The OGWH has spent a lot of time working on proposal and bids in hopes that 2020 has many new global opportunities to improve women’s health and engage ACOG fellows. While we wait for new proposal news, we have been working hard at our current programs.

The OGWH team was proud to be asked to collaborate on five of the USAID MOMENTUM bids. These highly competitive rounds focused on different aspects of maternal health all over the world. We bid on five different aspects 1, 2a (x2), 2b, and 2c. Our proposals were strategically aligned with OGWH and ACOG and would strengthen our work globally. We are still waiting to hear who may have won the bids.

We couldn’t have made it through the year without our Fellows. Our Fellows consulted, wrote, researched, traveled, trained hundreds of healthcare professionals from Madagascar, to Central America, to Uganda. They are the cornerstone of our programs and we are grateful to them all.

As we rotate some of our members off of GOAG this season: Drs. Meg Autry; Scott Petersen; Susan Raine, we want to thank them for all the years they have given to this program, and invite them to become part of our Founder’s Group, as cherished advisors and participants in the global programs at ACOG. This new group will have an important role in providing continuity and vision to the global work ACOG will continue to do.

The second awardee of the Martin-Peterson Global Health Scholar Award is Dr. Ojengbede Oladosu Akanbi of Nigeria.

Dr. Ojengbede has spent more than 25 years dedicated to providing expertise and leadership in reproductive health in Nigeria and globally. He is a leading academic fistula surgeon who helped launch the credentialled fellowship at the University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan and the adaptation of the UCH Ibadan curriculum into a sample urogynecology curriculum in English and French for the West African College of Surgeons.

As part of the Martin-Peterson Award, Dr. Ojengbede will attend ACOG’s Annual Meeting in Seattle in 2020.

Dr. Ojengbede

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’
Office of Global Women’s Health

DR. OJENGBEDE HONORED WITH 2019 MARTIN-PETERTON AWARD

The Martin-Peterson Global Health Scholar Award was created in late 2016 by ACOG Past President James N. Martin, Jr., MD. It honors Dr. Herbert B. Peterson’s lifelong dedication to improving the health care of all women globally; leadership in the initiation of the ACOG Global Operations Advisory Group (GOAG) in 2011 which continues to this day; and the need to support activities to enhance the role and recognition of ACOG as the foremost advocate for women’s health in this country and abroad.
UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S HEALTH

GE INDIA

The OGWH collaboration with GE Healthcare Institute in India concludes another successful year: it’s second.

The collaboration, begun in early 2018, promotes medical education through skill enhancement courses in women’s health care by providing access to eLearning modules, webinars, and hands-on training.

The GE Healthcare Institute was created to address the need for skilled health care workers. In India there is a “huge deficit of skilled technologists” and a “compromise in quality and health care access”.

The OGWH and GE Healthcare partnership is working to address the need for a skilled health care workforce with the launch of the eModules in early last year.

There are currently 15 eLearning tools and webinars available on the GE platform. In 2018 over 650 eModules were purchased. As of November 2019, over 800 eModules were purchased.

ACOG has conducted two hands-on ultrasound trainings one in April 2019, and one in August 2019. The April 2019, training was conducted by two 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) – in Delhi and Jaipur, India, and trained over 100 health care providers.

The August 2019 program trained over 80 health care providers in Bangalore and Udaipur, India. The FACOGs also delivered a lecture to over 50 medical students at Geetanjali University in Udaipur, India.

ACOG and GE are collaborating on a simulator workshop as part of the All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology conference in Lucknow, India, January 29-February 2, 2020.

WASH: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

OGWH is engaging ACOG Fellows Dr. Pratima Gupta and Dr. Lauri Romanzi for their expertise in the delivery of high-quality health care in low-resource settings, health systems strengthening, and WASH, and to provide guidance and technical assistance to peers in target countries. The Fellows will work with professional association colleagues to advocate with regional bodies to develop and implement WASH-HCF guidelines.

Dr. Lauri Romanzi delivered the first workshop on December 5, in Kampala during the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSESCA) annual meeting.

Dr. Romanzi’s presentation focused on how surgeons and the surgical workforce can include WASH advocacy in their routines and integrate it into their professional activities commensurate with their leadership roles.

