SASOG

South African Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

SASOG PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DURBAN 2018

The term of the current SASOG council has come to an end after 3 years and a new SASOG council has been elected. The 2015 -2018 coucil and the 2018 - 2021 council consisted of:

	2015 - 2018	2018 - 2021
President	Dr Johannes van Waart	Prof Greta Dreyer
Honorary Secretary	Dr Sagie Naidu	Prof Priya Soma-Pillay
Honorary Treasurer	Dr Beth Pheiffer	Dr Haynes vd Merwe
Past President	Prof Bash Goolab	Dr Johannes van Waart
SAMA Representative	Dr Malikah vd Schyff	Dr Malikah vd Schyff
Western Cape:	Dr Johannes van Waart	Dr Haynes vd Merwe
	Dr Femi Olarogun	Dr Femi Olarogun
	Dr Thabo Matsaseng	Dr Mushi Matjila
Northern Gauteng:	Prof Greta Dreyer	Prof Greta Dreyer
	Prof Gerhard Lindeque	Dr Miems Kleynhans
	Prof Priya Zoma-Pillay	Prof Priya Zoma-Pillay
Southern Gauteng:	Dr Bronwyn White	Prof Bash Goolab
	Dr Deshni Packirisamy	Dr Deshni Packirisamy
	Dr Goantebale Matlhaga	Dr Goantebale Matlhaga
KwaZulu Natal	Dr Sagie Naidu	Dr Conrad Mashiloane
	Dr Siva Moodley	Dr Vis Moodley
Free State	Dr Etienne Henn	Dr Etienne Henn
	Dr Dave Bowen	Dr Clayton Grieve
College of O&G President	Prof Leon Snyman	Prof Leon Snyman
GMG CEO	Dr Ron White	Dr Ron White
Presidents of Sub-Societies:		
- SASREG	Dr Danie Botha	Dr Danie Botha
- SASUOG	Prof Lut Geerts	Prof Lut Geerts
- SASGO	Prof Gerhard Lindeque	Prof Greta Dreyer
- SAMS	Dr Carol Thomas	Dr Carol Thomas
- SAUGA	Prof Zeelha Abdool	Prof Zeelha Abdool
- SA-RCOG	Dr Peter de Jongh	Dr Peter de Jongh
Co-Opted	Dr Joe Titus	Dr Joe Titus
SAATOG Chairperson	Dr Francois Retief	Dr Bart Goldman

My sincerest thank you to the 2015 – 2018 council members who sacraficed lots of personal and family time to attend meetings, drive their respective SASOG sub-committee duties and who were always willing to go the extra mile to support me in current and new projects in women's healthcare. A special word of thanks to the SASOG exco, who even went a further mile in suggesting, planning, supporting and executing SASOG projects during their term. To Dr Sagie Naidu (secretary), a personal word of thanks for his dedication, countless unpaid hours of SASOG work, unconditional support, advice and friendship that he offered to me in this term. In Sagie I have made a true friend and I could not have wished for a better "wingman".

To the new council, congratulations with your election. To be elected by your colleagues is a true honor, but unfortunaly very hard and unpaid work. Congratulations to our new President. I am sure that you have a great team to follow you. Good luck to all and may your energy lead SASOG to new heights.

SASOG GOALS/TARGETS

In 2015 when the SASOG council was elected, we set 5 goals:

1. To address the Obstetric Indemnity Insurance Crisis and to get to a sollution as good we can
2. To increase SASOG membership in order to be truly representative of our discipline
3. To ensure and increase a solid SASOG financial base
4. To improve communication to our members
5. To address/investigate the "professionalizing" of SASOG through a permanent secretariat/CEO

These goals/targets will be addressed in my report.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

SASOG membership has steadily increased in the previous number of years. 450 members (2015) → 600 members (2016) → **750 members** (Jan 2018). This includes Academics (> 100 members), Private Practitioners and Registrars. We now have a penetration of more than 90%. A big thank you to Bash Goolab and Haynes van der Merwe (SASOG membership subcommittee) along with the very hard work of Healthman (Joey Hanekom and Rinette Conradie) in keeping our membership up to date and expanding our membership base. We invite those few of you who are not members yet to join SASOG in our continuing and energetic drive to improve women's healthcare. I truly believe that SASOG gives their members real **value for money**! (see SASOG goals).

