First EBCOG Annual Report

2014
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1. Foreword

Welcome to EBCOG’s First Annual report! In it, I hope to provide you with an overview of EBCOG’s membership, activities and work plans and an update of all the work being undertaken by our Standing Committees and Working Parties.

I took up the position of President of EBCOG in November 2014, at the end of my term of Office as President-Elect. I am delighted to assume this role and I am looking forward to the many exciting developments and challenges which I know I will face during my period in Office.

EBCOG has a long history, beginning in 1996 as a fusion of the European Board of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (EBGO) and the European College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECOG). We are the Board of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) and our aim is to improve the health of women and unborn and newborn babies by promoting the highest possible standards of care via our core activities of education and training.

I am honoured to become the Seventh President of EBCOG and I really look forward to collaborating with my EBCOG friends and colleagues, ENTOG and our subspecialist sisters EAPM, ESHRE, ESGO and EUGA and special interest societies such as EFC, ESC, ESGE, EURAPAG, ESSM and ISPOG and many others to work for the benefit and well being of women and their babies, in Europe and beyond.

I hope this Report will both interest and inform you. More detailed information about all of the activities covered in it is available on our web site: www.ebcog.eu as are the President’s Newsletters.

Best wishes,

Dr Tahir Mahmood CBE
MD, FRCP, MBA, FACOG, FRCP, FRCOG
President, European Board & College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (EBCOG)
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist,
Clinical Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Universities of Edinburgh, St. Andrews and Dundee, Scotland.
Past Vice President Standards (2007-2010) Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG)
2. WHO IS WHO IN EBCOG?

Council is the decision-making body of EBCOG and is made up of two national delegates from each of our 36 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.

Moreover, 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 has been a rapid expansion in EBCOG's membership since we were founded in 1996. Of particular importance has been the involvement of the countries of Europe which are new members of the European Union.

There are now 36 countries represented on our Council:

Albania (Observer member), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYROM, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo (Observer Member), Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom

EBCOG Officers: November 30th 2014 - November 2017

- President: Dr Tahir Mahmood (UK)
- President-Elect: Prof Jacky Nizard (France)
- Secretary-General: Dr Rolf Kirschner (Norway)
- Treasurer: Prof Peter Hornnes (Denmark)

EBCOG Executive as at 1st December, 2014

EBCOG has five elected Executive members:

- Dr Rudi Campo (Belgium)
- Dr Angelique Goverde (Netherlands)
- Prof Johannes Bitzer (Switzerland)
- Prof Vlad Tica (Romania)
• An election will take place in June 2015 to fill the position left vacant when Prof Nizard was elected President-Elect.

Representatives of the four subspecialist societies also sit on the Executive as do the Chairs of our Standing Committees and Working Parties, the Webmaster and the President of ENTOG:

**Chair Standing Committee on Training and Assessment**
Prof Klaus Vetter (Germany)

**Chair Standing Committee on Training Recognition**
Prof Jurij Wladimiroff (UK)

**Coordinator for Position Papers**
Prof Allan Templeton (UK)

**Chair of the Working Group on Training the Trainers**
Prof Ziva Novak Antolic (Slovenia)

**EU Funding Lead**
Prof André Van Assche (Belgium)

**EU Liaison Officer**
Dr Johan Van Wiemeersch (Belgium)

**European Urogynaecology Association (EUGA)**
Prof Linda Cardozo (UK)

**European Association of Perinatal Medicine (EAPM)**
Prof Gerard H. A. Visser (Netherlands)

**European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)**
Prof Rainer Kimmig (Germany)

**European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)**
Prof Roy Farquharson (UK)

**President of the Istanbul Scientific Committee**
Dr Rudi Campo (Belgium)

**Local President of Istanbul Congress**
Prof. Dr. Ali Baloğlu (Turkey)

**Webmaster**
Dr Nuno Martins (Portugal)

**European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ENTOG)**
Dr Maud Van de Venne (UK)
EBCOG COUNCIL Members as at 1st December, 2014:

