

### Council highlights: 7–8 July 2022

#### **Strengthening member society bonds**

Three of our valued member societies provided rich updates on their history and work. We would like to thank our wonderful Council members from Tunisia, Rwanda and Sweden for such interesting and comprehensive introductions. It was agreed that society updates will now be a regular feature of meetings going forward.

**Visit:** <https://www.figo.org/figos-member-societies> for details of all our member societies.

#### **FIGO leads messaging on carbetocin issue**

FIGO President, Dr Conry, presented an overview of FIGO's current collaborative work with WHO. There was special mention of FIGO's involvement on the issue of PPH management protocol messaging in relation to the use of oxytocin and carbetocin. FIGO is taking a lead in shaping the message on the handling of these medications, as there are complex issues involved.

**Visit:** <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-06-2018-who-study-shows-drug-could-save-thousands-of-women%E2%80%99s-lives>

#### **Joining forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Professor Lumsden gave an update on two potential leadership development projects with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – FIGO is awaiting confirmation that funding has been secured and if not successful this time, the preparatory work will certainly be utilised for future activities.

**Visit:** <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/our-work/programs/global-development/maternal-newborn-and-child-health>

#### **'Drawing a line' – a red line**

Dr Conry gave an overview of the 'Red Line Initiative' – a collaboration between the Mukwege Foundation and FIGO focusing on the formation of 'an International Convention for the Elimination of Sexual Violence as a Method of Warfare'. FIGO will encourage every OBGYN society to 'sign on' to the Initiative, in its own country, and involve other stakeholder organisations to do so; editorial coverage in related journals will also be promoted (such as within FIGO's very own highly esteemed IJGO). Local initiatives will be vitally important – contacts can monitor news in a region and report back to the campaign, to enable more targeted activity.

**Visit:** <https://www.mukwegefoundation.org/the-dr-denis-mukwege-foundation-calls-on-all-nations-to-draw-a-red-line-against-sexual-violence-in-conflict/>

#### **Committee collaboration as key**

FIGO is lucky to have dedicated committees, working collaboratively under the umbrella of three new divisions. Under the leadership of Dr JD Villegas, Director of the Division of Benign Surgery, superb presentations were given by Committee Chairs Dr Megan Wasson - Minimal Access Surgery; Dr Rachel Pope - Obstetric Fistula; and Dr Gabriel Ganyaglo - Urogynecology and Pelvic Floor Disorders.

**Visit:** <https://www.figo.org/what-we-do/figo-divisions-committees> for details of all Divisions and Committees.

### **FIGO disaster response – real opportunities for action**

Dr Conry updated Council on her quarterly meetings with member societies, and stated that the issue of conflict zones/opportunities for disaster response had been discussed. It was noted that societies are supportive of FIGO's work in Ukraine, and of the fact that FIGO can now provide - if approached regarding other disasters/conflicts - a special fundraising link on its website to assist with collection of donations.

**Visit:** [https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/safe-childbirth-ukraine?utm\\_source=mem\\_and\\_reg&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=global](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/safe-childbirth-ukraine?utm_source=mem_and_reg&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=global) to help the Ukraine campaign.

### **Countdown to Colombia!**

Dr Villegas-Echeverri (Council Member for Colombia), Dr Ortiz Lizcano (Regional Trustee for Latin America) and Professor Lumsden gave an overview of preparations for the Cartagena Regional Congress in November 2022. FIGO is looking forward to its first major post-pandemic event, and is receiving expert assistance from its valued Colombian colleagues, who are working exceptionally hard to make this event a huge success.

**Visit:** <https://www.figo2022.org/event/7fe83e50-86ae-45d9-bea9-b246a4351f8c/summary?RefId=art-lau&locale=es> for regular updates.

### **'Born Too Soon' – FIGO promotes key messages**

Professor Bo Jacobsson, Director of the Division of Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH), presented an update on 'Born Too Soon', an enterprise under the PMNCH umbrella (comprising over 1,000 organisations working in the areas of maternal and newborn health; FIGO has 15 colleagues in representation on PMNCH committees).

**Visit:** <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/preterm-birth>

### **FIGO on track for Paris 2023**

FIGO was delighted to welcome Dr Nour, Chair of the Congress Organising Committee, and Dr Autry, Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee, who gave lively presentations on Congress preparations. Paris was noted as a truly unique and exciting Congress location, and the Congress venue as state-of-the-art and perfect for FIGO's needs. Professor Descamps, FIGO Vice President, has recently received a major award, given by the French tourist industry sector, for his achievements in helping to bring the FIGO Congress to Paris – he was warmly congratulated on this very important accolade.

**Visit:** <https://www.figo.org/events/xxiv-world-congress-gynecology-and-obstetrics> for regular updates.