



ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

ACOG'S OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH

Leveraging ACOG's Unique Capabilities to Improve Women's Health Everywhere

2018 has been filled with accomplishments, and as the year wraps up, there is a lot to report and to feel grateful for.

Our work at ACOG's Office of Global Women's Health seeks to increase women's access to quality health care by building provider skills, supporting implementation of high impact interventions, and scaling proven solutions to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity and improve care throughout a woman's life. The OGWH is founded on the premise that by leveraging ACOG's unique capabilities we can help to improve women's health everywhere.

Among our portfolio of 13 programs, in 2018 we launched an effective eLearning program in India; provided consultation to the development of international guidance documents; joined a coalition to improve maternal, newborn, and child health in Madagascar; launched a new surgery training curriculum in Uganda; and successfully closed-out the multi-year ESOG-ACOG Collaboration.

These accomplishments would not have been achieved without the continued support of ACOG, its leadership, and the Global Operations Advisory Group. The involvement and dedication of the ACOG Fellows who are available for consultation, travel, or trainings— we engaged over 60 ACOG Fellows this year – a key component of our success. Our partners, including Johnson & Johnson, The Center for International Reproductive Health Training at the University of Michigan, Laerdal Global Health, Management Sciences for Health, Abt Associates, USAID, GE Healthcare, JSI, Country Ministries of Health and global societies of Ob-Gyns – especially the Ethiopian Society of Ob-Gyns – inspire and motivate us to succeed.

Together, our achievements advance the well-being of women, ensure women and girls access to better sexual and reproductive health care services, and improve the delivery of maternal and women's health care for women around the world.

In each country in which we work, ACOG engages with relevant stakeholders to catalyze locally led program development. Our role is to build capability and capacity to lead to sustainable change.

Enjoy these program highlights from 2018. Let us know if you would like to partner with us in 2019. We look forward to continued successes in the advancement and care of women around the world.

Our engagement strategy:

“Effective development programs, by their nature depend on taking risks where the optimal interventions may be unknown and applying best practices and lessons learned from other countries. They require adaptation to local settings, partnerships with local communities, and enough time to achieve impact.”

– “First: Aid” by Barbara Crane and Elizabeth McGuire, *Conscience*, April 19, 2017

Providing Access to Evidence-Based Continuing Medical Education

ACOG is working with **GE Healthcare** to improve medical education training for health care providers in India.

In 2018, ACOG and GE Healthcare made available 15 online learning modules on a variety of requested topics. The eModules were produced based on the latest scientific and evidence-based information. Over 700 eModules were purchased by Indian MDs in 2018, exceeding our USA sales.

This highly successful partnership bringing advanced, extended-learning to Ob-Gyns and other health care workers in India will expand in 2019 to include quarterly in-person trainings delivered by ACOG Fellows.

Highlights from 2018 include:

15 online learning modules made available

704 online learning modules purchased

Popular topics were: Infertility, Gynecologic Bleeding Disorders, and Fetal Heart Rate Nomenclature, Interpretation, and Management

Training in Surgical Skills and Operative Obstetrics to Address the Lack of Access to Safe Surgery and Strengthen Surgical Infrastructure

ACOG's highly impactful surgical skills training program in Uganda was refined in 2018 in anticipation of a country-wide expansion. Recognized and supported by the Ugandan Ministry of Health, the surgical program, which began in 2015, has trained over 200 Master Trainers and certified over 490 Providers. The Uganda Ministry of Health asked ACOG to scale up this program to provide training to all medical interns nationally.

The program, named **Essential Training in Operative Obstetrics (ETOO)** by Ugandan stakeholders, now includes a revised, localized, blended-learning curriculum developed by stakeholders at Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Busitema University, and Drexel University and ACOG. The ETOO program will work to standardize curriculum and competency requirements in surgical skills and operative obstetrics in all medical schools and internship centers in Uganda.

Highlights from 2018 include:

Training 200 Faculty Trainers and 490 Providers in lifesaving surgical skills

Integration of training curriculum and supervision at all residency training programs in Uganda

Launch eModules for innovative training and mentoring of providers

Strengthening Professional Association Capacities to Enhance Medical Education and Residency Training

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists-American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG-ACOG) collaboration concluded in September 2018 with a long list of accomplishments. The **ESOG-ACOG collaboration**, generously supported by the Center for International Reproductive Health Training at the University of Michigan (UM-CIRHT) and aligned with strategic goals of the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia, demonstrated how two peer organizations can catalyze change to improve medical education, training, and quality of care.