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has also committed to hold a workshop in February during their annual meeting.

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

For more information about Global Water 2020, visit: https://globalwater2020.org/index.html
ETOO CONTINUING SUCCESS AND POTENTIAL EXPANSION

The Essential Training in Operatic Obstetrics (ETOO) Stakeholder meeting was held in Kampala, Uganda, October 11-12, 2019.

The meeting was organized to disseminate the finalized version of the curriculum and engage with stakeholders to create a pathway to sustainability and expansion. Discussion included questions related to sustainability and expansion after the grant ends in 2020.

Ministry of Health officials have committed to embedding the ETOO curriculum into the Ugandan National Intern Manual. The Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (AOGU) and the Ministry of Health also committed to partnering to fundraise to expand the program.

The revised curriculum is evidence-based, and up-to-date scientific information from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics; the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology; the Global Library of Women’s Medicine; CASE Network; and ACOG.

There are 17 lectures, 13 hands-on simulations, pre- and post-tests and e-modules in development. A team training component will be added to the agenda for a training at Makerere University in Q1 of 2020. AOGU will continue to house and implement the ETOO program through our tripartite memorandum of understanding with the implementing universities.

ETOO can be conducted as a pre-service training, in-service, and as a refresher course. It is recognized that operative obstetrics is complex and evolving, so refresher training and observation is important to a long-term program and to the promotion of safe surgery.

The expansion plan includes Regional Health Center 4 trainings. The goal is to target 214 facilities for training or re-training, and would include at least two people per facility. To meet this goal, it will be helpful to leverage upcoming ECSACOG training sites as well.

Also in October, ACOG Fellow Dr. Dipak Delvadia and Junior Fellow Dr. Shawn-Mattson facilitated training in Makerere University. Attending the training were 31 intern doctors who registered and completed the course.

Dr. Delvadia traveled to Mbarara University to lend his expertise in operative obstetric training after the stakeholders meeting. Many of the programming efforts were streamlined like certificates, monitoring and evaluation and assessments.

PAS MANUAL, EN ESPANOL

The second edition of the Professional Association Strengthening (PAS) Manual is now available in English and Spanish. The project was completed as part 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).

CAFA AND LATAM EXAM RECORD BREAKING YEAR

More than 450 examinees from 11 countries took the CAFA exams in October 2019, an increase of 130 or an increase of 28%.

The CAFA exams are certification exams for final year residents and specialists, and the residency exams are held for the first, second, and third years residents, both were administered on October 12, 2019.

In Central America 365 exams were given in Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Of the 225 residency exams administered 28 passed. The certification exams were taken by 140 examinees and 11 passed.

Another 86 examinees from the expansion countries: Colombia; Ecuador; Dominican Republic; Peru; and Argentina, took the exam on October 12, 2019, and 19 passed.

CAFA conducted multiple accreditation visits in 2019 in Honduras and Nicaragua. Residency reviews are to evaluate programs for accreditation. A detailed evaluation form is completed by each Director of Program and a site visit carried out by CAFA members with the participation of ACOG to analyze and review residency programs. Only accredited programs are eligible to take the certification and residency exams.

A new e-Board was formed this year for CAFA, and two subject matter experts were hired for 2019. The board members are: Marcio Montoya, MD, FACOG (Nicaragua), President; Eduardo Baso, MD, FACOG (Panamá), Secretary; Edgar Herrarte, MD, FACOG (Guatemala), Treasurer. Lisa Flowers, MD, FACOG, will work as a subject matter expert for Examination, and Suzanne Burlone, MD, FACOG, will work as a subject matter expert for Accreditation.

ACOG WELL REPRESENTED AT THE PANEL ON NON-

The Wilson Center convened a panel, on November 5, to discuss the threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their effect on maternal health.

The panel presentation had representation from various organizations tackling NCDs. Dr. Ana Langer from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health served as moderator, and panelists included Charlotte Warren from the Population Council; Dr. Lisa Waddell from the March of Dimes; Dr. Wanda Nicholson, FACOG, from the University of North Carolina Center for Women’s Health Research; Terrie Livingston from Emd Serono; and Priya Kanayson from the NCD Alliance.