**Albania**
Dr Rubena Moisiu

**Austria**
Prof Wolfgang Umek
Prof Walter Neunteufel

**Belgium**
Dr. Willem Ombelet
Prof Sophie Alexander

**Bulgaria**
Prof Milko Sirakov
Prof Blagovest Pehlivanov

**Croatia**
Prof. Ivan Kuvacic

**Cyprus**
Dr. Marios Liassides
Dr. Patroklos A Patroclou

**Czech Republic**
Prof. Jaroslav Feyereisl
Prof. Vladimir Dvorak

**Denmark**
Prof Charlotte Hasselholt Søgaard
Dr Alexander Laschke

**Estonia**
Prof. Helle Karro

**Finland**
Prof Seija Grenman
Prof. Juha Räsänen

**France**
Prof Bernard Hédon

**FYROM**
Dr Slavejko Sapunov

**Germany**
Dr Klaus König
Prof Frank Louwen

**Greece**
Dr Nicolas Linardos
Professor Basil Tarlatzis

**Hungary**
Professor József Bódis

**Iceland**
Prof Ragnheidur I. Bjarnadottir

**Ireland**
Dr Michael Robson

**Italy**
Prof Domenico Arduini
Prof Yoram Jacob Meir

**Kosovo**
Dr Albert Lila
Prof Shefqet Lulaj

**Latvia**
Prof. Dace Rezeberga

**Lithuania**
Prof Ruta Nadisauskiene
Prof Daiva Vaitkiene

**Malta**
Prof Mark Brincat
Mr Mark Formosa

**The Netherlands**
Prof Fedde Scheele

**Norway**
Prof Knut Hordnes
Prof Martin Andresen

**Poland**
Prof Piotr Sieroszewski
Prof Przemyslaw Oszukowski

**Portugal**
Prof. Diogo Ayres-de-Campos
Dr Maria Fernanda Áquas
3. STANDING COMMITTEE AND WORKING PARTY REPORTS

3.1 Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)

The main interest of the SCTA is the refurbishment of the Logbook as a basis for education in obstetrics and gynaecology. It was planned to revise the basic Logbook before those of the subspecialties, taking into account future aspects of learning and teaching like adult learning, e-learning, simulator-assisted skills teaching etc. under personal guidance by responsible trainers and/or mentors.

The SCTA aims to ensure that the revised curriculum and Logbook reflect competence based assessment instead of numbers. Here are the key points for the new log book:

- Integrating communicative competence
- Reduce/skip numbers given for operative procedures & deliveries and instead focus on competencies.
- Mandatory simulator training before operations on patients
- Tutoring self-directed learning
- Integrating patient safety aspects
- Integrating quality management
- Respecting societal differences, dynamics, and changes
The SCTA agreed to use the professional BOEG project of the Dutch group as a blueprint for a new basic Logbook. A stepwise Delphi process took place in September 2014 and the following decisions were made:

Decision 1: The concept of Core competencies shall be the kernel of future work for the Basic Curriculum – the Core of the pan-European Passport.

Decision 2: The minimum training time for the core competencies should be 3 years.

Decision 3: Total duration for specialist training will be five years and that will allow for more time to be spent in a more specialised area regarded as elective training.

A short life working group under the joint chairmanship of Dr Angelique Goverde and Prof Fedde Scheele will also define and develop tools for the continuing assessment of progress of trainees during 2015. This work is very important and forms the basis of many future developments within our framework of quality assurance of post-graduate training in Europe.

3.2 Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)

EBCOG’s Visiting and Accreditation Programme began in 1997, and so far over 200 units have been visited. The objectives of visiting are to improve, assure and assess the quality of specialist training in teaching hospitals throughout Europe. EBCOG has achieved these objectives by promoting training centre recognition visits on a voluntary basis.

During 2014, 15 training units were (re)visited and (re)accredited for their basic ob/gyn training programme. The SCTR also continued its efforts to create more awareness of quality assessment of ob/gyn training across the EU. As in 2013, a more focused approach to Hospital Visiting was adopted by the SCTR through forging joint ventures between EBCOG and national bodies responsible for training of medical specialists in EU countries like Germany, Italy and Belgium.

