



European Board & College of  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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# EBCOG Annual Report

# 2025



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## Foreword



As we look back on another year of growth and development, it is my privilege to present this Annual Report of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG). This document reflects not only the progress we have made but also the collective dedication of our members, partners, and supporters who continue to elevate the standards of obstetric and gynaecological care across Europe and beyond.

Throughout 2025, EBCOG has continued to serve as a vital platform for advocating women's rights, innovation, learning, and policy development, drawing upon the expertise and dedication of our members, affiliates, and partners.

From acting as an advocate of women's health to the development of comprehensive training curricula with integration of simulation for the next generation of healthcare professionals, our collective efforts have paved the way for improving women's health.

EBCOG has consistently advocated for women's health and well-being, dedicating significant effort to advancing healthcare professional education and contributing to policy development through active participation in focus group meetings at the EU Parliament.

We have further enhanced our international collaborations, broadening our engagement with additional countries and communities. In cooperation with our partner societies, we launched a new Fellowship examination in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care, now accessible to candidates outside Europe. The incoming President of EBCOG has received international recognition and support for the role of European Trustee of FIGO.

Our achievements, as detailed in this report, are a testament to the collaborative spirit and commitment that defines EBCOG. However, there is still much to be done. As we look ahead, we remain focused on our mission to promote the highest standards of education and clinical practice in obstetrics and gynaecology. I look forward to the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines from the newly formed Consortium of Evidence Review for Guideline Development in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (CERG-DOG). This is clearly a great milestone in the history of EBCOG. Together, we will continue to rise to the challenges of our time, ensuring that our work improves the lives of women, their families, and communities across Europe.

This annual report presents a concise overview of the dedicated efforts demonstrated during members' discretionary time. I wish to formally acknowledge the members of EBCOG for their steadfast dedication to excellence within our profession. Appreciation is also extended to our partners, stakeholders, and all individuals whose contributions have supported our accomplishments throughout the past year. Through collaboration, we have realized significant progress and will continue to advance together in our collective mission to enhance women's health.



Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc FICOG (Hon)

President-Elect, EBCOG 2023-2025

Trustee for Europe, FIGO 2025-2027

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



*Figure 1 Professor Messinis, Professor Louwen, and Dr Mukhopadhyay  
at the EBCOG 2025 Congress in Frankfurt*

## From the Desk of the President



*Figure 2: Professor Louwen speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the EBCOG 2025 Congress in Frankfurt*

As I conclude my term as President of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG), I do so with a deep sense of gratitude, responsibility, and pride in what we have collectively achieved over the past two years.

My presidency has been marked by strong international engagement. I had the privilege of representing EBCOG at numerous congresses and professional gatherings across the globe, strengthening our visibility, reinforcing partnerships, and ensuring that the European voice in obstetrics and gynaecology remained active and respected. These engagements reaffirmed the importance of global collaboration in advancing women's health and professional standards.

A particular highlight of this period was the EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt in June 2025, which stood as a testament to scientific excellence, collegial exchange, and European unity. The congress not only showcased high-quality academic work but also reinforced EBCOG's role as a federation providing a unique platform for all national and subspecialty societies

to come together to network and exchange scientific ideas to improve women's health.

It was also an honour to be a part of moments that celebrated leadership and courage in global health. Honouring Dr. Sima Samar - the Alternative Nobel Prize winner, the President of FIGO Dr Anne-Beatrice Kihara, Professor Basil Tarlatzis, and Professor Wolfgang Holzgreve underscored our shared commitment to equity, human rights, leadership and scientific advancement of women's health worldwide. These recognitions reflected values that EBCOG continues to champion.

One of the most significant structural achievements during this term was the establishment of the **CERG–DOG collaboration**, creating a robust framework and a consortium for guideline development. This initiative strengthens evidence-based practice, fosters harmonisation of standards, and ensures that European guidance remains rigorous, transparent, and clinically relevant.

In October, at the Cape Town FIGO congress, I took on the reins of greater engagement and leadership at the global level. This transition to the FIGO presidency was handled with a strong sense of duty and collaboration, and it highlighted the trust placed in European obstetrics and gynaecology by the international community.

Equally important has been the spirit of European unity. Across societies and nations, there has been strong and visible support for continuity of leadership, including a collective backing for the incoming EBCOG President in FIGO Trustee responsibilities. This unity is one of EBCOG's greatest strengths and a foundation for future success. I am grateful to all national societies for their support.

As I now pass the baton to **Sambit Mukhopadhyay** as President of EBCOG, I do so with complete confidence in his leadership, vision, and commitment. I am certain that under his presidency, EBCOG will continue to grow, innovate, and serve its members and the women of Europe with excellence.

Reflecting on the past two years, this presidency has been both humbling and inspiring. It has been a period of learning, collaboration, and progress—made possible only through the dedication of the Executive Committee, Council members, subspecialist societies, partner organisations, and the wider EBCOG community. I extend my sincere thanks to all who have supported me during this journey.

With gratitude for the past and optimism for the future, I look forward to continuing to support EBCOG in its mission and to witnessing its continued impact under new leadership.

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

President, EBCOG 2023-2025

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



*Figure 3 Professor Louwen speaking with EBCOG 2025 keynote speaker Dr Sima Simar*

# 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 newborn 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 the 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 35 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 37 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\*, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Turkmenistan (Observer), Ukraine, and United Kingdom. Montenegro was ratified to join Council as a Member in May 2025.



In addition, we also work closely with the four subspecialist societies: maternal-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) until Nov. 2025

Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay (United Kingdom) Nov. 2025 onward

#### President-Elect

Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay (United Kingdom) until Nov. 2025

#### Secretary General

Professor Helle Karro (Estonia)

#### Treasurer

Professor Piotr Sieroszewski (Poland)

### **EBCOG Executive Members**

Dr Ferry Boekhorst (Western Region)

Professor Luigi Nappi (Southern Region)

Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke (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)

President – Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou

Treasurer – Dr Esther McNeill (until Sept. 2025); Dr Sara Vodopivec (Sept. 2025 onward)

Secretary General – Dr Rafał Zadykowicz

Webmaster – Dr Mei Yee Ng

Member – Dr Sara Vodopivec (until Sept. 2025); Dr Mert Ishak Kaya (Sept. 2025 onward)

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 Zoran Stankovic

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 2025)