CPD PROGRAM

Through our generous CPD sponsors, SASOG has hosted at least one (and for the first time more than one) nationally funded CPD meetings per SASOG region in 2017. WCape, ECape, Free State, NGauteng, SGauteng & KZN all hosted very successful meetings with more than 80 delegates attending each meeting in the major centres. Our 2017 CPD sponsors were **Bayer, MSD, Adcock and Cipla**. Cipla, MSD and Adcock have allready committed for CPD sponsorships in 2018. Thanks to all our loyal CPD supporting sponsors.

I am sure that our members will give back to you in kind. Unfortunately Pfizer will no longer be a part of our CPD national program. Due to very strict (and almost impossible to achieve) regulations, SASOG council has decided not to engage with Pfizer on the CPD front in 2018. SASOG will certainly engage with Pfizer in the future once more if their regulations are achievable and practical in the RSA very unique circumstances. Thank you to Greta Dreyer and her subcommittee as well as the Regional Leadership in arranging these successful CPD meetings.

SASOG/GMG/SAPPF

The SASOG/GMG relationship has never been better than in 2017. Sagie Naidu (SASOG Secretary) and I have attended the last GMG meeting and I was once more impressed by the work that GMG does for Private O&G Practice. The O&G coding project is well on track and hopfully a **new coding manual** will be available in 2019. It needs to be remembered that all new codes have to be submitted, negotiated, accepted and then published before becoming available to all. This is normally a 2–3 year project. Thanks to all the hard work done by GMG, Healthman and all the contributing subspecialty council members. GMG is continuing to **negotiate better payouts** for especially Obstetricians. A stand alone code for indemnity insurance is high on the agenda, but so far medical aids have been tough**. Polmed** has increased their payout for deliveries and it will be in excess of R 9000 for contracted members in 2018. Well done to Casper Venter, Ron White and Chris Archer for these successful negotiations. Discovery still seems to be ignorant of the effect of indemnity insurance premiums and negotiating better, unconditional payouts has not been successful so far. A **new initiative by Discovery** is on the table and hopefully we will be able to have a more realistic fee for deliveries before the middle of the year. However a few conditional questions still need to be ironed out. SASOG/GMG has made some usefull progress in the Discovery negotiations. Negotiations with other medical aids are continuing and GMG will keep us all updated. We still caution all members to think carefully before signing DSP contracts. These contracts are mostly one sided and make it more difficult for GMG to negotiate better tariffs as signing a contract makes it seem as if the member is happy with the rates offered.

SAPPF has been continuing their good work in 2017 and all relevant private practice issues are attended to. A big thanks to **Chris Archer and the SAPPF team** for work well done. (See the SAPPF newsletters for details).

Permanent SASOG Secretariat (see SASOG goals)

SASOG council has established a **permanent secretariat** in 2016 and this position is held by **Alison Shaw** from Royal House. Alison has supported and strengthened the position of the SASOG secretary, Dr Sagie Naidu, and has managed the ever increasing administrative duties (BetterObs, EOMC etc.) along with the SASOG secretary excellently. Thanks to Alison for her commitment and hard work so far.

SASOG Communication

During the last 3 years SASOG has strived to communicate to its members regularly. These communication efforts were:

Newsletters

1. **President's Newsletter** highlighting the important issues discussed at the 6 monhly SASOG council meetings,
2. **SASOG Newsflash** focusing on issues that were discussed at every SASOG Exco meeting appoximately 2 – 3 months before the next council meeting,
3. **BetterObs Newsletter** (highlighting BetterObs news) on a regular basis (in between the President's Newsletters and the SASOG Newsflashes). All these newsletters were emailed to members and placed on the SASOG website immediately after publishing.

SMS Service

The SASOG sms service was used to alert members of publication of newsletters, informing members of important issues/events published on the SASOG website and reminding members to respond to urgent SASOG requests. HealthMan did a great job in helping us in this critical service.

