

## **SASOG Honorary Secretary elected to FIGO executive board**



Professor Priya Soma-Pillay from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has recently been elected to serve on the executive board of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO). She is the current head of the Maternal and Fetal Unit and obtained her PhD in Obstetrics this year from UP with a thesis titled “Maternal health after severe acute maternal morbidity.” Priya is a well-known academic and is actively involved in several national bodies including the National Committee for the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (SA) and the College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology where she is an official. Priya is also the current honorary secretary of the South African Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and will be representing this organisation on the FIGO executive board.

South Africa sent a strong delegation to the recent FIGO conference which was held in Rio de Janeiro from 14-19 October where the new FIGO board was elected. Several SASOG members presented papers on contraception (Dr Zozo Nene), oncology (Prof Greta Dreyer), clinical obstetrics (Prof Bob Pattinson), BetterObs Program (Dr Johannes Van Waart) and vaginal hysterectomy; teenage endometriosis (Prof Bash Goolab). FIGO currently has member societies in 136 countries with 26 countries represented on the executive board. FIGO is dedicated to the improvement of women’s health and rights and to the reduction in disparities in the healthcare available to women and newborns as well as advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology.

We are proud to have Prof Priya Soma-Pillay elected to this prestigious position which will enable her to represent South Africa in improving women’s health globally.