<b>Austria</b>	Assoc. Professor Hanns Helmer	Dr Philipp Fössleitner
<b>Belgium</b>	Dr Femke Delporte	Dr Mathieu Luyckx
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Professor Ivan Kostov	Professor Emil Kovachev
<b>Croatia</b>	Professor Miroslav Kopjar	
<b>Cyprus</b>	Dr Afrodite Elisseou	Professor Gabriel Kalakoutis
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Professor Vladimír Dvorak	Professor Marian Kacerovský
<b>Denmark</b>	Ass. Professor Anna Aabakke	Dr Carsten Byrjalsen
<b>Estonia</b>	Dr Piret Veerus	Professor Helle Karro
<b>Finland</b>	Professor Päivi Polo	Professor Marjo Tuppurainen
<b>France</b>	Professor Patrick Rozenberg	Professor Philippe Descamps
<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>	Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe	Dr Michael Robson
<b>Israel (OBSERVER)</b>	Professor Ron Maymon	
<b>Italy</b>	Professor Luigi Nappi , Dr Giuseppe Trojano	Dr Annalisa Tancredi
<b>Latvia</b>	Dr Lāsma Līdaka	Professor Dace Rezeberga
<b>Lithuania</b>	Assoc. Professor Tomas Birzietis	Professor Zana Bumbuliene
<b>Malta</b>	Ms Isabelle Saliba	
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Dr Jan Peter de Bruin	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 Teresa Almeida Santos	Professor Helder Ferreira
<b>Romania</b>	Professor Elvira Brătilă	
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Assoc. Professor Alexandra Kristufkova	Dr Mikuláš Redecha
<b>Slovenia</b>	Professor Borut Kobal	Dr Lili Steblovnik
<b>Sweden</b>	Dr Kristin André	Assoc. Professor Mehreen Zaigham
<b>Switzerland</b>	Professor Johannes Bitzer	Professor Gabriele Merki
<b>Türkiye</b>	Professor Cansun Demir	
<b>Turkmenistan (OBSERVER)</b>	Dr Annagylyjowa Seker Meredovna	Dr Amangeldiyewa Miwe Bayramovna
<b>Ukraine</b>	Professor Vyacheslav Kaminsky	Dr Dmytro Ledin
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Dr Alison Wright	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



As we reflect on the year gone by, it is my honour to present the annual report of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG). This year has been marked by continued growth, collaboration, and commitment to advancing the standards of obstetrics and gynaecology across Europe. As President-Elect, I am proud to share the achievements and progress we have made in furthering our mission to improve women's health, education, and the quality of care provided by professionals in our field.

This year, EBCOG continued its advocacy efforts at both European and national levels, working with policymakers to shape and influence the future of obstetric and gynaecological care. We have actively participated in key discussions surrounding maternal health, reproductive rights, and access to specialized care across Europe.

Notable initiatives included:

- Engaged in EU parliamentary discussions with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) concerning women's health research and reproductive rights. The event was a multidisciplinary forum where stakeholders collaboratively addressed research priorities in women's health, health inequalities, cancer screening, menopause, and access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- The revision of the Standards of Care document in obstetrics is approaching finalization.
- Collaboration with national medical societies is underway to assess the workforce situation and burnout rates among both trainees and specialists. This ongoing study is expected to provide valuable insights into workforce challenges currently affecting healthcare across the European Union. I am grateful to Professor Stelios Doumouchtsis and our ENTOG president Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou for leading this study.
- Participation in the Coalition for Fertility to raise our concern about declining birthrate across Europe.
- Collaborate with European Health Alliance on Alcohol (EHAA) a WHO health prevention group to highlights the effects of alcohol on health, particularly on women's health. We have formally joined the organisation of WHO and is signatory to Copenhagen Declaration.



## Educational Advancements and Training

The heart of EBCOG's mission is education. This year, we made significant strides in developing and refining the educational programs that are fundamental to the professional development of obstetricians and gynaecologists across Europe.

Key educational initiatives included:

- The updated European Training Requirements (ETR) for core training in obstetrics and gynaecology have been submitted to ensure that the curricula remain aligned with the advancing needs of healthcare systems and medical innovation. Notably, this includes the integration of simulation within the PACT curriculum.
- The UEMS has approved the training curricula (ETR) for reproductive medicine and gynaecologic oncology, following collaborative efforts and successful memoranda of understanding with our subspecialist societies.
- A successful European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Frankfurt with participation from thousands of professionals worldwide, showcasing cutting-edge research, training, and clinical practices.

A significant part of EBCOG's mission is to strengthen professional networks and build relationships between obstetricians and gynaecologists across Europe.

Highlights in this area included:

- We assist ENTOG members by promoting the advancement of emerging leaders in our speciality.
- Expanding EBCOG's influence in non-European countries, with several international societies expressing interest in participating our congress. We were delighted to have Turkmenistan as an Observer in our Council.
- We have achieved successful collaborations with national societies, fostering unity in our shared commitment to advancing women's health throughout Europe. I am grateful for the strong support from across Europe during my election as a European trustee to FIGO during the Cape Town congress in October 2025.
- It was an honour to serve as a guest of honour, together with our immediate Past-President, at the centenary SIGO Congress. EBCOG greatly appreciates the longstanding contributions of SIGO, and I look forward to the 30th EBCOG Congress in collaboration with SIGO, scheduled for 2027 in Rome.

Although significant advancements have been made, I recognize that considerable challenges remain. Many regions across Europe are experiencing strain on their healthcare systems, compounded by persistent inequalities, social determinants of health, diagnostic delays—such as those seen in endometriosis—mental health concerns, and gender-based violence. As EBCOG prepares for the year ahead, adaptability and innovation will be essential to effectively address these issues.

Moving forward, we aim to:

- Continue advocating for sustainable healthcare funding and the prioritization of women’s health in national agendas.
- Expand EBCOG's digital infrastructure, enabling more widespread access to our e-sources, including e-learning and virtual workshops.

It has been a distinct privilege to learn from my predecessor, Professor Frank Louwen, whose inspirational leadership set a high standard. While it will be challenging to succeed him, I am confident that support will be readily available. Serving as immediate past EBCOG President as well as the FIGO President now is a significant honour and will surely enhance our organisation's visibility.



*Figure 4 Dr Mukhopadhyay received the Hon Fellowship of the Indian College*

As President-Elect, I look forward to leading EBCOG into the next phase of our journey. The upcoming year promises to bring new challenges, but also new opportunities to collaborate and innovate. I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of our members, and together, we will continue to strive for excellence in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to working with all of you in and together we will make a lasting impact on women’s health across Europe.

Sambit Mukhopadhyay MD DNB FRCOG MSc FICOG (Hon)

[President-Elect, EBCOG 2023-2025](#)

[Trustee for Europe, FIGO 2025-2027](#)

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

# Secretary General Report



I am pleased to present my report for the year 2025. The last year has been both busy and productive for EBCOG.

## **Organisational Development and Governance**

Our organisation is only as strong as its Member Societies, and Council members play a dual role: representing their national societies within EBCOG and acting as ambassadors for EBCOG within their respective countries. Strengthening outreach to national organisations therefore remains a key priority.

To support effective engagement and continuity, two guiding documents were developed in 2025:

- **“Who We Are”**, providing background information and an overview of EBCOG’s structure and functioning, and
- **“Rules of Engagement”**, focusing on the practical organisation of meetings and internal collaboration.

These documents clarify the structure of EBCOG, the rights and responsibilities of Council and Executive Committee members, and the principles guiding our work. They contribute to organisational memory and facilitate the onboarding of new Council members. Both documents will be shared with incoming members and updated periodically. In addition, meetings between the Secretary General and newly appointed Council members are scheduled prior to Council sessions to provide personal introductions and address outstanding questions.

Maintaining accurate and **up-to-date contact information** is essential to effective communication. Information on Council members and presidents of national societies is available on the EBCOG website and will continue to be regularly reviewed and updated.