Website

The SASOG website went through a few upgrades in the last 2 years. It is more userfriendly now and all important SASOG information is now available on the website. There is still some room for improvement, but I would like to thank Haynes van der Merwe and Femi Olaragun for their efforts to keep the website relevant. Thank you also to E2 Solutions and HealthMan for doing the hard work behind the improvement of our website and other communication tools. Our website sponsor was/is Roche.

President's Blog

A new addition to our communication strategy is the SASOG President's Blog. This has been going since January 2018 and gives SASOG council/exco/President a rapid communication tool to inform our members of critical/relevant events on a regular (weekly) basis. I have attempted to post weekly and we urge members to visit this blog regularly to stay up to date.

SASOG App (Launched at SASOG 2018 Congress)

The SASOG App is now up and running on Android and IOS. This app is a great tool to access all SASOG events without needing a computer. We urge all members to download the app and use this as one of the firstline SASOG communication tools. There are many uses that add significantly to better SASOG event functioning (Congess apps etc.). Try it out. The development of the app was done by E2 Solutions and sponsored by Ilex.

SASOG communication sponsors are **ROCHE** (website), **ILEX** (App), **NEXTBIO** (BetterObs Newsletter) and **FERRING**.

I do think that SASOG has managed to achieve its commitment to communicate effectively with our members in this term (see SASOG goals).

Finances

During the last 2 years SASOG has managed its resources and finances very effectively.

Our income through our membership drive, sponsorships, profit sharing in congresses where SASOG was involved and interest received on our investments, boosted our capital base to well over R11 million. These funds were very effectively managed by our financial team of Beth Pheiffer (treasurer) and **HealthMan (Casper Venter)**.

The SASOG funds are used to support our commitment to improve women's healthcare through various charitable projects (research, contributing to national and international healthcare initiatives etc.) not only in RSA but also including FIGO and AFOG commitments. The financial reports are available to all members from HealthMan. (see SASOG goals)

SAATOG (South African Association of Trainees in O&G)

SAATOG was established at the previous SASOG congress in 2016 at Sun City and under the very able guidance of Greta Dreyer (chair of the SASOS RET sub-committee) and the vibrant leadership of Liesl de Waard and especially Francois Retief (SAATOG Chair) has gone from strength to strength. SAATOG forms part of the world body of trainees in O&G (WATOG). SAATOG now has more than 100 members and a number of initiatives has been launched.

1. A number of **workshops** has been arranged to help final year registrars to prepare for the Part 2 FCOG examinations.
2. The revival of a **registrar research meeting** is planned and will take place in 2018. The best registrar research projects from each O&G training institution will be funded to present their research and the winners will receive a prize and will be invited to present their research at the following SASOG congress. (This project will be SASOG funded).
3. SASOG provided a number of **bursaries to registrars** who contribute to SASOG 2018 and will continue to support similar projects. All registrars are our future colleagues and it is the SASOG duty to guide and support efforts to make them part of O&G in RSA.

My congratulations to the SAATOG leaders for these great initiatives. Keep up the good work. We encourage all interested parties to visit the SAATOG website (via the SASOG website) to find all information regarding SAATOG.

SASOG 2018 Congress

SASOG 2018 is in full swing and congratulations to the LOC on a **great congress.** Not only do we have a very well balanced scientific program, but the general running and organization makes this a highlight of the SASOG calender. Well done to **Dr Siva Moodley, Dr Suren Rampall, Prof Tsidi Sebitloane and Londocor** and everybody who contributeed to the success of this congress.

SASOG 2030 Vision Meeting at Arabella

SASOG Council hosted its council meeting on 18 November 2017 at Arabella. Joining us at this meeting were all Presidents of the sub-societies (as council members) as well as all available heads of academic O&G departments. The main focus of the weekend was to evaluate and review the whole landscape of O&G in RSA and to compile a SASOG 2030 vision for O&G in RSA. The meetings were very well attended and I would like to highlight a few points of the meetings held.

