As we get ready for ACOG’s Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting, we are happy to share with you the accomplishments of the past four months.

We’ve begun work in Madagascar with MSH on the USAID ASSIST program (see page 4). The GE Healthcare Institute program is expanding the eModules offerings and beginning the live trainings.

We’re excited that the second edition of the Professional Association Strengthening (PAS) Manual is now available. The Professional Association Strengthening Manual was completed under the auspices of Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance. The PAS manual will be available for download for no fee at: www.StrongProfAssoc.org, in June.

The Essential Training in Operative Obstetrics (ETOO) program has been lauded by the Ugandan Ministry of Education. The training schedule for 2019 has been finalized, and we are working on plans for program expansion with the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (see page 3).

The Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) partnership continues to provide excellent and crucial volunteer opportunities for ACOG Fellows to Haiti, Vietnam, Uganda, and Cambodia (see page 6).

We’re also looking forward to the Global Obstetrics and Life Saving Skills (GOALS) course that will be piloted on Sunday, May 5, during ACSM in Nashville. The GOALS course is a simulation skills course designed to help ob-gyns maximize preparedness for work in lower-resource settings (see page 4).

During ACSM in Nashville, TN, May 3—6, please stop by our Exhibit Hall booth to meet the staff and learn more about our activities and accomplishments. Visit our booth: #3 of the partner pavilion.

Seed Global Health will also have a booth during the Annual Meeting in Nashville. Stop by booth #309 to learn about their programs and volunteer opportunities.

ACSM 2019 OGWH SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuscner Lecture, Systems Change</td>
<td>Friday, May 3</td>
<td>3:10—4pm</td>
<td>Atul Gawande, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update in Global Health: How &amp; Why to Get Involved</td>
<td>Friday, May 3</td>
<td>4:15—5pm</td>
<td>Herbert Peterson, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOALS Course</td>
<td>Sunday, May 5</td>
<td>10:30am—5pm</td>
<td>Grace Chen, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Global Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit Hall Booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Global Health Booth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Partner Pavilion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S HEALTH**

**GE India**

ACOG is collaborating with the GE Healthcare Institute in India to promote medical education through skill enhancement courses in women’s health care.

ACOG Fellows Kaitlyn Edelson, MD (Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston) and Manisha Gandhi, MD (Baylor College of Medicine at Texas Children’s Pavilion for Women, Houston) collaborated with Wipro GE India staff including Dr. Vikas Krishna, Dr. Rajeev Virmani, and Ms. Annuradah Singh to deliver several sonography training sessions to approximately 110 participants in Delhi and Jaipur.

Anne Arnold, Director of Educational Programs, attended the four sessions to represent ACOG, observe the training, and offer suggestions about how to improve the course from an educational perspective.

ACOG is working with GE India to coordinate future trainings — August 10—11, and November 16—17.

**WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

OGWH has just been awarded $25,000 to provide support to professional association partners in target countries (TBD) to advocate for increased funding for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities from the Wallace Genetic Foundation. OGWH will:

- Engage ACOG Fellow(s) with expertise in delivery of high quality healthcare in low-resource settings, health systems strengthening, professional association strengthening and WASH to provide guidance and technical assistance to peers in target countries.
- Strengthen the capacity of professional associations of ob-gyns in target countries to advocate with Ministries of Health and other government decision makers to include WASH funding and guidelines into national health plans, including national surgical, obstetric and anesthesia plans and national maternal, newborn and child health planning, and to expand investments of domestic resources to WASH.
- Identify key leaders among professional associations to participate in global and regional forums to present locally-tailored solutions to implementing WASH in healthcare facilities.
- Work with professional association colleagues to advocate with regional bodies to develop and implement WASH-HCF guidelines. Examples include West African College of Surgeons, College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa and East Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.


**Professional Association Strengthening Manual**

The second edition of the Professional Association Strengthening Manual is now available. The project was completed under the auspices of the Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance which includes a partnership of professional associations and the private sector with support from the United States Agency for International Development.

The primary authors for the modules include International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

The complete PAS manual can be downloaded for no fee at: [www.StrongProfAssoc.org](http://www.StrongProfAssoc.org).
ACOG’s Office of Global Women’s Health along with partners the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (AOGU), Makerere University, and CaseNetwork’s Dr. Jeff Levy, held an Essential Training in Operative Obstetrics training program for interns and clinical officers in Uganda in March 2019.

There were three trainings in March held at Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and Busitema Universities in Kampala, Uganda. The trainings culminated in a training at Makerere where ACOG hosted Johnson and Johnson, a program sponsor, and learned about and tried the new simulation models.