## **Council Engagement and Feedback**

Receiving and responding to feedback from Council members remains a priority. A post-Council survey was conducted following the Autumn 2025 Council meeting, respondents expressed overall satisfaction with the duration and relevance of the meeting, highlighting its value for professional networking. Some members expressed a wish for more interactive discussion formats. Active participation from Council members is strongly encouraged and highly valued.



## Education, Training and Collaboration

Education and training remain at the core of EBCOG’s mission, particularly in promoting high-quality standards of care in women’s health, maternal and neonatal health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights across Europe.

To strengthen collaboration with subspecialty organisations and support the harmonisation of specialist training, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been developed and agreed. MoUs were signed with ESCRH in 2023, ESGO and ESHRE in 2024, and with ESGE in 2025. An MoU with EUGA is ready for final signature, and discussions are ongoing with EAPM.

Given EBCOG’s educational mandate, the organisation continues to be asked to endorse educational activities and courses. Decisions are guided by the **EBCOG Endorsement Policy** (published in 2024). Educational activities organised by EBCOG divisions are endorsed unconditionally, while external courses and events are reviewed in line with the policy.

## Elections and Membership

Elections for the Eastern Region Executive were held in June 2025, and for the Pan-European Executive in November 2025, using an electronic voting system. Associate Professor Alexandra Kristufkova was elected as Eastern Regional Representative, and Professor Fionnula McAuliffe as Pan-European Representative.

In 2025, the Montenegrin Association of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians (MAGO) was welcomed as a new Member Society of EBCOG. Following the approval of the Montenegrin National Medical Association for UEMS membership, MAGO’s application was reviewed and subsequently ratified by the EBCOG Council in June 2025.

## Policy Engagement and Advocacy

EBCOG continues to actively engage in European policy dialogue. EBCOG joined the **Coalition for Fertility** in 2024. The main objectives of the Coalition are a united effort to address inequalities in access to fertility education and treatment, and to raise awareness among European policymakers. EBCOG representatives (Prof Tarlatzis and Prof Karro) actively contributed to the Coalition’s work in 2025. Four position papers, addressing rights-based approaches to fertility, universal access to fertility treatment, inclusive fertility care, and mental health in involuntary childlessness, were developed. Council members are encouraged to disseminate these policy documents within their national contexts.



### Coalition for Fertility

## Representation

During 2025, I had the opportunity to represent EBCOG at several international congresses and meetings, including AICOG in Mumbai, the EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt, the Congress of the Polish Society in Łódź, and the FIGO Congress in Cape Town.

I was invited to Brussels to participate in two European Parliament events focused on menopause care (“Empowering women through knowledge, dialogue and policy in menopause screening, care and socioeconomic impact”) and Europe’s fertility challenges (“Together for Tomorrow: Addressing Europe’s fertility Challenge – A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue for Europe’s Future”), bringing together policymakers, healthcare professionals, patient advocates, and civil society representatives.

### **Women’s and children’s health and rights in war and military conflicts**

Armed conflict has a disproportionate impact on women and children—both because they make up most civilians in conflict zones and because gender- and age specific vulnerabilities intensify in crisis.

The war in Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022, continues to have devastating consequences for civilians and healthcare systems. Supporting Ukraine and its healthcare professionals remains a priority.

### **Vision for future**

Looking ahead, EBCOG will continue to work towards improving women’s health across Europe by promoting the highest possible standards of care. Our vision is grounded in the principles of sexual and reproductive health and rights, equitable access to high-quality healthcare services, and excellent clinical outcomes for women, mothers, and children.

Achieving these goals requires close cooperation across the entire EBCOG community. By working together, we can ensure that EBCOG is visible and a trusted professional voice in Europe.



*Figure 5 Prof Karro presenting at the EBCOG 2025 Congress in Frankfurt*

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank all Council and Executive Committee members and Officers for their trust and support. The activities mentioned above would not be possible without the support of the EBCOG Central Office. I would like to thank Kate Thorman for her assistance.

It is an honour to serve as Secretary General of EBCOG and to collaborate with colleagues across Europe in advancing our shared mission.

Helle Karro

Secretary General, EBCOG

Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Tartu

Board Member, Estonian Gynaecologists’ Society

# Treasurer Report



EFOG examinations and membership subscriptions were the biggest positions of revenue with the incomes from exam and courses. The annual income in the current fiscal year ending 31st December 2025 was around 227,000€ which is little more than the previous year. At the end of the year, we were overspent by over 42,000€. This is less compared to previous year figure of 104,000€. The additional expenses were related to the organization of the EBCOG congress in Frankfurt with the costs over 74,000€. The expenses connected with preparations for the EBCOG Congress 2025 were the largest item in expenditure.

There were also costs for the PACT translations and organising EFOG examinations, which were significant in the EBCOG financial balance.

An important milestone in the history of EBCOG was receiving a grant over 125,000€ for the 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. In 2025 the revenue from GESEA4EU project amounted over 17,000€.

I would like to point out that without unexpected expenses from the EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt caused by insufficient work of Congress PCO, the EBCOG financial balance at the end of the 2025 would be positive with a profit over 30,000€.

Taking account of 52,000€ from the outstanding EACME fees from CME and 6 years DMEYB 6-year bond (matures 2028) of 72,000€, the total asset at the end of December 2025 was over 460,000€. Unfortunately, it seems unlikely we will receive the outstanding CME income from UEMS in the near future.

It was an honour to serve for the next year as the treasurer of the Board. I learned a lot during my duty as treasurer. I hope the further collaboration with all of you will go as positive as for now. I look forward to seeing you all in the next council meeting at Leuven, Belgium.

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 2022-2025

# Educational Branch

## Standing Committee of Examination Report

### Committee Members

Professor Ioannis Messinis (Chair) ▪ Professor Charles Savona Ventura ▪ Dr Mark Formosa ▪ Professor Johannes Bitzer ▪ Dr Tahir Mahmood ▪ Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay ▪ Dr Petr Velebil ▪ Dr Karen Rose ▪ Dr Neela Mukhopadhaya ▪ Dr Mert Ishak Kaya ▪ Alexandros Peristeropoulos (Secretariat)



The Standing Committee on Examinations (SCE) of EBCOG is responsible for the organisation and conduct of the European Examinations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EFOG-EBCOG). Candidates from both European and non-European countries participate in these examinations. The SCE has been doing this since 2016 every year without interruption.

The examinations consist of Part 1, which is a written knowledge-based assessment (KBA) and is conducted online, and Part 2, which is an oral examination in the form of OSCE stations and is conducted on-site. For the year 2025, the Part 1 examination was conducted twice and the Part 2 examination once. The two Part 1 examinations were held, the first in March and the second in August. A total of 79 candidates (42 and 37 respectively) participated in these examinations and 45 of them passed (56.9%). The Part 2 exam was held in Lisbon on 13 December, with 26 candidates taking part, of whom 22 passed (84.6%). This is the total number of those who passed both parts in 2025; therefore the pass rate for this year is 27.8% and this is also the total number of new Fellows (EFOG-EBCOG) for the year 2025. Pre-exam classes were held before each exam.

