrainian colleagues granted in 2023 and to be realized in 2024. The other part of work was WG participation in selection of trainees for the GESEA4EU programme - Basic Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy course. In cooperation with the SCTA and ENTOG 10 senior trainees were selected to be supported.

There were three EBCOG/ENTOG fellowships granted for 2024, and all were completed. The Fellowship WG continued cooperation with Ukrainian representatives in organizing the fellowship programme for two Ukrainian doctors, one for 3-months for a trainee and one for 6-months for a specialist. The 3-months fellowship was completed, the other one had to be cancelled for the grantee's reasons.

The applications for standard EBCOG/ENTOG fellowships for 2025 were opened in May 2024, and announced on respective web pages. Deadline for the applications for 2024 was 30 September 2024. However, by then we received only 3 applications, therefore we decided to extend the deadline till 15 November 2024. The WG received 10 applications by the extended deadline, and 3 selected grantees were announced during Council meeting in December 2024.

The EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships WG reported regularly to the Executive Board and during EBCOG Council meetings in 2024.

Petr Velebil, MD. PhD.

[Chair Fellowship Working Group](#)

[Chair SCTR](#)



# Congress Report

Planning began in earnest in 2024 for the 2025 Congress. The congress will occur 5-7 June 2025 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Regular meetings of the Scientific Committee, led by myself and President Frank Louwen, occurred both virtually and in-person. The PCO (CPO Hanser), led by Inge Hanser, has provided great support. The website launched in July 2024, registration began in September 2024, and abstract submissions opened in November 2024.

By the end of 2024, a robust scientific programme was developed. The programme revolves around 3 thematic days – Prematurity Awareness Day, 3Ds Day (Demography, Decarbonisation, Defence), and Endometriosis Awareness Day.

The programme includes:

9 keynote lectures ▪ 2 experts fight at breakfast sessions ▪ 1 stump the expert session ▪ 12 breakfast sessions ▪ 4 movie sessions ▪ 5 video case report sessions ▪ 2 pre-recorded live surgery sessions ▪ 1 out of specialty session ▪ 34 EBCOG Parallel sessions ▪ 35 Partner Parallel sessions ▪ 39 skills sessions (8 hands-on-training, 18 interactive courses, 13 workshops)

Around 200 invited speakers

Over 140 Sessions and a thousand lectures in total



New innovations for attendees in 2025 include on-site childcare, free access to public transportation, and a focus on healthy food options.

2024 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 slides for distribution. Regular updates have been posted to our social channels and boosted by ENTOG. The PCO has led newsletter mailings, and sponsor outreach by engaging various industry contacts. These efforts have resulted in reaching thousands of interested individuals within Europe and throughout the world.

In short, our efforts in 2024 have set the stage for an engaging congress in 2025. The Congress Committee will continue working in 2025 to ensure success in Frankfurt.



Dr Nuno Nogueira Martins

Congress President

Senior Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Subspecialist Gynaecological Oncology and Head of the Gynaecological- Oncology Unit of the Department,

Serviço de Ginecologia e Obstetrícia Centro Hospitalar Tondela Viseu, Viseu, Portugal

Board member PCOG and Sociedade Portuguesa de Ginecologia



Figure 9 The Congress Committee met in May and December 2024.



Figure 8 The Officers and ENTOG President made a site visit to Frankfurt in April 2024



Figure 10 Many Council members have helped to promote the congress.

# Webmaster Report



## WEBSITE

Our website (ebcog.eu) remains the central hub for sharing information about our activities. In 2024, the site saw significant growth, with **29,980 visitors** and **71,764 views**—a notable increase from the previous year. The most popular topics continued to be the *Exam, Congress, Fellowships, and Publications*. As with 2023, most visitors found the website through Google search. The continued focus will be on improving content in collaboration with the Standing Committees to ensure that it meets the needs of our audience.