There were 53 medical interns who were trained in the ETOO program.

The Essential Training in Operative Obstetrics (ETOO) program focuses on training doctors in the areas of basic and safe surgical skills, including how to conduct cesarean deliveries in order to prevent maternal and perinatal deaths, and maternal complications. The program assists with lowering maternal and newborn mortality rates in Uganda, a national priority.

The ETOO program includes the following elements:

- Training of Master Trainers, who are experienced faculty of obstetrics and gynecology
- Instructor training conducted by Master Trainers for faculty before each ETOO course.
- Pre-course e-learning modules delivered on an e-learning platform that must be completed and passed before attending the hands-on simulation lab.
- Hands-on simulation training on physical models, including realistic low-cost models developed by Dr. Levy specifically for low-resource settings.
- Proctoring and competency sign-off of participants before they can operate independently.

ACOG has been asked by the government to scale up the ETOO program to provide training to all medical interns nationally.

The ETOO program will train 200 Master Trainers and over 490 service providers in surgical skills.

ACOG and AOGU are seeking funding for a national expansion in both pre-service and in-service surgical skills training to increase the number of providers trained throughout Uganda. With this expansion, all interns in Uganda will be trained to perform cesarean sections and manage complications. This will have a dramatic impact in saving mother’s lives in Africa.

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, has applauded the collaboration between Ugandan and American obstetricians and gynecologists in improving the quality of service delivery in Uganda to save mothers and newborns from dying under their care.
GLOBAL OBSTETRICS AND LIFE SAVING SKILLS (GOALS) COURSE

The Global Obstetrics and Life Saving Skills (GOALS) course is a simulation skills course designed to help ob-gyns maximize preparedness for work in lower-resource settings.

The GOALS course will be piloted during ACOG’s Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting, May 5, 2019, in Nashville, Tennessee. Pre-registration is required.

A survey was conducted during 2018 that gathered information from global health leaders and educators that aided in the development of the GOALS course. Responses were collected from over 20 countries including Ethiopia, Taiwan, the DRC, Nepal, and Tanzania.

Developed from evidence-based literature and consensus from international and domestic experts, GOALS will provide instruction through interactive lectures and skills simulation stations. The course will include a multidisciplinary team of faculty, including ob-gyns, general surgeons, and anesthesiologists, with extensive experience working in lower-resource settings. The simulation stations will provide hands-on opportunities to practice skills infrequently encountered by most Ob-Gyns practicing in higher resource settings and any physicians that may be less familiar with work in lower-resource settings including those preparing for military deployment or humanitarian aid missions.

Sunday, May 5, 10:30AM—5:00PM
Didactic lecture followed by hands-on simulation training
Course Fees: Resident: $325; Jr Fellow in Practice: $400; Fellow: $550

OGWH PARTNERING WITH MSH IN MADAGASCAR

The Office of Global Women’s Health (OGWH) is working with MSH Health Impact on the USAID Madagascar Accessible Continuum of Care and Essential Services Sustained (ACCESS) program. The USAID Madagascar ACCESS program aims to support activities that will contribute to USAID/Madagascar’s five-year (2016-2020) Health Development Objective focused on “sustainable health impacts accelerated for Malagasy People.”

The primary purpose of the USAID work in Madagascar is to improve health outcomes among poor and underserved populations through improved health behaviors and increased access to quality health services. More specifically, USAID’s work aims to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality and support efforts towards progressive malaria elimination.

In February 2019, representatives from ACOG and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) traveled to Madagascar. The group, Kate McHugh and Renée Fiorentino from ACNM, and Carlos Ramos and Gillian Burkhardt on behalf of ACOG, attended an ACCESS staff orientation workshop, presented an overview of approaches to clinical capacity building and clinical quality, and participated in focus groups. The presentations included a brief introduction to the multidisciplinary clinical consortium and provided a half-day clinical capacity building session for ACCESS staff. During one session Dr. Burkhardt introduced the AIM bundles, Carlos Ramos led a demonstration simulation of Helping Babies Breath, and ACNM lead a session on supervisory aspects of a Low Dose/High/Frequency approach to learning, including a role play.

The next visit will be in May and will involve work planning, clarifying the activity of the mobile clinics, defining supplemental data collection tools.
THE AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE WOMEN’S HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATES

The Committee on American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Women’s Health continued to show support for areas that have been affected by opioid use disorder (OUD). The committee worked on written guidelines for the IHS on AI/AN pregnant women and women of childbearing age with OUD and its release took place on March 28th during a press call lead by Rear Adm. Michael Toedt, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, IHS and Barbara Levy, M.D., Vice-President of Health Policy.