The EFOG-EBCOG exam attracts candidates from Europe and beyond, which demonstrates its wide acceptance. Both the methodology and the



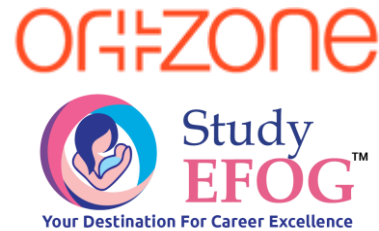
*Figure 6 Examiners at 2025 OSCE in Lisbon*



parameters that ensure the reliability of the process remain unchanged. The same applies to the type of questions, the method of setting the pass rate and the statistical analysis of the results.

The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in writing questions is an innovation of the Part 1 exam. This is of great help, as it is now difficult to recruit question writers on a voluntary basis. All questions are reviewed by the Quality Assurance Group (QAG) before being used in the two exam papers. The review and correction of the questions is mainly done through multiple tele-meetings.

EBCOG collaborates with the Swedish company ORZONE, using its electronic platform to conduct the exams. It also collaborates with the Indian company StudyMEDIC for the organization of pre-exam courses.



EBCOG, as the leading organisation for Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Europe, collaborates with European scientific societies to organise European examinations in the subspecialties of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Such collaborations include the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) since 2018, the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO) since 2024 and the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESCRH) since 2024. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between EBCOG and these societies. In particular, the examinations with ESHRE consist of Part 1 (written online exam) and Part 2 (OSCE on-site exam). The ESHRE Part 1 exam (EFRM-ESHRE/EBCOG) was held this year in March and the Part 2 (OSCE) in June. The total number of new Fellows for 2025 is 13. The examinations with ESCRH include a Diploma exam and a Fellowship exam (Part 1 and Part 2). The Diploma exam started for the first time last year, while the Fellowship exam started this year.



The Council for European Specialists Medical Assessment (CESMA), an advisory body of UEMS, and its Executive Committee meet twice a year. In 2025, the Spring meeting was held in May in Cork, Ireland, and the Autumn meeting was held in December in Brussels. At these meetings, various issues are raised (Agenda) and discussed at length. These relate to the organisation of medical exams, their proper conduct, the avoidance of cheating, their security, the establishment of more objective procedures, the quality assurance, new possibilities such as Artificial Intelligence and the appraisal of the examinations. At the last meeting in December, a presentation was made, by invitation, by the undersigned President of the SCE on the Extended Matching Questions (EMQ), which seem to be used exclusively by the

EBCOG. Also, the OSCE format of Part 2 exam with stations differentiates it from exams in other medical specialties.

Overall, the EBCOG examinations are well-established and widely accepted, with candidates from outside Europe also participating. Their credibility is demonstrated both in the context of the analysis of the results and in the positive appraisal by CESMA. The examinations constitute a highly recognised qualification, which should be the goal of European trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. ENTOG is expected to play its role in this.

Professor Ioannis E. Messinis, MD, PhD (UK), FRCOG

Chair SCE

Professor (Em.) of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece



*Figure 7 Recipients of EFOG-EBCOG receiving their awards at the EBCOG 2025 Congress.*

## 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 Jennifer Stokes (trainee in Ireland)



This report gives an overview of activities carried out by the EBCOG SCTA in 2025.

### **SCTA structure**

The SCTA had 4 working groups throughout 2025, 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)

	<u>Leads</u>
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	Angelique Goverde+ Karen Rose + Goknur Topcu
5. E-Learning Group	Alexandra Kristufkova + Goknur Topcu
6. Clinical Leadership	Anabela Serranito

### **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 and 2025. Revision of PACT requires a considerable amount of work and the committee has demonstrated exceptional dedication to this.



The final version, following a rigorous consultation and revision phase, was approved by EBCOG Executive and Council during 2024. Prof McAuliffe presented the revised PACT at UEMS Council in Brussels in 2025. The final version of updated PACT was submitted to UEMS in 2025 for ratification by UEMS Council in 2026.

### **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 ran from Oct 2022 to Feb 2025. The outputs of GESEA have been incorporated into PACT 2025. Ten ENTOG trainees were supported by EBCOG to attend a GESEA training workshop in 2024. This project has now come to completion and the final step is the signing of the MOU between EBCOG and ESGE.



### **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. Agreement was reached within the SCTA (with Prof Fedde Scheele and Dr Mark Formosa leading) together with SCTR leads Prof Wladimiroff and Prof 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. The final version of the survey was approved in 2025.



### **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 2025 were to continue with TTTS courses. There are also plans to apply for CME points for TTT course participation and to increase the number of trainers for course delivery from amongst SCTA members.

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

The very popular Talk With The Experts (TWTE) continued in 2025.

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.

### **Clinical Leadership**

SCTA is developing a curriculum for Clinical leadership in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, led by Anabela Serranito. Delphi method has commenced in 2025 and will continue into 2026 with input from ENTOG and Council members.

Karl Storz has kindly funded an EBCOG Clinical leadership fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery and EBCOG is proud to promote training in clinical leadership amongst our senior trainees.

### **Future Meetings**

The working groups 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 1-2 times per 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 SCTA

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and Maternal and Fetal Medicine Specialist at National Maternity Hospital Dublin



*Figure 8 SCTA committee, November 2025*

## Standing Committee on Training Recognition Report

### Committee Members

Dr Petr Velebil (Chair) ▪ Professor Juriy Wladimiroff (Past-Chair) ▪ Professor Jaroslav Feyereisl ▪ Dr Valentine Faure Bardon ▪ Professor Ioannis Messinis ▪ Dr Jure Klanjšček ▪ Dr Karen Rose ▪ Professor Sebastian Kwiatkowski ▪ Professor Cansun Demir ▪ Dr Dmytro Ledin ▪ Dr Mei Yee Ng ▪ Dr Nuno Martins



The SCTR met on-line three times and reported its findings to the regular Executive Board and Council meetings.

In 2025 the focus has been on conducting first visits and re-visits on-site and on-line to training units across Europe.

Fifteen hospital visits have been completed (Czechia: 2, Flemish Belgium: 8, Greece: 1, Italy: 2, Malta: 1, Poland: 1).

There were also several postponements of intended visits and several expired accreditations.

The SCTR concentrated further on the following issues:

- Repository of documents – ongoing task;
- Update of hospital visit - related documents: Head of Department form, Trainee form, and Visiting report to reflect PACT which was done in close collaboration with SCTA and the Executive Board;
- Strategy on non-responsive centres – the SCTR has worked on new rules as to how to manage situations when departments eligible for a revisit are unresponsive. These new rules were presented at the Council meeting in November 2025;
- Official letter to remind accredited centres about imminent expiration of their accreditation – a final version is now available.

There were five Local Co-ordinators in 2025: 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.

The SCTR successfully conducted a Training the Visitors course at the EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt in June 2025.



*Figure 9 Prof Messinis, Dr Velebil, and Prof Wladimiroff presenting at the TTV course*

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 only be granted if the financial obligations are fulfilled after the visit.