Following excellent preparatory work by our Past-President, Professor Chiara Benedetto (Italy), SCTR and “the Osservatorio Nazionale” responsible for quality control of medical specialist training in Italy we were able to conduct a total of six hospital visits in Italy. All six university training units received full accreditation for four years.

Similarly, excellent progress has been made in Belgium after a meeting with the Supreme Council of Medical Specialists and General Practitioners (Hoge Raad van Geneesheren-specialisten en Huisartsen) in Belgium on 22nd January, 2014 and so far 15 visits have been carried out resulting in 14 accredited training units in Flemish Belgium and one in the Wallonia. With nine more visits planned for 2015, EBCOG would reach its objective of having all university and community hospital training units in Belgium Flanders accredited by the end of 2015. The EBCOG Council member for Belgium Wallonia will activate hospital visiting there.
EBCOG Hospital Visiting has also progressed well in Central Europe, notably in the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, ably supported by Prof Jaroslav Feyereisl, an SCTR member from the Czech Republic. As it is unlikely that these countries will be able to introduce their own national Auditing and Accreditation Authority in the foreseeable future, EBCOG is encouraging a greater involvement of colleagues in the region to take part in the hospital visiting process within their own countries.

Our priority is to promote the introduction of visiting at national level in countries where such systems do not already exist. Therefore we were delighted when, following the successful visit of Dr Tahir Mahmood, Prof Jacky Nizard and the Chair of the SCTR to Lodz in October 2014, the SCTR has now been invited by the Polish Society to visit three large units, in Warsaw, Krakow and Lodz in autumn 2015.

Thirty hospital visits have taken place in Germany over the last 15 years and EBCOG is continuing to support the introduction of a more solid platform for Hospital Visiting in Germany. The President and the Chair of SCTR will contact the new officers group of the DGGG to propose a more focused approach for hospital visiting on a regional basis.

EBCOG had also planned to conduct a number of hospital visits in Ukraine in 2014 but regrettably, these visits had to be cancelled due to political unrest. EBCOG will continue to fully support its Ukrainian colleagues.

Following a successful visit by Dr Tahir Mahmood to Bulgaria, further interest was shown there in the EBCOG Hospital Visiting Programme and a visit took place to the Dr Shterev Hospital, Sophia in June, 2013. We hope that this will lead to more visits in Bulgaria. Requests for visits have been received for visits during 2015 from Austria, Spain and Lithuania in addition to the ongoing work in Belgium and Italy and elsewhere. We hope that the request from Lithuania will lead to more requests from the remaining Baltic States.

The EBCOG Hospital Visiting Programme cannot be successful without a proper website. The EBCOG webmaster, Dr Nuno Martins (Portugal) has done a marvellous job and has produced an up-to-date overview of all basic and subspecialty EBCOG accredited training units in countries without a national Auditing & Accreditation (A & A) Authority. Countries with their own national A & A Authority will be invited in 2015, to provide the names of their accredited training units. This will give a complete insight into quality assessment of basic and subspecialty ob/gyn training programmes across the member countries.

**Training the Visitor (TTV) courses for basic ob/gyn training programmes**

As EBCOG is expanding its Hospital Visiting activities across the EU, there is an increasing need for experienced Hospital Visitors. A Training the Visitors course (TTV) took place in Brussels on 27th November 2014. Eighteen delegates from eight EU countries participated in the course and all delegates received a Certificate of Attendance. They will now be invited to take part in future hospital visits. Discussions have started on developing criteria for an
EBCOG accredited Hospital Visitor status. We are planning to hold our next TTV in autumn 2015 to increase our capacity.