In February 2019, Fellows revisited Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities in Phoenix, AZ. These comprehensive site visits include tours, interviews, and chart reviews that teams utilize to provide recommendations to staff. The committee’s next site visits will happen in the Oklahoma City Area of the IHS in June 2020.

The William H.J. Haffner Award will be officially announced during the ACOG’s Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting in Nashville, TN.

The 2019 Haffner Award will be presented to CAPT Rachel E. Locker, MD, during the Best Practices in Women’s Health: Focus on American Indian/Alaska Native Women Conference, which will take place in Oklahoma City, OK, in August 2019. Dr. Locker will be recognized for her exemplary leadership and her career-long commitment to the highest standards of clinical care for women through her practice of Family Medicine at the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center, Warm Springs, OR, and for her numerous impactful roles in the Portland Area Indian Health Service (IHS) regionally and the entire IHS nationally.

The William H.J. Haffner Award awards health care professionals who clearly demonstrate a long-term commitment and dedication to providing exceptional care to American Indian/Alaska Native women, and currently work in an Indian Health Service or Tribal position, or recently retired from such position.

The Best Practices in Women’s Health Conference sessions will focus on women’s health updates, buprenorphine-waiver certification, and Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) certification.

The 6th International Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting, co-hosted by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), will take place in February 2020 in Albuquerque, NM. Sessions will focus on innovative clinical care models and community-based models of care of Indigenous women and their children.

To be added to the email list for registration and program updates for future meetings, please email Sue Viana (sviana@acog.org).
SAVING MOTHERS, GIVING LIFE EVENT AT THE WILSON CENTER

On Thursday, March 14, 2019, the Wilson Center and the Saving Mothers, Giving Life public-private partnership launched Global Health: Science and Practice Supplement on Saving Mothers, Giving Life. The event consisted of two panels that discussed the SMGL approach, results, and lessons-learned. Dr. Barbara Levy gave the closing remarks.

Saving Mothers, Giving Life (SMGL) was created in 2011 with the goal of reducing maternal mortality in high-burden, sub-Saharan African countries. ACOG was a founding partner of SMGL.

The partnership aimed to reduce maternal and newborn mortality using a comprehensive systems approach, and achieved impressive results. There was a 44% reduction in maternal mortality at SMGL-designated facilities in Uganda and a 38% reduction in SMGL-supported facilities in Zambia.

ACOG’s role in SMGL was to focus on a critical intervention to reduce PPH, addressing the third delay of pregnancy-related mortality (The three delays are deciding to seek care; reaching the healthcare facility; receiving care).

Dr. Barbara Levy, Vice President of Health Policy at ACOG, gave the closing remarks, saying the problems of Zambia and Uganda are universal.

“We are a global community. And many of these same systems and problems are universal. And how do we take that and begin to move the needle and change that and put women at the center of what it is we are doing.”

We should celebrate what we’ve done here,” said Dr. Levy. “The outcomes are unbelievable. We need to take the successes and build on them.”


EXPANDING WOMEN’S HEALTH CARE GLOBALLY

In 2016, ACOG partnered with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), a US-based nonprofit organization that has spent more than 31 years working with partners in resource-scarce countries to provide teaching, training, and professional opportunity to health workers. ACOG sponsors HVO’s program in obstetrics and gynecology.

“Teaching skills to physicians so that they can expand their care of Haitian women was very rewarding and emphasized the reality that we need to teach more than do on these trips.”

– Dr. Leslee Jaeger, Haiti, Jan 2018

In 2017, HVO began recruiting volunteers for its projects at Makerere University and Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda. Volunteers to HVO’s project in Uganda serve a minimum of one week, giving lectures, providing surgical training, and mentoring local health workers while on-site.

HVO also has opportunities for 2-4 week assignments at sites in Haiti and Vietnam.

In 2018, HVO launched an ob-gyn project in partnership with Sonja Kill Memorial Hospital (SKMH) in Kampot, Cambodia. HVO volunteers provide formal lectures and informal continuing education in obstetrics and gynecology to staff, students and residents at SKMH.

In 2018, 18 ACOG Fellows volunteered with HVO. As of April 2019, 11 FACOGs have volunteer assignments with HVO.

“I really loved my experience with HVO!”

– Dr Farnaz Farhi, Uganda, Dec 2018

HVO accepts volunteers on a rolling basis.

Learn more at: [www.hvousa.org](http://www.hvousa.org).
WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE, JUNE

Join Abt Associates, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists and other partners for an expert convening and workshop.