Also steps were taken to unify the documentation for the first and repeated visits and for on-site and on-line visits, this with a view of future digitalization of the process.

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 2025 were substantially supported by the Past-Chair Professor Juriy Wladimiroff. The current Chair Dr. Petr Velebil values this cooperation very much as it is very important for the smooth continuation of the SCTR activities.

Petr Velebil, MD. PhD.

[Chair SCTR](#)

[Chair Fellowship Working Group](#)

[Chief of the Perinatal Centre of the Institute of Mother and Child, Prague](#)



*Figure 10 Participants and faculty of the 2025 TTV course*

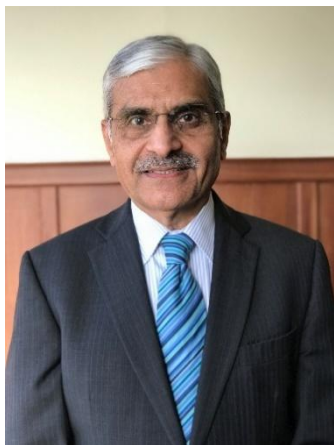
## Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements Report

### Committee Members

Dr Tahir Mahmood (Chair) ▪ Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay ▪ Professor Basil Tarlatzis ▪ Professor Ioannis Messinis ▪ Professor Charles Savona Ventura ▪ Professor Johannes Bitzer ▪ Dr Petr Velebil ▪ Professor Juriy Wladimiroff ▪ Professor Gligor Tofoski ▪ Professor Diana Ramasauskaite ▪ Assoc. Professor Mehreen Zaigham ▪ Professor Stergios Doumouchtsis ▪ Dr Ferry Boekhorst ▪ Assoc. Professor. Alexandra Kristufkova ▪ Dr Maria Alfonso (EAPM) ▪ Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou ▪ Professor Frank Louwen (Ex-Officio) ▪ Professor Piotr Sieroszewski (Ex-Officio) ▪ Professor Helle Karro (Ex-Officio) ▪ Kate Thorman (EBCOG Secretariat)

### Invited Observers

Dr Rafał Zadykowicz, ENTOG ▪ Dr Zixing Zhong, Republic of China ▪ Assoc. Prof Justina Kacerauskiene ▪ Dr Jure Klanjscek ▪ Dr Hajra Khattak ▪ Dr Argyro Papadopoulou



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 into the Russian language with financial support from UNFPA-EECA Region and these documents were launched at the EBCOG Congress in Torino, 2016. A short life working group under the Chair of Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay is currently updating these two documents.

Professor Allan Templeton led the “Position statements working group” from 2014, till his retirement from the EBCOG Executive Board in November 2017. In November 2017, an enhanced role for this working group was agreed as “Standards by of Care and Position Statements group” and Dr Tahir Mahmood was invited to 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 during the Presidency of Professor Basil Tarlatzis.

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 stake holders such as UNFPA-EECARO, Euro-Peristat, FIGO, EMAS, EAPM and other professional organisations like European Society of Contraception, European Colposcopy society, ISIDOG, EURAPAG and CNGOF.




I am very grateful to Professor Diogo Ayres-de-Campos, for his huge contribution as Representative of EAPM on this committee since its inception. He has now demitted his office. He is being replaced by Dr Maria Alfonso as EAPM representative.

The Standing Committee has remained very active in 2025 by working in the following key areas:

- Publishing position statements and research papers produced by the committee in the European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology (EJOGRB).
- Addressing issues of inequalities in healthcare in Europe by carrying out surveys.
- Responding to various consultations from the European Union relevant to maternal and Child Health.
- Facilitating the work of “Standards of Care review working group” to update previously published documents in 2014.
- Publication of abstracts of EBCOG’s biannual congress in EJOGRB.

#### **Response to emerging issues:**

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA)’s new guideline on inclusion of pregnant and breastfeeding individuals in clinical trials.  **EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY**  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH
- Review of FLO contract and future working arrangements with EBCOG to promote work of the Standing Committee.
- Following publication of an online complaint from a women’s group against the use of patient’s sensitive images online by her Gynaecologist, the Committee not only published a robust rebuttal but also issued a position statement.

#### **Papers published during 2025**

- Sofia Tsiapakidou, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Frank Louwen, Tahir Mahmood, Jure Klanjscek, Stergios K. Doumouchsis. Workforce wellbeing in European Healthcare: Challenges and strategic actions based on a questionnaire-based study by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.03.029>

- Petr Velebil, Melanie Durox, Jennifer Zeitlin, Tahir Mahmood, the Euro-Peristat Research Group. A call for better data for surveillance and evaluation of caesarean sections in Europe – A joint statement by Euro-Peristat and European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.02.056>



- Diana Ramasauskaite, Charles Savona-Ventura, Meile Minkauskiene, Tahir Mahmood. Respiratory syncytial virus vaccination in pregnancy – Position statement by the European board and college of obstetrics and gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.113978>

- Petr Velebil, Charles Savona-Ventura, Mehreen Zaigham, Tahir Mahmood, Juriy Wladimiroff, Frank Louwen. How to influence rising caesarean section rates in Europe? An invited scientific review by European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.113979>

- Sofia Tsiapakidou, Alexandra Kristufkova, Hajra Khattak, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood, Charles Savona-Ventura, Jure Klanjscek, Johannes Bitzer. Access, availability, and quality of service provision women and men experiencing problems related to their sexual health across Europe: Time to act in the wake of a survey on sexual and reproductive health care services by the European Board and College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (EBCOG) and European Society of Contraception (ESC)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114034>

- Mehreen Zaigham, Frank Louwen, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood. Ending preventable maternal deaths in Europe – Position statement of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114750>

- P. Mallia, C. Savona-Ventura, T. Mahmood. The ethics of publishing on social media-: The example of obesity – an invited review by the Standing Committee on Standards of Care and Position Statements of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114710>

- Marek Glezerman, Frank Louwen, Tahir Mahmood. Gender and Sex Conscious Medicine and the future direction of health care: An invited scientific review by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114720>

- **Publication of Abstracts from the EBCOG Congress 2025.**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/european-journal-of-obstetrics-and-gynecology-and-reproductive-biology/vol/313/suppl/S1>

- Mehreen Zaigham, Frank Louwen, Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Tahir Mahmood. Active labour management and multiprofessional teamwork are cornerstones in preventing postpartum haemorrhage: EBCOG commentary on “The new WHO/FIGO/ICM’s postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) guideline 2025”

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114798>

- Sara Ebadi, Viktoria El Radaf, Tahir Mahmood, Charles Savona-Ventura, Mehreen Zaigham. Caesarean section rates in public vs private hospitals in Europe: a systematic review and meta-analysis using the Robson ten group classification system

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2025.114921>

- Viktoria El Radaf, Wilma Pettersson, Johanna Brondin, Charles Savona-Ventura, Tahir Mahmood, Mehreen Zaigham. Adverse Neonatal Outcomes Following Planned Vaginal Birth Compared to Planned Caesarean Birth: A Population-Based Study

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.70436>

#### **EBCOG and UNFPA collaboration since 2014:**

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) in September 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 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 in September 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 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 had been held at each of EBCOG Congress since 2014, and the most recent being at the 29th EBCOG Congress, 5th-7th June 2025, Frankfurt.
- Dr Tahir Mahmood and Dr Mehreen Zaigham have written a draft policy advisory paper at the request of UNFPA-EECARO HQ to address challenges of rising caesarean sections in the Eastern European and Central Asia, December 2025.