## FACEBOOK

Facebook remains our most influential social media platform. In 2024, the page grew to **10,047 followers**—an increase from 9,000 in 2023. Our posts reached **36,600 views** and generated **999 interactions**. The majority of our audience remains women, with the most active demographic being those aged 35-44. Despite a slight shift in platform usage trends, Facebook continues to provide valuable engagement with our community.



## INSTAGRAM

Instagram also saw significant growth in 2024, with **816**



**followers**—a steady increase compared to 2023. This platform, which primarily targets younger audiences (25-34 years old), had **22,600 views** and **260 interactions** in 2024. While the reach on Instagram is still smaller than Facebook, it is evident that the platform's engagement is growing and is becoming an important tool for connecting with a younger demographic.

## X (TWITTER)

The X (formerly Twitter) account grew to **139 followers** by the end of 2024, showing a steady increase from 102 followers in 2023.



### LINKEDIN

Our LinkedIn group has continued to grow and now has **537 members**. This platform remains an important tool for professional networking and discussion. We will aim to increase engagement further by sharing relevant content and encouraging more active participation.

### NEWSLETTER

In 2024, we did not send out any newsletters. However, we still maintain a strong newsletter subscriber base of **2,270 members**. We aim to resume newsletter communications in the coming year to strengthen our connection with our members.

### PLANS FOR 2025

Looking ahead, we plan to continue expanding our digital presence. We are excited to announce that we will be launching a **Bluesky** account in 2025, further diversifying our social media strategy and reaching new audiences. This new platform will complement our existing accounts and help us engage with a broader and more varied community.

We will also continue to focus on improving the website in collaboration with the Standing Committees, enhancing content and functionality to better serve our members. Additionally, we aim to grow our presence on Instagram and LinkedIn and further solidify Facebook's role as our primary communication channel.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's successes. We look forward to another year of growth and engagement in 2025.

Dr Jure Klanjšček

EBCOG Webmaster





# ENTOG Report

The European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG) was officially founded with its first 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 part of EBCOG (European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) and therefore UEMS (Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes).

ENTOG represents trainees' voices and interests and aims - works hard to achieve a better understanding of training in gynaecology-obstetrics in different European countries, thus helping to ensure a comparable standard of training.

## *The ENTOG Executive Committee 2024-2025*

On Thursday 12th of September the ENTOG Council meeting took place in Zurich with 17 Country Members present and five attending virtually. Council elections took place for the new Executive committee of 2024-2025. Available positions were Secretary General, and Webmaster-Member.

ENTOG Executive committee for 2024-2025 (see Figure 11) is:

- President: **Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou**, Greece.  
Member of SCTA, SCSCPS, and EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowship working group.
- Secretary-General: **Dr Rafal Zadykowicz**, Poland.  
Member of SCTR.
- Treasurer: **Dr Esther McNeill**, United Kingdom.
- Executive Member-Webmaster: **Dr Mei Yee Ng**, Ireland.  
Member of SCE
- Executive Member: **Dr Sara Vodopivec**, Slovenia.

*Figure 11 ENTOG Executive Committee 2024-2025*





### ENTOG's 2024 activities

The **ENTOG Exchange & Scientific Meeting 2024** took place in Zurich, Switzerland and it was a truly remarkable experience. Eleven different hospitals in ten cities across Switzerland hosted participants for three days, offering insights into their healthcare systems and local cultures.

After spending three days visiting these hospitals and exploring their respective cities, all trainees converged in the dynamic city of Zurich. On the 12th of September, our 2nd ENTOG Workshop on **Sexual and Reproductive Health** was facilitated by **Prof. Johannes Bitzer (EBCOG-ESC)** and **Prof. Gabriele Merki (ESC)**, followed by the ENTOG Council meeting (see Figure 12).



