GREETINGS

We are getting close to the end of the 2017, and we are making our program plans for 2018.

Since the last GOAG meeting, we have wrapped up our Zika project (page 4). We received a great deal of positive feedback about ACOG's role with the USAID ASSIST project.

The Structured Operative Obstetrics training in Uganda has been successful (page 5). We have proposed to conduct a stakeholder meeting and forum on surgical best practices in low-resource settings, and are hopeful that that funding will come through in October.

The ESOG-ACOG collaboration is fully-engaged with year 2 activities. The ESOG examination committee will travel to the U.S. to attend CREOG Editorial Exam Meeting, and there will be an ESOG-ACOG Joint Leadership meeting at the end of October in Ethiopia (page 3).

We have produced a case study based on our work in Zambia with Saving Mothers Giving Life (page 6), and are working on a case study on professional association strengthening and ACOG’s role in the Survive & Thrive Alliance (page 2).

As we approach 2018, we are working on GOAG member rotation and we look forward to seeing you at the GOAG meeting on December 12.

Warm regards,
Carla Eckhardt

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESOG-ACOG Joint Leadership Meeting
October 27-28, 2017, Addis Ababa

CAFA Annual Meeting
November 30—December 2, Panama

First Annual G4 Alliance Gala
December 4, 2018, Washington, D.C.

Global Operations Advisory Group (GOAG) Meeting
December 12, 2017, Washington, D.C.

Gynuity Health Projects PPH Forum
December 5-6, 2017, New York, NY

G4 Alliance Permanent Council Meeting
December 8-9, 2017, Mozambique

Universal Health Coverage Forum
December 12—15, 2017, Tokyo Japan

61st All India Congress of Ob-Gyns
January 17-21, 2018, Odisha, India

ECOG Annual Meeting
February 4-7, 2018, Addis Ababa

Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting
March 21—23, 2018, Albuquerque, NM
CENTRAL AMERICA

The Accreditation Committee of ACOG-FECASOG (CAFA) meeting was held August 11—13, in El Salvador. Carla Eckhardt and Ariana Rua attended the meeting.

CAFA successfully administered the annual residency review exam and the certification exam on October 14. Participant countries included Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. This is the 16th year the exam has been administered and over 500 exams were taken across the 6 countries.

In preparation for the in-service residency and certification exams, OGWH staff and CAFA have focused on strengthening the administration process. As a part of this process Scantron Corporation answer sheets were used to help with test validity, and a scanning process was implemented to calculate test results.

Latin America Technical Working Group

The Latin American Technical Working Group was created to assess needs and gaps of ACOG membership for those members and non-members in Latin America. A survey to understand awareness of ACOG and its membership benefits, as well as level of engagement by members and other related topics was distributed to all countries in CAFA.

The next CAFA meeting will take place November 30—December 2, in Panama, where results will be presented and discussed to find strategies that can address the above mentioned.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION STRENGTHENING, INDIA

Elizabeth O’Connell and Thomas Gellhaus, MD, went to Mumbai, India, in August, to meet with Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Societies of India (FOGSI). Following up on our previous work, in which a commitment to our association’s joint benefit has been made, the focus of the trip was to provide a resource mobilization workshop to the FOGSI leadership.

Ms. O’Connell and Dr. Gellhaus conducted a Resource Mobilization workshop incorporating information from the Survive & Thrive (S&T) Professional Association Strengthening Manual. A case study on professional association strengthening and ACOG’s role in the S&T Alliance will be finalized in November.

The trip also included a discussion on furthering engagement in the 100K Babies program, and a Grand Rounds at Wadia Maternity ward.

This program is funded through March 2018, and ACOG will explore opportunities for education exchanges. Additionally, Dr. Gellhaus was invited to give the keynote lecture at FOGSI’s 61st Annual Conference in January 2018.
ESOG-ACOG COLLABORATION

As the first year of implementation wraps up, we are looking forward to year two. We have had such great progress on our goals to support a strong professional society with our colleagues in Ethiopia. The plan for year 2 includes residency program training, launch of harmonized curriculum and program requirements, scientific writing and editorial management training, and attendance at the ESOG annual meeting in February.

In June, a Program Directors’ training was held for two days in Addis Ababa. The program was created based on the request of the Residency Program Committee of ESOG. The ACOG team included Dr. Rebecca McAlister, Dr. Peter Schwartz, Dr. Diana Curran, and Dr. Berhanu Taye.