### On-Going Projects:

- Workforce challenges in Europe
- Preservation of fertility and newer techniques in oncology fertility

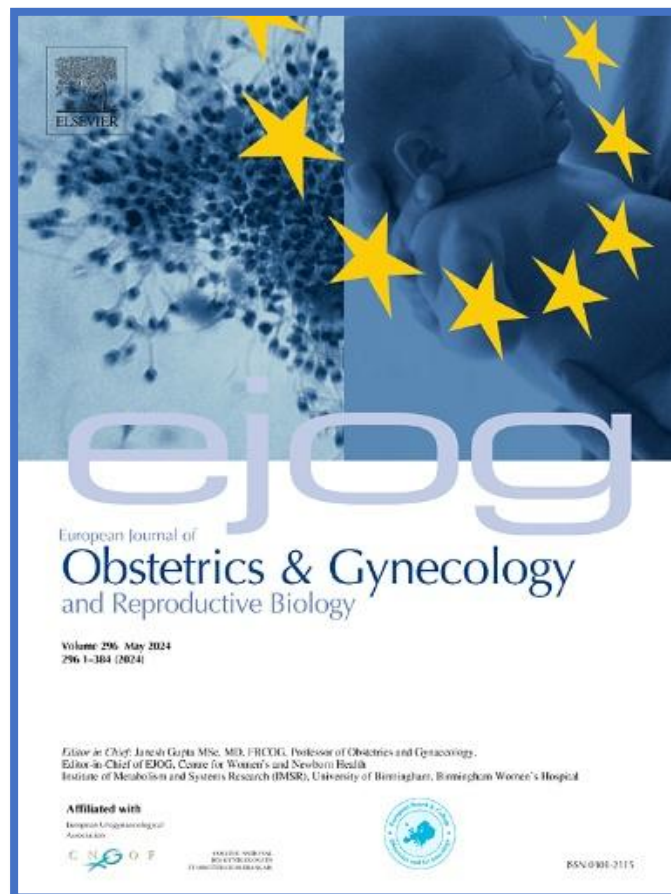


- Review of Non-Invasive methods for the diagnosis of Endometriosis
- Post-partum haemorrhage and Caesarean hysterectomies in Europe
- Enhanced Maternal morbidity surveillance
- Management of third-degree perineal tear
- New Challenges of Female Genital Mutilation in Europe
- Inequalities in pre-conceptual and perinatal mental healthcare in Europe
- Collaboration on European requirements for anaesthesia in small Obstetric Units

Dr Tahir Mahmood CBE, MD, FFSRH, FRCPE, FACOG, FRCOG

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 Working Group continued its activities throughout 2025 without any difficulties.

Three EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships were awarded for 2025, and all were successfully completed.

Applications for three EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships for 2026 were invited during the EBCOG Congress in Frankfurt in June 2025, with the application deadline set for 30 September 2025. By that date, we had received ten applications, eight of which were eligible. Following a thorough review, the Working Group selected three grantees for 2026, and the results were announced during the Council meeting in November 2025.

The EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowships Working Group provided regular reports to the Executive Board and during EBCOG Council meetings throughout 2025.

Petr Velebil, MD. PhD.

Chair Fellowship Working Group

Chair SCTR

Chief of the Perinatal Centre of the Institute of Mother and Child, Prague



## Congress Report



Before we celebrate the history of the EBCOG Congress at Rome in 2027, for its 30th edition, I must say our pathway was very positively marked by the Congress where we first publicly announced Rome; that is, at the 29th EBCOG European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, held at the Congress Centre Messe Frankfurt, June 2025. Our host, Professor Frank Louwen himself, now the President of FIGO!

For 3 whole days, the 32 members of the Organizing Committee, that included specialists from all fields in our specialty and including the subspecialties, could witness the impressive results of their hard work over 16 months of Congress preparation.

With them, over a thousand people attended the Congress, an international hub for colleagues coming from 88 different countries, hence the Congress theme “Europe meets the World”. We need to highlight and thank the 148 Ukrainian doctors that managed to join the Congress in spite of all the current obstacles. Past Presidents of FIGO and EBCOG were present, including Sir Arulkumaran, Prof. Peter Hornnes, Prof. Chiara Benedetto, Dr. Tahir Mahmood, Prof. Jacky Nizard and Prof. Basil Tarlatzis.



And speaking of acknowledgements, there isn't room in this page to go through all of the people we need to thank, but we really need to thank our Chief Administrator Mrs Thorman and, of course, all our sponsors, otherwise this Congress would not have been the same.

A total of 407 abstracts were included in the program, which means that every submitter had to present their work at the Congress, no e-posters were allowed. The program had 3 whole days divided into theoretical knowledge and skills sessions, with a topic per day: prematurity, 3D's (demography, decarbonisation and defence), and endometriosis awareness day.

In the final program we had 9 keynote lectures, 2 experts fight at breakfast, one stump the expert, 12 breakfast sessions, 4 movie sessions, 5 case report sessions, 2 nearly live sessions, one out-of-specialty session (anaesthesiology, laboratory medicine, psychiatry), 34 parallel sessions on all topics and 18 skills sessions, including 7 hands-on. In total, impressive around 200 invited speakers, 97 sessions and over a thousand lectures! With ENTOG side by side and her President Dr Sophia Tsiapakidou, this is still the only space where both consultants and trainees from all over the world can meet up in Europe once every two years and share knowledge, whilst improving quality of care for our babies and their mothers.

For all the people who lived this moment, these days filled with science and enthusiasm will be truly unforgettable. All the positive memories will further reinforce the great work we all do on a daily basis across Europe and beyond. Expectations are high for the 30th EBCOG Congress in Rome with Professor Luigi Nappi under Dr Mukhopadhyay’s leadership, hopefully the biggest EBCOG Congress so far.

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 11 EBCOG members diligently promoted the congress in their countries.



Figure 12 EBCOG President Professor Frank Louwen presenting at the congress.



Figure 13 Congress President Dr Nuno Martins presenting at the congress.



Figure 14 Participants enjoyed a high-quality scientific programme that included a wide variety of hot topics.



Figure 15 The congress featured a number of notable keynote speakers, including Dr Sima Simar.



Figure 16 Hands-on-training and interactive courses were held on each day of the congress.



Figure 17 EBCOG Executive and Congress Committee members contributed greatly to the congress.



Figure 18 Europe met the world at the EBCOG congress, which had a session featuring Officers of the Japanese Society as part of the ongoing exchange programme.



Figure 19 Many members of FIGO joined EBCOG at the congress, including FIGO President Anne-Beatrice Kihara.



Figure 20 EBCOG created four Honorary Fellows during the Opening Ceremony.



Figure 21 Faculty and honoured guests attended the Presidential Dinner, held as Kloster Eberbach on Friday evening.