**Quality assessment of subspecialist ob/gyn training programmes**

EBCOG’s focus on the quality assessment of training is not limited to basic ob/gyn training programmes. The EBCOG Representatives of the four European Scientific Societies, ESGO (Prof Rainer Kimmig), ESHRE (Prof Roy Farquharson), EUGA (Prof Linda Cardozo) and EAPM (Prof Gerard Visser) have contributed extensively to Hospital Visiting in their subspecialties. ESHRE and EBCOG ran a successful joint Training the Visitors course with 16 delegates in Brussels, on 13th February, 2014. EBCOG Representatives of all four subspecialties attended several SCTR meetings in 2014. In total 12 subspecialty Hospital Visits were conducted in 2014, mostly in a joint Subspecialty/EBCOG setting. ESGO: 5 visits; ESHRE: 2 visits; and EUGA: 5 visits.

During 2015, newer and creative ways will be explored with four subspecialist societies for increasing joint accreditation of subspecialist units, especially in the feto-maternal subspecialty.

**Network of Accredited Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE)**

Based on EBCOG’s experience in Hospital Visiting, the Chair of the SCTR represented EBCOG at the founding meeting of the Network of Accredited Clinical Skills Centres in Europe (NASCE) on 4th April, 2014.

**3.3 Examination Working Party (Now replaced by the Examination Standing Committee)**

The Working Party was set up under the Chair of Dr Rolf Kirschner, in order to examine the possibilities of arranging an “EBCOG Examination”. The Working Party had met three times by the end of 2014.

The following recommendations were presented to Council:

- The assessment should have a UEMS mark of excellence/mark of distinction;
- The contents of the examination should reflect EBCOG’s Post-Graduate Curriculum.
- The examination should, in the beginning, be held in Brussels each year; later possibly at different sites.
- The examinations will be conducted in English (but could become multilingual in the future);
- The subspecialist and scientific societies will also be involved in question setting.
The examination will have two parts: an assessment of knowledge and an assessment of skills. It was agreed there should be two annual knowledge based assessments (KBAs) and a single OSCE examination each year.

Knowledge Based Assessment (KBA)

On the back of the results of the first meeting, as well as information gained in between the meetings, it was agreed that the KBA should be based on the following and the marks should be divided as follows:

- 60% MCQs: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
- 20% EMQs: Extended matching questions (EMQs)
- 20% SBAs: Single Best Answer (SBA)

Assessment of Skills by Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Once candidates have passed the KBA part, they may progress to the OSCE examination.

- The OSCE examination will initially be held once a year.
- EBCOG will develop a preparatory course after consultations with CESMA and other UEMS Boards and Sections.

In November 2014, Council approved setting up a “Standing Examination Committee” to take this project forward. The membership will initially be:

- Chair (The Secretary-General);
- A KBA Lead;
- An OSCE Lead;
- An examination Coordinator - Director of Examinations;
- An Examination Revision Course Lead;
- Administrative support.

- An independent Appeals Committee

- Five parallel work streams have been put into place in 2015:
  - For website development to cater for candidates’ requirements;
  - For defining supporting materials (curriculum update, reading material, developing frequently asked questions etc);
  - For pre-exam preparatory courses;
  - For KBA and OSCE development;
  - For addressing issues around the running of the examinations.

- A pilot preparatory course should be delivered in autumn 2015.
Successful candidates will become European Fellows of Ob/Gyn *EFOG-EBCOG*.

**Examination for European Fellow in O&G, *EFOG-EBCOG***

We are planning to hold the first examination (KBA component) during the 24th EBCOG European Congress in Istanbul on 19th-21st May 2016.

Work has already started by setting up sub-committees dealing with KBA and OSCEs, using the website to provide support for candidates and beginning the organisation of a pre-examination course in the autumn of 2015.

**3.4 Working Party on Training the Trainers (TTT)**

EBCOG runs multi-disciplinary Training the Trainers (TTT) courses. These are two-day courses provided by EBCOG to give trainers (specialists) tools for better and more efficient training of trainees (doctors in training). The goal of training is to train and educate trainees to become specialists who will take full responsibility for their work and ensure that patients receive the best care possible.

UEMS CME accreditation can be requested for such courses. They are EBCOG accredited and participants receive a Certificate of Attendance. At the end of the course, participants have learnt how and when to use efficient tools for better and more efficient training of trainees. To date, the team has conducted 28 TTT events, 8 of which have taken place in 2014 in Bulgaria, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia. An EBCOG TTT course was also organised for midwives in Brezice, Slovenia. The TTTs involve a maximum of 12 participants and each course is immediately followed by individual evaluations.