Dr. Nicholson commented on the growing concern of mortality rates in the U.S. Within the U.S. cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in pregnancy and postpartum, with 25% of maternal deaths due to CVD or cardiomyopathy. The growing rates of gestational and type 2 diabetes, and obesity in childbearing women also contribute to the CVD risk.

Dr. Nicholson outlined three solutions ACOG is advocating: The Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) program; AIM bundles that specifically address issues of CVD; and the ACOG and American Heart Association collaboration that is a call to action for pregnant and postpartum care.

Of the many contributing factors and results that the panel discussed, the concept of the fourth-trimester and postpartum follow-up was critical. Approximately one-third of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the postpartum period. It was agreed that a life course approach could also help.

The panel discussion was part of the Wilson Center’s Maternal Health Initiative CODE BLUE series.
OGWH PARTNERING WITH MSH IN MADAGASCAR

OGWH is heading into the second year of the MSH Health Impact on the USAID Madagascar Accessible Continuum of Care and Essential Services Sustained (ACCESS) program with an extensive training plan for clinical capacity building and AIM implementation.

ACOG’s role in the USAID Madagascar ACCESS program is to help build capacity in training of health professionals specifically in maternal care, safe surgery, and management of emergencies.

In November 2019, Scott Eder, MD, FACOG, FACS, went to Madagascar to deliver three 5-day trainings in Toliara and Antananarivo. The goal of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of ACCESS staff in the clinical capacity development and technical assistance needed to implement the training strategy.

ACOG’s role in this short-term technical assistance program was to train the trainers on the Alliance for Innovation for Maternal Health (AIM) bundles relating to post-partum hemorrhage and preeclampsia. Additionally, educational presentations on family planning including LARC and quality improvement were delivered. The programs were held in collaboration with representatives from the American Academy of Pediatrics (Dr. Carlos Ramos) and American College of Nurse Midwives (Rebecca Ullman, CNM) who presented on maternal-child health.

The 35 participants in Toliara and 80 participants in Antananarivo were from 13 regions at the regional and district levels. The trainees included health workers, nurses, midwives, physician generalists and two ob-gyns.

The materials were prepared in collaboration with Drs. Eder and Ramos, and Shawn Mattson, MD, FACOG, and written and delivered in French.

Year Two

The Year 2 Workplan activities include a scale-up of the AIM bundles for post-partum hemorrhage and hypertension, making AIM a centerpiece for the ACOG deliverables. Challenges include creating an optimal, scalable training that can be implemented into a culture of learning.

During the implementation phase, trainings and orientations will be conducted in parallel within the different districts depending on the availability in number and time of the trainers.

ACOG will be providing sessions on the following topics: Orientation to the Professional Association Strengthening Manual; How to set-up an AIM steering committee; Best practices for postpartum IUD insertion; Overcoming provider bias and adolescent family planning; Post-partum hemorrhage case conferencing; and Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia case conferencing.
HVO COLLABORATION EXPANDS IN 2019

Since 2016, ACOG has partnered with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) to address the challenges of improving women’s health care. HVO, a US-based nonprofit organization, has spent more than 31 years working with partners in resource-scarce countries to provide teaching, training and professional opportunity to health workers.

In early 2017, HVO began recruiting volunteers for projects in Kampala, Uganda; and Vietnam. By the next year opportunities for service were opened in Haiti; Cambodia; and Bhutan. This year, the program expanded to include Kambale, Uganda.

In 2018, 18 ACOG Fellows volunteered — five in Haiti, seven in Kampala, Uganda; and four in Vietnam. In 2019, 10 FACOGs volunteered in Vietnam, seven in Kampala, Uganda; seven in Kampot, Cambodia; and one each in Kambale, Uganda, and Haiti — for a total of 26 ACOG Fellows, an increase of 30% over 2018.

Each site is vetted, and the experiences are dependent on the needs of the site. Volunteers in Uganda serve a minimum of one week, giving lectures, providing surgical training, and mentoring local health workers while on-site. HVO volunteers working Cambodia provide formal lectures and informal continuing education in obstetrics and gynecology to staff, students, and residents.

WELCOME RETURNING GOAG MEMBERS

The OGWH is advised by the Global Operations Advisory Group (GOAG).

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www.acog.org/ogwh

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