## Webmaster Report



### **Website**

The EBCOG website ([www.ebcog.eu](http://www.ebcog.eu)) continues to serve as the central hub for disseminating information about EBCOG activities, including examinations, congresses, fellowships, courses, and publications. Throughout 2025, ongoing efforts focused on maintaining clear, up-to-date content. As in previous years, the majority of visitors accessed the website via search engines, underlining the importance of structured and searchable content. Further improvements and content optimisation remain a priority moving forward.

### **Facebook**

Facebook remains EBCOG's most influential and far-reaching social media platform. In 2025, the Facebook page continued to grow steadily, building on the strong base established in 2024, when the page reached over 10,000 followers. Engagement remained highest among women, particularly in the 35–44 age group. Facebook continues to be the primary channel for sharing official announcements, congress information and educational opportunities. Despite evolving trends in social media usage, Facebook remains a key communication tool for reaching a broad professional audience.

### **Instagram**

Instagram showed further growth in 2025 and continues to gain importance as a platform for engaging younger audiences. The number of followers increased significantly compared with 2024, rising from just over 800 followers to approximately 1,200 by the end of the year. Engagement through views and interactions also increased, reflecting a growing interest. Instagram is proving to be particularly effective for highlighting congress activities and key messages, and will remain a focus for future development.

### **X (formerly Twitter)**

EBCOG's presence on X (formerly Twitter) continued to expand, and in 2025 account reached 156 followers. While overall reach remains smaller than on Facebook or Instagram, X continues to serve as a useful complementary communication channel.

### **LinkedIn**

LinkedIn remains an important platform for professional networking and dissemination of educational and institutional content. In 2025, EBCOG's LinkedIn presence continued to



grow with 674 members. Further efforts will be directed towards strengthening engagement and ensuring consistent posting aligned with EBCOG’s mission.

## Newsletter

As in 2024, no regular newsletters were distributed during 2025. Nevertheless, EBCOG maintains a strong and stable mailing list with over 2,200 subscribers. The newsletter remains a valuable communication tool with significant potential for reactivation in future years to strengthen direct engagement with members.

## Comparison with 2024

Compared with 2024, EBCOG’s digital presence in 2025 demonstrated continued and steady growth across social media platforms. Instagram showed the most notable relative increase in followers, while Facebook maintained its role as the platform with the widest reach and strongest engagement. X and LinkedIn continued to grow at a slower but consistent pace. Overall, 2025 confirmed a positive trend in visibility and engagement across EBCOG’s digital channels.

## Plans for 2026


In 2026, EBCOG will continue to strengthen its digital strategy by further developing content across all platforms. Particular emphasis will be placed on expanding Instagram and LinkedIn activity, while maintaining Facebook as the primary communication channel. The recently established presence on emerging platforms such as Bluesky will be monitored and developed as appropriate. Continued collaboration with Standing Committees will remain essential to ensure that online content reflects EBCOG’s core educational and professional objectives.

Dr Jure Klanjšček

EBCOG Webmaster

 @ebcogorg

 @ebcog\_eu

 @ebcog.bsky.social

 EBCOG group

 @ebcog\_eu

# 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.

Through the present day, ENTOG has hosted 35 Council Meetings and 33 Exchanges.



## The ENTOG Executive Committee 2025-2026

On 5th of June the 35th ENTOG Council meeting took place in Frankfurt. With trainees and Country Members present, Council elections took place for the new Executive committee of 2025-2026. Available positions were President, Treasurer, and Executive Member. The ENTOG Executive Committee for 2025-2026 (see Figure 21) is:

<u>President:</u>	<b>Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou</b> , Greece. Member of SCTA, SCSCPS, and EBCOG/ENTOG Fellowship working group.
<u>Secretary General:</u>	<b>Dr Rafal Zadykowicz</b> , Poland. Member of SCSCPS.
<u>Treasurer:</u>	<b>Dr Sara Vodopivec</b> , Slovenia. Member of SCTA
<u>Executive Member-Webmaster:</u>	<b>Dr Mei Yee Ng</b> , Ireland. Member of SCTR
<u>Executive Member:</u>	<b>Dr Mert Ishak Kaya</b> , Turkey. Member of SCE



Figure 22 ENTOG Executive 2025-2026

We bid farewell with gratitude to Dr Esther McNeil for her precious friendship, energy and valuable contribution to the ENTOG.

## ENTOG's 2025 work and activities

The **33rd ENTOG Exchange 2025** took place in Frankfurt, Germany and it was a truly remarkable experience. 48 trainees from 25 European countries and three Japanese trainees



were placed in 12 different hospitals across Germany 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 Frankfurt. On 4th of June a marvellous **ENTOG Party Scientific Night** took place in Mainz, Germany. On the 5th of June, our **35th ENTOG Council Meeting** took place with a strong representation from all over Europe and a deep discussion on the training conditions and training needs.



For one more year, the ENTOG Exchange was a tremendous success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the German Local Organising Committee and Junges Forum for showcasing the German healthcare system and culture, and all those involved in making this event not only possible but also profoundly impactful.

After the success of the ENTOG Exchange 2025 in Germany, it is our great pleasure on behalf of ENTOG Executive to announce the **34th EUGA Exchange 2026** in Ireland, with our **36th ENTOG Council Meeting**. This is an opportunity to share practices and encourage research, to get inspired and to improve our training with ENTOG Scientific Meeting dedicated to **Global Women's Health**. Save the dates and let's meet in Ireland between **7th to 12th of September 2026!**

The election for **35th ENTOG Exchange in 2027** took place during the Council meeting in Frankfurt. Congratulations once again to the Italian Trainee Society AGIF for winning the bid. We are excited to return back to Italy for another unforgettable Exchange, held alongside with the 30th EBCOG Congress.

The **78th Annual Congress of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG)** will take place in Hokkaido, Japan and **three ENTOG trainees** from **France, Poland** and **Greece** will travel and participate in a short clinical visit and to the thanks to EBCOG's collaboration and initiative with the Japanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as EBCOG-ENTOG Ambassadors.

**ENTOG Representatives** in **WATOG** is Dr Mei Yee Ng (the immediate past WATOG Secretary General) and Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou are WATOG Executive Board Members. They are working with WATOG to unite trainees and young specialists worldwide, alongside Dr Rafał Zadykiewicz (ENTOG Secretary General) as the new WATOG Vice President.



**ENTOG Surveys** Two new surveys launched with the aim of getting an overview of different aspects of training in ENTOG member countries about: (1) chronic pelvic pain, (2) the animal use in O&G training.

**EBCOG-ENTOG Fellowships Grant for 2025** Three European trainees once more had the chance thanks to EBCOG to pass three months in EBCOG accredited centres for more specific visiting: (1) to Charles University and General Faculty Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic from **Portugal**, (2) and two from **Malta** and **Portugal** to Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.



**One2One Exchange** A beautiful project unfortunately has no current active hosts offers, which would allow European trainees from all over Europe to come and visit your department. It requires a minimum work by the host Department and provides a unique training opportunity.