Women Deliver Conference

June 2, 3pm—5pm

The Office of Global Women’s Health will be participating in and organizing other events during Women Deliver. We will post them to the listserv as the details are finalized.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE AWARD 2019

Congratulations to Dr. Alan Waxman, MD, MPH, the third recipient of ACOG’s International Service Award.

ACOG’s International Service Award for Maternal Health, Empowerment, and Gender Equality recognizes and extends sincere gratitude to an ACOG Fellow who has worked for the betterment of maternal and child health, women’s empowerment, and gender equality in an international setting.

Dr. Waxman’s long-term commitment to provide essential education and clinical training for providers in global settings was the basis for his nomination by District VIII Chair C.H. “Tersh” McCracken III.

Dr. Waxman worked in the Indian Health Service for the first half of his career becoming nationally recognized in colposcopy and cervical pathology. Upon retirement from I.H.S., he joined the Department of Obstetricians and Gynecologists at the University of New Mexico. In this capacity, Dr. Waxman traveled extensively providing training and setting up infrastructure for cervical screening programs around the world.

According to Dr. McCracken, Dr. Waxman has “touched countless lives.” His international approach “involved training local physicians and health providers to continue providing sustainable screening services. As an educator, he remains in the hearts of those he teaches because of his gentle and respectful manner and commitment to women’s health.”

The first International Service Award was presented, in 2017, to W. Lawrence Warner, MD, FACOG, of Payson, Utah. Dr. Warner’s international service experience includes teaching AAP Newborn Resuscitation Program (NRP) and Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) in Moldova, Brazil, Egypt, India, Uganda, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan. Dr. Siri Fiebiger was the second awardee whose international experience includes 20 years of working to improve access to women’s health care in Haiti, recruiting volunteers, collecting medical supplies, and personally attending medical mission trips.

The International Service Award is administered by ACOG’s Office of Global Women’s Health. A single nomination is solicited from each District of ACOG by November 30th each year. Awardees are selected and notified by December 31st.

Dr. Waxman will be presented the Award during the Global Health Reception at Annual Clinical Meeting.
The Office of Global Women’s Health is driven by a commitment to increasing women’s access to quality health care globally. In working toward this goal, it focuses on building provider skills, supporting implementation of high-impact interventions, and scaling-up proven solutions to decrease maternal mortality and morbidity.

OGWH draws on the expertise of ACOG Fellows to provide capacity building, knowledge sharing, partner collaboration, health workforce training, and quality improvement.

Our vision is a world in which all women have access to quality health care throughout their lives.

The following six areas have been defined as our top priorities:

- Promote Safe Obstetric Surgery
- Implement Quality Improvement Programs
- Build Capacity and Peer Assisting
- Ensure Access to Contraception and Safe Abortion
- Support Health Workforce Clinical Education and Maintenance of Skills
- Reduce Non-Communicable Diseases

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING GOAG MEMBERS

The Office of Global Women’s Health is advised by the Global Operations Advisory Group (GOAG). Listed below are the new and returning members.

Herbert B Peterson, MD, FACOG
GOAG Chair
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ted Anderson, MD, PhD, FACOG
ACOG President
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Lisa Hollier, MD, MPH, FACOG
ACOG Interim CEO, Immediate Past President
Baylor College of Medicine

Amy (Meg) Autry, MD, FACOG
University of California, San Francisco

Haywood L. Brown, MD, FACOG
ACOG, Past President
University of Southern Florida

Grace Chen, MD, FACOG
Johns Hopkins University

Jeanne Ann Conry, MD, PhD, FACOG
Past President, ACOG, and FIGO President Elect (2021-2024)

Thomas Gellhaus, MD, FACOG
ACOG, Past President Immediate Past President
University of Iowa

Gelila Goba, MD, MPH, FACOG
University of Illinois at Chicago

Douglas Laube, MD, M. Ed, FACOG
Past President, ACOG
University of Wisconsin

Urania Magriples, MD, FACOG
Yale University

James N. Martin Jr., MD, FACOG,
FRCOG
ACOG, Past President
University of Mississippi

Owen C. Montgomery, MD, FACOG
Drexel University College of Medicine

Nawal Nour, MD, FACOG
Harvard University

Scott M. Petersen, MD, COL, MC, USA, FACOG
The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Susan Patricia Raine, MD, JD, LLM, FACOG
Baylor College of Medicine

Lauri Romanzi, MD, MPH
LJR Consulting

Arpana Sridhar, MD, MPH, FACOG
UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica

Mark Woodland, MS, MD, FACOG
Reading Health System

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.

www.acog.org/ogwh