The Working Party on TTT has now recommended that EBCOG accreditation visit reports should recommend that the centre should organise a TTT course before it can be fully accredited. It has also been agreed that all departments wishing to be re-accredited should be asked to organise a TTT course if they have not done so far. This approach will help to streamline quality of training uniformly across all countries.

Work will continue, under the Chairmanship of Prof Novak Antolic during 2015, to develop a formal strategy on how to deliver more TTT courses on a hospital and/or country basis request into place.

**3.5 Working Party on E-Learning (now dissolved)**

**Activities 2012 - 2014**

During the work of the third committee period, technical support became available from MAF Servizi in Torino, Italy, to start using interactive telecommunication for interactive E-learning and to make the platform ready for the EBCOG exam.

Of the 41 plenary lectures delivered at the EBCOG Congress 2014, 39 were recorded and made available for the use of EBCOG members. These are now available on the EBCOG E-
Learning section of the website. During the first month in October 2014 there were 400 visitors.

3.6 CME/CPD Working Party
This short life working party met on 3 occasions and produced a policy document which was adopted by the EBCOG Council in 2013.

EBCOG recommends that every specialist, as well as every employer, be committed to systematic CME as per the documents of UEMS. Under this arrangement, the specialist should plan, conduct and document a CPD/CME programme and the employer is responsible for this being economically and practically feasible, including providing paid leave and covering reasonable costs. We believe that this reciprocal obligation must be part of national employment agreements and tariffs so that organised CME/CPD becomes an individual as well as an organisational obligation.

Professionals (specialists not employed in hospitals) must enter the system on an individual basis and should be monitored in the same system. The registration systems should thus be able to continuously monitor the individual specialist’s accumulation of CME/CPD-points and aggregate these at the departmental level.

When the requirements are met, merits should be given to the specialist and the department. Failure to meet the required demands will imply consequences both for the department and for the specialist. Similarly, professionals should fulfil CME/CPD-programmes or could risk consequences e.g. patient- fees and other refunds.

3.7 Standards of Care
3.7.1 Working Party and the Standards Launch at the European Parliament

EBCOG has been working very hard to develop two sets of European Standards of Care; one for Obstetrics and the other for Gynaecology. These Standards were produced by the Standards Working Party chaired by myself. These standards define a roadmap of quality service underpinned by clinical governance, safety and patient experience. Each standard is set on the best available evidence and supported by a set of quality outcome indicators to benchmark services. The standards address the necessary requirements for training and support for doctors and other healthcare professionals as well. We are confident that these standards of care will be adopted by the Ministries of Health of the different European countries and also be used by healthcare professionals to deliver the best possible health care. This is the only way to fulfil our goal of providing equitable and safe services with the best possible outcomes for women anywhere in Europe and indeed beyond.
On 12th November, 2014, with the support of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Italian Minister of Health, The Hon. Beatrice Lorenzin, EBCOG’s landmark documents, the “Standards of Care for Women’s Health in Europe” were launched at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The Standards are comprised of two sets of documents: one for Obstetric and Neonatal Services and one for Gynaecology Services. Both are freely accessible to download from our website (www.ebcog.eu)

I urge all health care providers to use these documents for the provision of high quality services underpinned by clinical governance but also for the training and support of future generations of doctors and healthcare professionals.

During 2015, we will engage with the office of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety of EU to explore opportunities for greater visibilities of our documents and also to explore how EBCOG can make contributions to the EU Commissioner’s agenda. We will also run a publicity campaign within the European Parliament and its allied institutions to define a future agenda to improve the quality of care in Europe.

We will also engage with our national society members and MEPs for wider publicity and networking.

We are already in the process of producing French and Russian versions of both sets of standards.