In September, Dr. Berhanu Taye traveled to Ethiopia to meet with the different program committees of ESOG to review progress of the program. He also met with the Ministry of Health to request criteria for importing used ultrasounds, and followed up with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) country director on the progress of the deployment of senior faculty for residency programs in Ethiopia.

The ESOG examination committee will travel to the U.S. to attend CREOG Editorial Exam Meeting at ACOG on October 23-24.

There will also be an ESOG-ACOG Joint Leadership meeting October 27-28, in Addis Ababa. Following the Joint Leadership meeting, there will be a Scientific Writing and Editorial Management Training. The training will be held in Addis Ababa from October 30 to November 3, and will include consultants Dr. Grimes and Dr. Schultz, and ACOG Fellows Dr. Herbert Peterson and Dr. Nancy Chescheir, and Senior Managing Editor of the Green Journal, Rebecca Benner.

Planning is also taking place for the 2018 ESOG Annual Meeting to be held February 4-7, in Addis Ababa. ESOG has identified the topics they want for the Annual Meeting. We will be contacting ACOG Fellows to invite them to present educational sessions at the meeting and deliver CME lectures.

UNGA MEETING, NEW YORK CITY

ACOG co-hosted an event with AAP and ACNM, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson (J&J) on September 19th on team-based maternal and newborn health. Dr. Haywood Brown, Dr. Bert Peterson and Dr. Joseph Ngonzi, Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Makerere University in Uganda, spoke at the event. Dr. Ngonzi is working with ACOG on our Surgical Operative Obstetrics program in Uganda and he detailed the success of implementing surgical training into residency training there together with ACOG. The event was well attended and well received.

Carla Eckhardt and Elizabeth O’Connell attended seventeen meetings and other events during the United National General Assembly (UNGA) week in September in New York City to learn and present ACOG among our internationally focused colleagues.
OGWH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

American Indian/Alaska Native program

The focus of the AI/AN program during 2017 and 2018 is on the Great Plains (North and South Dakota) and Billings (Montana) Areas. The AI/AN Committee has performed site visits in the Great Plains and Billings areas that included four hospitals.

The AI/AN program held the Best Practices in Women’s Health education training in August. The Best Practices in Women’s Health: Focus on American Indian/Alaska Native Women’s Health was a 4-day conference held in Salt Lake City, UT. The program included a Buprenorphine waiver training, Behavioral Health Day, Women’s Health Update, and Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) certification. There were 60 attendees.

The AI/AN program is organizing the 5th International Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting on March 20-23, 2018, in Albuquerque, NM. The meeting will focus on traditional, holistic and evidence-based approached to care.

Health Volunteers Overseas

The first group of Health Volunteers Overseas OB-gyns will be heading to Uganda and Vietnam. Six volunteers are on the schedule for the projects — 3 for Uganda and 3 for Vietnam.

This is a good beginning since the launch of the program in at ACM in May of 2017. We will ask the volunteers for a few thoughts about their experiences and send those out to you. We hope their postings are successful and significant.

STRUCTURED OPERATIVE OBSTETRICS (SOO) PROGRAM

The work in Uganda with Mulago Hospital, Makerere University (MU) and Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) to implement SOO training has continued. In 2017, 125 providers (residents and interns) and 62 instructors have been trained.

With assistance from the teaching assistants, the monitoring and evaluation components have begun. The monitoring and evaluation should be completed by the end of the calendar year.

ACOG Fellows have provided supportive supervision of Master Trainers. Now, Uganda faculty from the two universities, with support from Ugandan training assistants, are running the courses independently.

We have submitted a funding proposal to Johnson & Johnson to conduct a Stakeholder Forum in Uganda. ACOG and Drexel would facilitate this forum, which will provide an additional opportunity to revise the surgical obstetrics curriculum with local experts, addressing specific needs and objectives of the universities and finalizing its integration into residency training. ACOG envisions replicating this model of local pre-service surgical training, using the new and improved training curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Instructors Trained</th>
<th>Providers Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mulago</td>
<td>November 17-19, 2015</td>
<td>16 Instructors</td>
<td>17 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbarara</td>
<td>February 6-9, 2017</td>
<td>12 Instructors</td>
<td>22 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbarara</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>10 Instructors</td>
<td>20 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerere</td>
<td>November 10-12, 2015</td>
<td>16 Instructors</td>
<td>20 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerere</td>
<td>February 27 - March 2</td>
<td>10 Instructors</td>
<td>21 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerere</td>
<td>April 25-28, 2017</td>
<td>10 Instructors</td>
<td>22 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerere</td>
<td>July 25 - 28, 2017</td>
<td>10 Instructors</td>
<td>20 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerere</td>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>10 Instructors</td>
<td>20 Providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94 Instructors</td>
<td>162 Providers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOO students at Makerere
ACOG-BAYLOR MALAWI

The ACOG pilot project in Malawi to implement the Alliance for Innovation in Maternal Health (AIM) safety bundles has just finished data analysis. The conclusions are that AIM Malawi impacted 19,000 births, increased the technical interventions and, therefore, reduced the number of hysterectomies. It also increased the culture of safety and confidence of the team, improving their quality of care.