Figure 12 ENTOG Council Meeting 2024

The following day was marked by a full-day scientific meeting focused on **Innovation in Obstetrics and Gynecology**, a collaborative effort with the Swiss Junges Forum. For the first time, the event was awarded EACCME CME points. We were honoured to have two distinguished speakers: **Prof. Martin Heubner (SERGS Vice President)** and **Dr. Istvan Argay (ESGE Board Member and GESEA Educational Program Coordinator)**. This year's ENTOG Exchange was a tremendous success, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Swiss Local Organising Committee for showcasing the Swiss healthcare system and culinary delights!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Swiss Junges Forum Executives and Local Organizing Committee and all those involved in making this event not only possible but also profoundly impactful.

**EBCOG-JSOG Exchange 2024** three ENTOG trainees participated, thanks to EBCOG's collaboration and initiative with the Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as EBCOG-ENTOG Ambassadors at the 76th Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 19th to 21st April 2024 at PACIFICO Yokohama North, Yokohama, Japan.

The election of **ENTOG Exchange in 2026** took place during the council meeting in Zurich. Congratulations are extended to the JOGS Irish Trainee Society! ENTOG EXCHANGE 2026 will be in **Ireland** with meeting point in **Dublin**.



**ENTOG Exchange Germany 2025** Exchange will take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 prior to the **29th EBCOG Congress**, in at least eleven different Women 's Health Departments across Germany and we will all gather to celebrate and party together on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at ENTOG Gala Dinner in Mainz, Frankfurt with exceptional german happenings and hospitality.

The ENTOG Council will take place during the EBCOG Congress letting ENTOG Country representatives the opportunity to attend and actively participate in the congress.

**ENTOG Representatives in WATOG** Sofia Tsiapakidou and Rafał Zadykowicz, are WATOG Executive Board and working with WATOG to unite trainees and young specialists worldwide. Mei Yee Ng, ENTOG Secretary General is the WATOG Secretary.

**ENTOG Surveys** Three surveys launched during 2024 with the aim to get an overview of different aspects of training in ENTOG member countries about: (1) Sexual dysfunction, (2) Breast Health and the last one is joint work with EBCOG and SCSCPS committee on Workforce.

**ENTOG-EBCOG GESEA4EU Course** EBCOG offered the opportunity and a travel bursary to ten ENTOG trainees to participate in a GESEA4EU Basic Laparoscopy and Basic Hysteroscopy training session in FPG in Rome in September 2024.

**EBCOG-ENTOG Fellowships Grant for 2024** Three European trainees one more year had the chance thanks to EBCOG to pass three months in EBCOG accredited centers and more specific visiting: (1) San Raffaele Hospital, Milano, Italy, and two to Careggi Hospital, Florence, Italy.

**One2One Exchange** There were three One2One Exchanges in 2024, that took place in Germany, Ireland and United Kingdom, each offering a unique blend of cultural and professional insights.

### *Scientific Meetings*

*ENTOG was honored and has been a contributing, actively involved, and/or co-organising entity in the following scientific meetings:*

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan European Trainees Congress in the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 2024 and continued with the 16<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology in Thessaloniki, Greece 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> of June in Porto Heli, Greece.
- 34<sup>TH</sup> World congress on Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, 15-18 September 2024, Budapest, Hungary.
- 33<sup>rd</sup> ESGE Annual Congress 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of October, Marseille, France
- 36<sup>th</sup> International Papillomavirus Conference (IPVS) 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- VII EUGA Annual Meeting, Prague, 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>st</sup> December 2024 with ENTOG – EUGA Trainee Committee Session and a workshop dedicated to sexual health.

### **ENTOG Joint Webinars**

- **ENTOG-ISUOG Trainee webinar** on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 on Artificial Intelligence.
- **ENTOG – ISSVD Webinar Coffee with the Experts** on 18<sup>th</sup> of June about Vulvovaginal Health centered on Vulvar Discharge and Itching: Not Always Candida!"
- **EUGA-ENTOG Trainee Webinar** on 25<sup>th</sup> of September focused on pelvic floor prolapse: How to assess, counsel and treat.