3.7.2 Position Statements
Coordinator: Prof Allan Templeton
To date four position papers have been produced and are available on the EBCOG web site: www.ebcog.eu on:

- Single Embryo Transfer
- Obesity in Women
- The Public Health Importance of Antenatal Care.
- Alcohol in Pregnancy

During 2015, we will launch the following position statements:
• Travelling while Pregnant
• Improving Access to Fertility Control
• Vaccination in Pregnancy

These are really important documents which all European specialists in ob/gyn should be aware of. It has been agreed that we have a target of 10 documents, producing 2-3 Position Statements every year. They are intended to be used as authoritative statements on issues of public health in Europe and we hope that each national delegate on EBCOG’s Council will use them in their respective countries.

3.7.3 Safety in Minimal Access Surgery

During 2014, EBCOG’s Simulation Consortium Working Party worked on various initiatives including Safety in Minimal Access Surgery. This Working Party produced a Statement confirming that EBCOG supports simulation based training as long as it is scientifically validated, economically affordable and broadly applicable.

As a professional organisation, we strongly recommend that each hospital should provide dry lab facilities, to train and test clinical skills on a simulator. Simulation based training appears to be one of the most promising strategies to improve perinatal outcomes across the world. Obstetric simulation has reached different levels of educational maturity. Evidence is provided that dry lab training prior to undertaking procedures on patients in operating rooms reduces patient’s morbidity and mortality in all endoscopic surgical disciplines.

EBCOG joined forces with five other leading professional organisations in gynaecology: the European Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (ESGE), the European Academy of Gynaecological Surgery (EAGS), ENTOG, ACOG and the American Association of Gynaecological Laparoscopy (AAGL), in launching a global recommendation regarding endoscopic surgical training and quality assurance.

It is a major breakthrough in the discipline of gynaecological endoscopic training to align the leading societies in training and education across Europe and the US on this important matter.

3.8 Engagement with Other Organisations
3.8.1 European Union

During 2015, we will engage with the cabinet of Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety on the implementation of Standards of Care. We had our engagement meeting in February 2015 which has helped us to understand his
agenda over the next five years. We are very supportive of the European Commission’s strategy to develop European Reference Networks for the rare clinical conditions within our speciality.

3.8.2 Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS)
EBCOG works very closely with UEMS and is the Board of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of UEMS. The Officers of EBCOG are the Officers of the UEMS Section and we are represented on various UEMS Multi-Disciplinary Joint Committees such as those for Sexual Medicine and Breast Care. We assess applications to UEMS for CME accreditation in our specialty and are also represented on the Network of Accredited Clinical Skills Centres in Europe.

We will continue to work closely with UEMS to formally arrange for a named UEMS representative to the EBCOG Council meetings to develop a mutual agenda. This relationship is important for our future agenda of promoting our work around safety and quality of health care and the development of a unified CME platform in Europe.

3.8.3 American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (ACOG)
EBCOG and ACOG have a good relationship and in 2014 EBCOG was involved in assisting ACOG with its Well Woman Task Force. This newly created task force aims for a policy impact in the USA; its underlying goal is very similar to EBCOG’s initiative of standardising women’s health care (including maternity safety) throughout Europe. EBCOG’s Council was happy to support the recommendations made in the document. In 2015 we will be working closely with ACOG to finalise a draft Opinion Paper on Toxic Chemicals. This paper will be presented at the FIGO Executive meeting and we are very supportive of this initiative.

3.8.4 UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) in Glasgow
EBCOG is developing closer links with the UNFPA and the start of this was the UNFPA Session at the European Congress in Glasgow in 2014. This session was Chaired by myself and Dr Tamar Khomasuridze, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme Advisor at UNFPA EECA Regional Office in Istanbul and focused on Women’s Health Issues particularly Women’s SRH in Europe and Central Asia (EECA). This was an excellent and very well attended session. I am very grateful to Dr Mourad Seif for setting up this initiative with the UNFPA.

During 2015, we will engage with UNFPA-EECA to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to assist the UNFPA with both capacity building and knowledge sharing via our standards of care, both of which clearly feature sexual and reproductive health. I feel that together we can make great progress in supporting sexual and reproductive health and preventing maternal
mortality. We will initiate a “young scientist award” funded by the UNFPA at the Istanbul Congress.