In 2016, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, the Center for International Reproductive Health Training at the University of Michigan, ESOG and ACOG came together to create an innovative and unique collaboration. The collaboration supported ESOG in its aspirational and important goals to improve pre-service medical education and continuing medical education, improve accountability and professionalism of Ob-Gyns, enhance the research capacity of faculty and residents in all Ob-Gyn residency programs, and address clinical training deficits.

The program concluded with an extensive list of achievements. Extensive progress was made in each of the key thematic objectives, building a strong and vibrant professional association as part of the collaboration.

Increasing our Exposure in World Forums

ACOG actively participated in several world health forums in 2018, collaborated on guidance and module drafts, and participated in panel discussions at UNGA, FIGO, and the World Health Assembly. We are proud that our colleague, **Jeanne Conry**, MD, PhD, FACOG, became president-elect of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) during the XXII FIGO World Congress. Her three-year term as president will begin in 2021. Conry is the second woman to hold this position since FIGO was founded in 1954.

Working Toward Sustainable Health Impacts in Madagascar

ACOG has partnered with Management Sciences for Health on the **USAID Madagascar Accessible Continuum of Care and Essential Services Sustained (ACCESS)** program. ACCESS aims to support activities that contribute to USAID/Madagascar's five-year (2016-2020) Health Development Objective focused on "sustainable health impacts accelerated for Malagasy People." The program activities are designed to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality, support efforts towards progressive malaria elimination by improving clinical and non-clinical skills of health providers and, through focused efforts, and strengthen health systems at the district level and below.

ACOG will work with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Nurse-Midwives to provide capacity building, expertise on curricula and guidelines, training in specific skills, and support to drive quality improvement efforts.

The program activities in 2019 will include a site assessment identifying quality improvement plans and gaps; review and evaluation of mobile LARC and permanent methods contraception outreach services; collaborative training to provide capacity building on identified improvement areas; development of a LARC manual and job aides, in French; and define opportunities for e-learning modules for use in districts and regional settings.

Strengthening Medical Care and Residency Education in Central and Latin America

Since 2003, ACOG has strengthened Ob-Gyn societies and enhanced professional education and training standards through the **Central American Residency Program (CAFA)**. ACOG supports development of residency accreditation and administration of in-service exams, establishment of minimal educational standards, facilitation of quality assurance processes, and mentoring of hospital leaders. Data on residency program performance is measured through an annual in-service examination and results inform improvements in education.

This program is a collaboration between FECASOG and ACOG that has been working towards developing and administering a Central American-owned, evidence-based, sustainable method for ensuring high-quality medical education for providers serving Latina women. Through CAFA, ACOG engages with 75 percent of Ob-Gyn residency programs in Central America.

In 2018, 320 doctors in Central America took the CAFA exams – Costa Rica, 36 doctors; El Salvador, 52 doctors; Guatemala, 89 doctors; Honduras, 57 doctors; Nicaragua, 42 doctors; Panama, 44 doctors. In Latin America, 128 final-year residents and practicing doctors took certification examinations.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is the specialty's premier professional membership organization dedicated to the improvement of women's health throughout their lives. ACOG is committed to leveraging its expertise and the commitment of US Ob-Gyns to support women's health programs around the world through the Office of Global Women's Health (OGWH). OGWH seeks to increase women's access to quality health care by building provider skills, supporting implementation of high impact interventions, and scaling proven solutions to decrease maternal mortality.

ACOG is grateful to our collaborating partners and donors, including:

Abt Associates	Michigan	Laerdal Global Health
American Academy of Pediatrics	Drexel University School of Medicine	Maternal Child Survival Program
American College of Nurse Midwives	FIGO	Management Sciences for Health
Baylor College of Medicine	GE Healthcare	Saving Mothers Giving Life
CaseNetwork	Jhpiego	Survive and Thrive Global
Center for International Reproductive Health Training at the University of	John Snow Incorporated	Development Alliance
	Johnson and Johnson	University Research Co.

In addition, we are grateful for the expertise and financial support of ACOG Fellows.

For more information on the Office of Global Women's Health, please contact Carla Eckhardt, Senior Director of Global Women's Health at ceckhardt@acog.org or (202) 863-2579.

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