(a) Academic Heads of O&G Departments

- Academic Heads will meet once a year for **strategic planning** (SASOG funded)
- SASOG will arrange/sponsor an **academic meeting** once a year for the top **registrars** of each Academic unit to present their research projects and the top project will be rewarded with a SASOG congress presentation and a prize.
- Training platforms will be revisited and other **training platforms** (private practice etc.) to be considered in future
- Importance of **competence training** of junior colleagues (in addition to CME's and communication training) were noted.
- Use of available SASOG **research funding** was emphasized.

(b) Sub-Societies Meeting

- Presidents of all sub-societies were present
- Proposal for a joint sub-specialty **academic journal** was discussed
- Transparent processes for selection of sub-specialty **fellowship posts** should be put in place
- Peer review and needs of each sub-specialty were shared
- SASOG will provide **financial assistance** for-sub specialties (as needed), as long as all eligible sub-specialty council members are paid up SASOG members.

(c) SASOG 2030 VISION

A SASOG Vision was formulated and approved by council at the end of the meeting. The vission is:

- between Obstetric and Gynaecology services in the **Public and Private sector** should be improved and the use of services in the private sector should be utilized optimally in order to support public sector needs.
- Training of medical practioners in Obstetric and Gynaecology should aim to **deliver well trained practitioners**, able to deliver a safe and optimal service in the private and public sector. SASOG should ensure availability of appropriate platforms to support further training as appropriate. This will include CPD education and appraisal systems.
- All **pregnant women** should have the right to deliver safely at an **appropriate level of care**, with the ideal that uncomplicated deliveries would not need the care of a specialist as a primary caregiver.
- SASOG supports the idea of **universal healthcare** in RSA, but this service must be affordable, practical, accessable and sustainable.
- SASOG supports the **cooperation** with the South Africal Medical Association as well as cooperation with **all stakeholders** in the field of women's healthcare.
- SASOG strives to **reduce risks** for all involved in the field of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.
- SASOG supports the upholding of the highest **ethical and professional standards** in the field of women's healthcare.
- SASOG supports a vision to have a **sub-specialty unit** (for each O + G sub-specialty) in all training departments inObstetric and Gynaecological **available and functioning**.
- SASOG encourages and will **support research** in the field of women's healthcare in RSA as a matter of importance.

SASOG Affiliations

SASOG has maintained and established some strong affiliations that will positively strenghthen the SASOG visions of improving women's healthcare if future. These affiliations (excluding the strong affiliation with our sub-societies that we have at present) are:

1. Mediation in Motion (MiM)

SASOG has partnered up with MiM to guide and help us in our vision of "**mediation before litigation**". Although there are other mediation bodies in RSA, non of them has been forthcoming to support SASOG in their drive to reduce Indemnity Insurance premiums by reducing litigation. Thank you to adv Alan Nelson in supporting and guiding SASOG in the new field (for us) of mediation. Mediation has certainly changed the playing field with 22 cases up to date (and counting) that has been successfully mediated by the cooperation between the SASOG EOMC and MiM.

2. Federation of South African Surgeons (FOSAS)

FOSAS includes almost **all surgical disciplines in RSA**. The membership of these surgical disciplines represents more than 6000 RSA surgeons. SASOG joined FOSAS in 2017 and through this membership we are joining forces to share our knowledge of our BetterObs program as a principle to enhance peer review, better surgical outcomes, mediation before litigation and a common platform for all disciplines to learn from one another on the way forward.

3. FIGO

SASOG is a proud member of FIGO and will send a delegation to the **2018 FIGO congress in Rio de Janeiro** in September. SASOG hopes to win a seat (as part of the Africa and Middle East block) on the FIGO council for the next term of office. Bash Goolab currently heads the FIGO endoscopy training initiative and spends a lot of his time in organizing and coordinating endoscopy workshops worldwide as part of this commitment. I will submit an **abstract** on the SASOG **BetterObs initiative** to FIGO and hope to share our experience with the rest of the worldwide O&G community.

4. AFOG

SASOG is still a **member of the African Federation of O+G (AFOG)**, but due to the busy SASOG program we have not been able to engage with AFOG as much as we have hoped to. SASUOG has done a few outreach programs into Africa and Silke Dyer currently heads (and is expanding) the Fertility (ART) data capturing program (ANARA) in Africa. 14 African countries are currently contributing IVF data to this registry and a further 3 will join this year. This data is critical to convincing governments to support fertility services on the continent of Africa and also to improve the service of ART in the countries that have ART units.