3.8.5 FIGO
EBCOG is one of the regional representatives on the Executive Committee of FIGO. We regularly report our activities at the meetings of the Executive. EBCOG is fully supportive of FIGO’s Initiative on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Global screening strategy and was represented at the working party by me and Prof Andre Van Assche. EBCOG will hold a session at the FIGO World Congress in Vancouver in 2015.

3.8.6 WHO
We will visit the new United Nations City in Copenhagen and will engage with the WHO office in Copenhagen to explore the possibility of joint work and of promoting Standards of Care for Europe We will respond to WHO consultations.

3.8.7 ENTOG (European Network of Trainees in Ob/Gyn)
EBCOG and ENTOG collaborate closely and EBCOG supports ENTOG's work and development. After all, the future of our specialty lies in ENTOG’s hands.

ENTOG currently has 30 member countries. It is represented on every EBCOG Standing Committee and Working Party and an ENTOG representative is always a member of the Visiting Team for specialist visits.

ENTOG organises an annual Trainees’ Meeting and Exchange Programme. Being a congress year, the 2014 Meeting and Exchange took place in Glasgow and turned out a great academic and social success. The next ENTOG annual exchange programme and meeting will take place in Utrecht in June 2015, and EBCOG will come to Utrecht for the Council meeting to join ENTOG.

Two EBCOG/ENTOG Trainee Fellowships were awarded in 2014 and, in 2015, we will continue with this tradition and award three trainee fellowships, each of €3000, to spend a three-month period in a training centre recognised by EBCOG.

4. The 23rd European Congress of Ob/Gyn Glasgow 2014
Our 23rd European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology took place in May 2014 and was a great success both scientifically and socially, attracting a total of 1,145 participants from 62 countries. We were delighted to see that despite the economic challenges, a total of 135 exhibitors took part.
The final session of the Congress focused on the theme of "How can we maximise patient safety and minimise litigation in O&G?" where Presidents of EBCOG, International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO), the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) and the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ACOG) contributed. This was another well attended and thought provoking session and it was an excellent opportunity to get a truly global perspective. This session is available on the EBCOG web site.

5. The 24th European Congress of Ob/Gyn, Istanbul 2016
The 24th EBCOG European Congress of Ob/Gyn will take place in Istanbul on 19th-21st May next year. We are very much looking forward to this event, and are in the middle of finalising the scientific programme. As usual we will have a top quality programme delivered by world class speakers and experts. We will be running our Master Classes and Hands-on Training courses which are always hugely popular features of the EBCOG Congresses, in addition to the state of the art lectures and courses. The first ever EBCOG Examination will also take place during the Congress.

6. EBCOG Internal Re-structuring
We have agreed to re-structure EBCOG into four Boards to make the whole organisation more streamlined. All of the current Standing Committees and Working Parties will be absorbed into one of four Boards, each of which will be led by an Officer:

- Education and Training Board: Professor Jacky Nizard
- Standards of Care and Communications Board: Dr Tahir Mahmood
- Finance and Congress Board: Professor Peter Hornnes
- Post Graduate Assessment and Certification Board: Dr Rolf Kirschner

We have also decided to institute regular Officers' meetings to move on with our planning and put plans into practice more quickly.

7. EBCOG Website
Our Webmaster Dr Nuno Martins is doing a sterling job. Our Standards of Care, Position Papers, Training Programmes and Log Books and course information is all readily accessible there. A complete list of accredited departments is provided there to act as an incentive for departments which have not so far been accredited to apply, and for those whose accreditation has expired to re-apply. Our Minutes and meeting documents are also archived there. Our E-Learning platform hosts most of the lectures from our Glasgow Congress in 2014 and are available free to watch, along with the audio visual materials presented by each speaker. You can see all this, and our list of members at: www.ebcog.eu
8. **Membership of Standing Committees and Working Parties**

**Standing Committee on Training and Assessment (SCTA)**  
Chair: Prof Klaus Vetter  
**Members:** Prof André Van Assche, Dr Angelique Goverde, Dr Roy Farquharson, Prof Diethelm Wallwiener, Prof Fedde Scheele, Prof Gerard H. A. Visser, Prof Jacky Nizard, Prof Jan Hořejší, Mr Joe Jordan, Prof Johannes Bitzer, Prof Juha Mäkinen, Prof Linda Cardozo, Dr Maud Van de Venne, Prof Rainer Kimmig, Dr Rudi Campo, Dr Tahir Mahmood, Prof Tamás Csermely, Prof Ziva Novak Antolic, Prof Pekka Nieminen.