- **ENTOG-YEARS Webinar** on Current training option in MIS for young European Gynaecologists on 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.
- **ENTOG-IPVS** on Special considerations about women with cervical precancerous lesions on 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024
- **ESSM-YoSEMA-ENTOG webinar** on 18<sup>th</sup> of December on Managing Sexual Dysfunction during pregnancy and postpartum.

#### *EBCOG hospital accreditation visits*

*ENTOG took part in 3 on-site visits in close collaboration with the Standing Committee on Training Recognition of EBCOG.*

#### **ENTOG Treasurer report**

ENTOG activities are financially supported by EBCOG with a €6500 annual contribution. The account is held by the EBCOG Treasurer. ENTOG worked hard but kept costs low and underwent the budget, saving approximately 500€.

**2025** is expected to be a productive and busy year again for ENTOG. This year, we can't wait to attend and be involved in the 29<sup>th</sup> EBCOG Congress with all EBCOG there!

Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou  
President, ENTOG



*Figure 13 ENTOG trainees travelled to Japan as part of the EBCOG JSOG Exchange programme in April 2024.*



## EBCOG Activities



*EBCOG Council met in Leuven, Belgium in May and December 2024.*



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*Dr Marc Hermans, Officer of European & International Affairs at UEMS, joined the December Council meeting.*

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*Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, Chair of SCTA, presented the updated PACT at the UEMS Autumn Council meeting in October 2024.*

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*EBCOG is a member of the Coalition for Fertility. Professor Basil Tarlatzis represented EBCOG at the Coalition kick-off meeting in Brussels in October 2024. The goal is to advocate for comprehensive and inclusive fertility policies in Europe. New MEPs were in attendance as guests.*

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*EBCOG Officers attended the Japanese Congress in April 2024 as part of the EBCOG JSOG Exchange Programme.*



*Professor Frank Louwen presented at the AOFOG Congress in Busan, South Korea in May 2024.*





## APPENDIX

### **A complete list of publications by the Standing Committee of Standards of Care and Position statements (Updated January 2025)**

1.  
Public Health importance of antenatal care (2013)  
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([www.publicservice.co.uk](http://www.publicservice.co.uk))
3.  
EBCOG Position statement on IVF Treatment and Single Embryo Transfer  
[Facts Views Vis Obgyn.](#) 2014; 6(1): 5–6.
4.  
EBCOG Position statement on Medical Abortion  
*Published: April 15, 2016 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2016.04.015>*
5.  
EBCOG Position statement on Obesity and women’s Health  
[Facts Views Vis Obgyn.](#) 2014; 6(4): 175–176.
6.  
EBCOG Position statement on Alcohol and Pregnancy  
*Published: May 02, 2016 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2016.04.020>*
7.  
EBCOG Position statement on Violence against women  
*Published: February 03, 2017 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2017.01.059>*
8.  
EBCOG Position statement on Caesarean sections in Europe  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2017.04.018>
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Mahmood, Tahir and Tamar Khomasuridze. Improving Standards of Care in Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Eastern and Central Asian Region.  
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Kristel Van Calsteren, Ksenija Gersak, Hildrun Sundseth, Ingrid Klingmann, Lode Dewulf, Andre Van Assche, Tahir Mahmood. Position statement from the European Board and College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (EBCOG)- The use of medicines during pregnancy- call for action.  
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### **Mini Symposia Series Published ( included in the above list)**

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

### **Current ongoing Projects**

- Health inequalities in the provision of Sexual Reproductive Healthcare and the provision of Contraception
- Maternal Mortality in Europe
- Workforce challenges in Europe
- “Preservation of fertility and newer techniques in oncology fertility”
- Post-partum haemorrhage in Europe
- Epidemiology of post-partum hysterectomy in Europe
- Management of third degree perineal tear