Academic and Public Sector Involvement

SASOG has (and still is) contributing generously to the the well being our our public sector in RSA. These projects include:

- **SAATOG bursaries** to attend the SASOG congress (R120 000)
- Funding the 6 to 12 monthly **Head of Academic Department meetings**
- Funding the attendance of RSA contributors to various **WHO and FIGO Women's Health projects** (TOP, family planning etc.).
- Making available generous contributions to approved RSA **academic research** projects focusing on Women's Health.
- SASOG continues to fund the **SASGO (oncology) Journal** to the amount of
- Funding of the RSA contribution to the **international PCOS guidelines** (prof Zephne vd Spuy and Committee). Talk presented at SASOG 2018.
- Funding contribution considered for the **ANARA** (Reproductive Health Africa data) project.

SASOG Awards 2018

Four **Lifetime Achievement Awards** have been awarded (following nomination and unanimous acceptance by SASOG council). This award is the highest form of honor bestowed upon a member by SASOG.

The award criteria states that the award is made " in recognition of loyalty to the society and a lifetime of dedication to achieving equity in women's health as well as leadership in the promotion of excellence in training and research with international recognition in Obstetrics and Gynaecology." The recipients are: **Prof Zephne van der Spuy, Prof Franco Guidozzi, Prof Hennie Cronje and Prof Bash Goolab**. These awards were handed over at the Legacy SASOG President's Dinner on Sunday. A great big congratulations to our honoured colleagues.

A number of **Meritorious service awards** were also bestowed upon a few SASOG colleagues who rendered **exceptional service** (over and above their normal responsibilities) to SASOG and Women's Health in RSA. The recipients are: **Prof Sue Fawcus, Prof Tony Coller, Dr Reg Roos, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (MOH), Dr Siva Moodley, Dr Jiyana Mbere**. Congratulations to these recipients who sacraficed an enormous amount of family/personal time in their commitment to creating a better South Africa for all Women.

Academic Meeting Coordination

The SASOG academic **meeting calender is very busy** as more and more RSA sub-societies and academic departments are hosting international and local meetings. International meetings held were the IUGA and RCOG meetings in 2017 and the Wits Maternal summit meeting joining the academic program. The ISGE meeting will take place under the SASREG banner in 2019. See the SASOG Academic Meeting Calender on the SASOG website for all National and International meetings. We ask all colleagues planning national and international meetings to contact SASOG well in advance in order to ensure fairness to all O&G participants in arranging their respective congresses. This request is to ensure good order in a very crowded calender.

eomc — EXPERT OPINION & MEDIATION COMMITTEE

Report, Feb 2018 by Ismail Bhorat, Priya Soma-Pillay and Paul Dalmeyer

Following the SASOG council meeting and follow up meetings by the relevant stakeholders, it was decided that the EOMC will stand as a independent, constitutionalized body, not only associate with the BetterObs program. It will function entirely independent with reciprocal non-voting representation by the legal committee of SASOG. The reason for this is that there is no potential conflict of interest.

The financial side will be run totally independent and administered by HealthMan. Seeding funding has been approved to the Value of R100, 000.00 and will be transferred by HealthMan once the bank account has been established.

Regarding the **database**. The contract between SASOG will be finalized and signed by SASOG and financially supported by Constantia Insurance Company (EthiQal). The data (EthiQal members) obtained will be reciprocal to the benefit of SASOG with the insurance companies to be able to monitor individual risk profiles and SASOG can ascertain if indemnity fees charged are equitable.

Regarding the statistics. It is evident, from the data that we do have, that there was a spurt of cases registered with the SASOG secretariat, but with only two substantial cases that warrant mediation or litigation, further instruction awaited. The others were trivial and the EOMC could manage them in house. To date there has been no funding flowing from this for the constitution and bank account are not in place as yet.