**EJOG-ENTOG Trainee editor programme** opened new vacancies, and we got 28 high-quality applications! Four new trainee editors were selected from **Germany, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Italy**; and three have been already promoted as **EJOG Associate Editors** from **Germany, United Kingdom and Belgium**.

### Scientific Meetings

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

- 26th Congress of the European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM), February 2025 in Vienna, Austria
- 29th EBCOG Congress 2025, June 2025, in Frankfurt, Germany
- IUGA/EUGA Joint Meeting 2025, June 2025, Barcelona, Spain
- XXV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, October 2025, in Cape Town, South Africa
- 34th Annual Congress of the European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE) October 2025, in Istanbul, Türkiye

### ENTOG Joint Webinars

- **EBCOG-ENTOG Talk with the Experts** about Leading Multidisciplinary teams in Obstetrics and Gynecology on 29th of January 2025
- **EBCOG-ENTOG Talk with the Experts** about Exploring the complexities of Refractory Endometriosis: A case study on 26th of March 2025
- **ENTOG – ISSVD Webinar** on Scratching the Surface: Tackling the Complexities of Pruritus on the 30th of October 2025
- **ENTOG-IPVS** on Colposcopy Uncovered: Past, Present, and Future in Cervical Cancer Prevention and Innovation on 10th of December 2025
- **ENTOG-EUGA Trainee Webinar** on Vaginal Surgery: Old fashioned or a new NEED? on 11th of December 2025

**EBCOG hospital accreditation visits** ENTOG Executive took part in 4 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 more than 1.500€ for a second consecutive year.

**New Collaborations** with the **European Menopause and Andropause Society** This collaboration will expand opportunities in menopause and midlife women's health through mentorship and joint education activities.

We have strengthened our collaborations with the **European Urogynaecological Association** and the **European Society for Sexual Medicine** through joint webinars and shared trainee sessions at their respective congresses.

We had the opportunity to **offer free registrations** for several trainees to join ISSVD, IPVS, ISUOG and ESSM 2025 Congresses, and we are thankful for the opportunity.

**2026** promises to be even more dynamic, with webinars, joint activities with affiliated societies, and many new opportunities!

Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou  
President, ENTOG



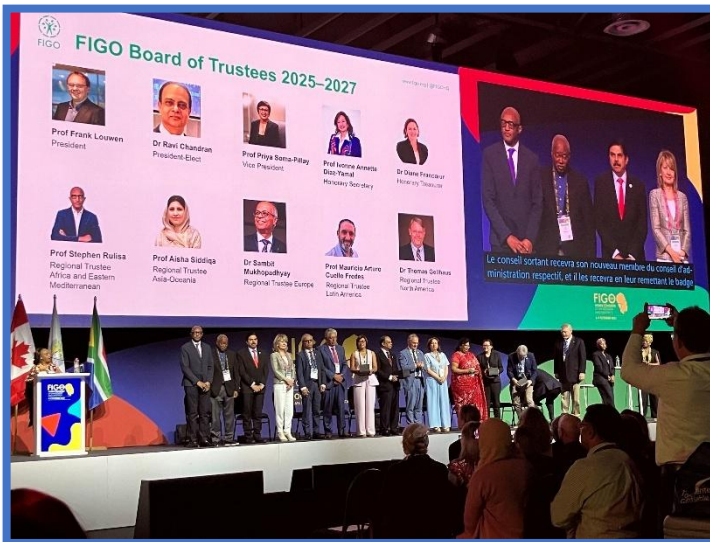
*Figure 23 Awards for the best abstracts were presented by EBCOG President-Elect Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay and ENTOG President Dr Sofia Tsiapakidou.*

## EBCOG Activities

The 25<sup>th</sup> FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics took place from 5-9 October 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa. EBCOG held a session on education, training, and iron deficiency and anaemia. EBCOG also hosted a well-attended networking reception for European and global colleagues.



Elections were held for the FIGO Board of Trustees and Council. EBCOG President Professor Frank Louwen began his term as President of FIGO. Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay was elected as Trustee for Europe, taking over from Past-President Professor Chiara Benedetto. Belgium, Italy, Poland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom were elected to join the Council, joining existing members France, Ireland, and Ukraine.



*The new FIGO Board of Trustees*



*Presidential Address of Professor Frank Louwen*

Other activities:



*67<sup>th</sup> AICOG Congress in Mumbai, India*



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*EBCOG Spring Executive Meeting, March 2025*

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*EBCOG Spring Council Meeting, June 2025*

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*EBCOG Autumn Council Meeting, November 2025*

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*Professor Frank Louwen passing the EBCOG Presidency to Dr Sambit Mukhopadhyay, November 2025*

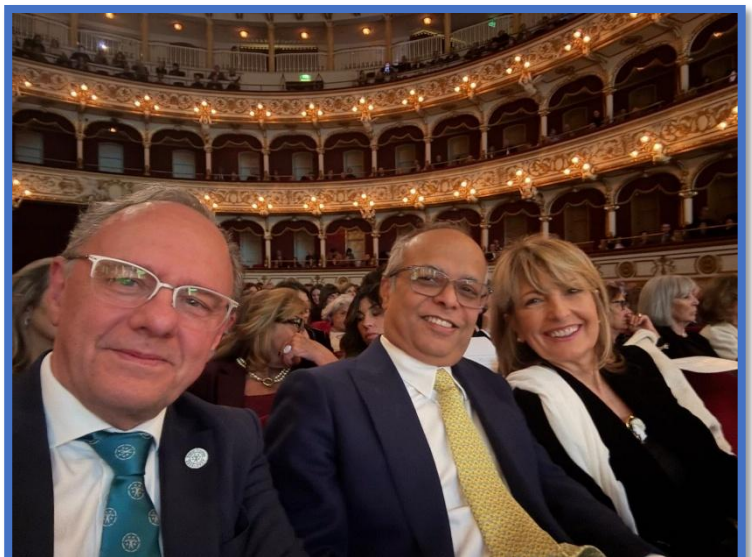
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*FIGO Board of Trustees, December 2025*

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*SIGO Congress Italy, December 2025*

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*PTGiP Congress Poland, September 2025*





## APPENDIX

### **A complete list of publications by the Standing Committee of Standards of Care and Position statements (Updated January 2026)**

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>
9.  
EBCOG Position statement on Female Genital Mutilation  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2017.04.019>
10.  
Mahmood, Tahir and Tamar Khomasuridze. 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)



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Katrien Benhalima, Chantal Mathieu, Andre Van Assche, Peter Damm, Roland Devlieger, Tahir Mahmood, Fidelma Dunne. Survey by the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on screening for gestational diabetes in Europe. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology*;2016: 201:197-202

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Kristel Van Calsteren, Ksenija Gersak, Hiltrun 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. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Reproductive Biology*;2016: 201: 189-191

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35.  
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EJOGRB 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2020.04.029>

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Sambit Mukhopadhyay, Basil Tarlatzis, Tahir Mahmood. EBCOG Position Statement to mark “ World patient safety day-safe mother and newborn care” on 17th September 2021 EJOGRB 2021;266: 111-113

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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)



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- three invited commentaries, and
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