AIM Malawi trained 395 participants in emergency leadership and communication skills and post-partum hemorrhage management. Nursing staff, midwives and clinical officers received training in the placement of uterine balloon catheters, non-pneumatic shock garments, B-Lynch sutures and other life saving measures. Hospital housekeepers, nurses’ aides, and ambulance drivers were sometimes incorporated into the emergency team simulations.

USAID ASSIST ZIKA PROJECT

The Zika-related activities, part of the USAID ASSIST project, successfully wrapped up on August 30, 2017.

ACOG’s role was to provide evidence-based interventions for the prevention and management of Zika infections in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Activities included a webinar; virtual training; participation at a scientific conference; and advising on country guidelines and technical materials.

Over 800 health care providers received rapid response training in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador through virtual tutoring by twenty-five clinical experts and Fellows from ACOG.

The virtual trainings were held from January through July, 2017. El Salvador held the first trainings in January and February where 161 health care providers completed the course. In Guatemala, 124 health care providers completed the course in May and June; 243 providers completed the course in the Dominican Republic in June and July. Finally, in Honduras there were 177 health care providers registered to take the course.

The virtual training modules were provided by the University Research Company, LLC (URC). The training consisted of 6 modules: the origin of the virus and the epidemiological profile; diagnosis of the virus and case studies; counseling on family planning in the context of Zika; prenatal care; fetal congenital syndrome; and psycho-emotional support.

Each country received course material tailored to their respective countries to better explain Zika prevention and management to health care providers participating in the course.

A webinar was held in February. Diana Ramos, MD, FACOG, presented on the use of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). Over 200 health care providers, worldwide, attended the webinar.

In March, Katherine Y. Bianco, MD, FACOG, attended the annual scientific conference in El Salvador — Asociacion de Ginecologia y Obstetrica de El Salvador (ASOGOES). Dr. Bianco made presentations on the challenge of Zika to reproductive health, and on Zika and the obstetric ultrasonography.

Zika-related ACOG publications were provided to all four countries in order to offer additional resources.

We were proud to be a part of this project. While this portion has ended, URC has advised us that should there be more clinical or technical consulting required, they would not hesitate to ask us to participate. That is a testament to the excellent program management headed up by Ariana Rua and the OGWH team.
**SAVING MOTHERS GIVING LIFE, UBT TRAINING ZAMBIA**

The Office of Global Women’s Health has been working in 16 districts in Zambia to integrate Uterine Balloon Tamponade (UBT) in their training curriculum as part of Saving Mothers Giving Life (SMGL) program. OGWH shared program accomplishments and other highlights during an informational session held on October 5, 2017. The session highlighted our work with local partners to nationally scale up the UBT intervention.

Key accomplishments of the UBT project include successful integration into the Zambian Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) curriculum, and training 618 nurses, midwives, and medical doctors in UBT, which is a life-saving, easy-to-use, and effective option for managing severe Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH) and preventing maternal mortality.

Presentations were made by Dr. Herbert Peterson, Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Research Evidence for Sexual and Reproductive Health at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill; Dr. Dipak Delvadia, Assistant Professor, Drexel University College of Medicine; Andrea Momoh, program administrator at the Office of Global Women’s Health; and Dr. Masuka Musumali, United States Agency for International Development, Zambia.

Dr. Peterson underscored the tremendous role advocacy has played in this intervention’s success. Dr. Delvadia explained the UBT intervention and its impact. Ms. Momoh shared information on the program implementation and the qualitative evaluation, and Dr. Musumali discussed the bigger picture and sustainability of the program.

Earlier this year, we went to Zambia to conduct qualitative interviews with the teams trained in UBT. The interviews contributed to the UBT case study that was completed in September 2017.

The case study focused on the strategic engagement and advocacy efforts that led to the UBT scale-up in Zambia. The case study report was shared with attendees, and represents the final report of our activities with SMGL. We were pleased with the opportunity to be a part of this historic public-private partnership since 2013 and look forward to contributing to their similar alliances in the future.