**Standing Committee on Training Recognition (SCTR)**  
Chair: Prof Juriy Wladimiroff  
**Members:** Dr Anna Aabakke, Prof Jaroslav Feyereisl, Prof Pantaleo Greco, Dr Rolf Kirschner, Dr Tahir Mahmood, Prof Juha Mäkinen, Dr Nuno Martins, Prof Ioannis Messinis.

**Examination Working Party (now dissolved and replaced by the Examination Standing Committee)**  
Chair: Dr Rolf Kirschner  
**Members:** Prof Chiara Benedetto, Dr Tahir Mahmood, Prof Peter Hornnes, Prof Johannes Bitzer, Dr Mourad W Seif, Prof Klaus Vetter, Dr Maud Van de Venne, Dr Rudi Campo, Dr. Karen Rose.

**Working Party on Standards of Care**  
Chair: Dr Tahir Mahmood  
**Obstetrics and Neonatal care**  
Prof Peter Hornnes, Prof Chiara Benedetto, Professor Pantaleo Greco, Professor Vlad Tica, Dr Rolf Kirschner, Charlotte Mercer

**Gynaecology**  
Chair: Dr Tahir Mahmood  
Prof Chiara Benedetto, Dr Rolf Kirschner, Prof Peter Hornnes, Prof Johannes Bitzer, Dr Rudi Campo, Prof Linda Cardozo, Prof Tamas Csermely, Dr Roy Farquharson, Dr Simon Leeson, Dr Mourad W. Seif, Prof René Verheijen, Prof Gerard Visser, Dr Paul Wood, Charlotte Mercer

**Working Party on Training the Trainers (TTT)**  
Chair: Prof Ziva Novak Antolic  
**Members:** Dr Tahir Mahmood, Dr Angelique Goverde, Dr Nuno Martins, Prof Jacky Nizard, Dr Karen Rose, Dr Fedde Scheele
Working Party on E-Learning (now dissolved)
Chair: Prof Juha Mäkinen
Members: Prof Luc De Baene, Prof Chiara Benedetto, Prof Jacky Nizard, Dr Maud van de Venne, Prof Fedde Scheele.

9. Glossary of Acronyms
List of Acronyms in alphabetical order

• ACOG – American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
• CME – Continuing Medical Education
• CPD – Continuing Professional Development
• DME – Domus Medica Europea
• DPGS – Diabetic Pregnancy Study Group
• EAGS – European Academy of Gynaecological Surgery
• EAPM – European Association of Perinatal Medicine
• EFC – European Federation for Colposcopy
• ENTOG – European Network of Trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
• ESC – European Society of Contraception
• ESGE – European Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy
• ESGO – European Society of Gynaecological Oncology
• ESSM – European Society of Sexual Medicine
• ESHRE – European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology
• EUGA – European Urogynaecology Association
• EURAPAG – European Association of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology
• FIGO – International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics
• HOTs – Hands on Training Courses
• KBA – Knowledge Based Assessment
• ISPOG – International Society of Psychosomatics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
• MEPs – Members of the European Parliament
• MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
• OSCE – Objective Structured Clinical Examinations
• RCOG – Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
• SCTA – Standing Committee on Training and Assessment
• SCTR – Standing Committee on Training Recognition
• SRH – Sexual and reproductive Health
• TTT – Training the Trainers
• TTV – Training the Visitors
• UEMS – Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes/European Union of Medical Specialists
• UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
• WHO – World Health Organisation