BetterObs Program

The BetterObs Program is now fully functional and running on almost all cylinders. The management structure runs via the **BetterObs Management Committee**. In short this committee is made up of a **National Lead Obstetrician**, **6 Regional Lead Obstetricians** and just more than 100 **Local Lead Obstetricians**. (See the **BetterObs Manual** on the SASOG website for all BetterObs details). New to the structure is the independence of the Expert Opinion and Medition Committee (EOMC) that is part of the SASOG structure through the Medico – Legal Subcommittee. The EOMC now consist of **4 Tiers** and has contibuted to the successful mediation of 22 potential medico – legal cases so far. Well done to Dr Ismail Bhorat (EOMC chair), Dr Paul Dalmeyer (EOMC Gynae Panel chair), Prof Priya Soma-Pillay (EOMC Obstetric Panel chair) and the whole Tier 1 panel for their dedication, hard work and commitment to ensure fairness to all involved in women's health in RSA. The impact of the EOMC has been significant with the piloting of umbilical artery blood collection at selected deliveries in the process of being implemented and the **new screening guidelines for Down syndrome** recently implemented (see the December 2017 President's Newsletter on the SASOG website).
There is now **wide support** for this program, with all medical aids, all major hospital groups, the big indemnity insurers and the vast majority of our colleagues buying into this program. The **BetterObs** name has now been **patented** and the patent belongs to SASOG. All use of the BetterObs name will now need official approval from SASOG council.

Indemnity Insurers

The MPS fees for 2018 has gone up from R850k → R950k (↑ 11.8%) per year (Occurance based) and from R456k → R696k (↑ 52.6%) per year (claims made).

Constantia/EthiQal fees for 2018 have remained unchanged at R650k (Occurrence based).

SASOG has now (3 days ago) received some data from MPS regarding claims and will be disecting this data in the next few weeks in order to learn and improve care where needed.

Constantia Insurers (EthiQal) has supplied us with their 14 month claims data (the first time that SASOG has any data to work from!).
The SASOG medico-legal subcommittee will work through this data in detail, but the biggest impact claims are:

- Cerebral Palsy 8/230 – open cases (NB! – **cord pH and Mediation**)
- C/S Complications – 14% of claims (NB! – **informed consent**)
- T21 ultrasound misses - % cases (NB! – **new screening criteria**)
- Laparoscopic/Hysterectomies (all) – 42/230 (NB!- **informed consent and training**)
- 57/230 **(25%)** – Patients unhappy with **communication!** – (Talk and explain to patients!!!)

SASOG will continue to analyse the data supplied from the EOMC, Constantia and MPS and will provide regular feedback to our members regarding this and the pointers this data gives us to improve our service to our patients.

Sponsors

SASOG has been supported by many sponsors and we would like to thank all past, present and future sponsors in supporting women's health in RSA through your SASOG sponsors.

Our sponsors:

Unrestricted grant from **Constantia** (R 500 000)

Communication sponsors**: Roche** (website), **Ilex** (SASOG app), **NextBio** (BetterObs Newsletter) and **Ferring**

CPD sponsors: **Adcock, Bayer, Cipla and MSD**

Legacy Medical (President's dinner)

BetterObs: **Medi Clinic, Life Healthcare, Netcare and Lenmed**

Changes to the SASOG Constitution

3 changes to be presented to the AGM for approval by Mr Casper Venter.

I hope to see each and every Obstetrician and Gynaecologist joining SASOG/GMG to help us in our drive to optimize women's health in RSA.
My **sincere thanks** to the past SASOG council for their hard work, sacraficing countless, unpaid family hours to contribute to the SASOG goals. Without their dedication my tasks would have been impossible. My best wishes to the newly elected council in driving the SASOG ship for the next 3 years. If someone was accidentally been omitted from my report, I am sure you will forgive me, but this does not make me less thankful.

I will now hand over the Presidential duties to the **incoming SASOG President** (and **the first female** to hold this position in the 80 years of SASOG history), **Prof Greta Dreyer**.

I wish all a great year ahead and it was a great privilege to serve you all in the 3 years of my presidency and I will certainly **serve you** with the same committment as the immediate past President and (along with Dr Sagie Naidu) as joint **National Lead Obstetricians**.

Johannes van Waart
SASOG President 2015 - 2018

Greta Dreyer
SASOG President 2018 - 2021