



EBCOG

European Board and College of  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology



*President's Newsletter*

Dear Colleagues,

Following our last Council meeting, I am delighted to report that EBCOG is continuing to move forward in many exciting and challenging directions. This Newsletter is intended to provide a snapshot of EBCOG's current key activities. More detailed information about all of the things mentioned, and much more besides, can be found in the Minutes of the last Council meeting.

In May 2012, EBCOG held its Congress in Tallinn, Estonia, and I thank Prof Karro and Prof Vetter for all their hard work in making it both enjoyable and successful. The Hands-On Training courses proved again to be very popular with both trainees and specialists.

In October 2012, EBCOG took a stand at the last FIGO World Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Rome, which enabled us to promote our activities to a truly global audience. We distributed information on all of our core activities and were able to provide the EBCOG Monograph on Training to hundreds of colleagues. We also used this opportunity to publicise our next European Congress to be held in Glasgow from 7-10 May, 2014. Please remember to ask your national society/ies to put the link to the Glasgow Congress site [www.ebcog2014.org](http://www.ebcog2014.org) on their own web sites and publicise it as much as possible. It is your Congress and EBCOG really depends on your support to ensure it is a big success. A special attraction at the stand which appealed to many visitors were the laparoscopic and suturing simulators which were used under the supervision of the Chair of the EBCOG Working Party on Simulation.

The President-Elect and I represented EBCOG as observers at the FIGO Assembly in Rome, where elections for the future FIGO office bearers and the Executive were held.

Our work in developing closer links and contacts with the EU Institutions has moved ahead particularly through our efforts in promoting European Standards of Care. We met with members of the Health Commissioner's Cabinet and I would like to thank Mr Mark Formosa for helping to arrange this meeting and we hope to organise another one soon with the new Maltese Health Commissioner, Mr Tonio Borg.

Back in Brussels, we met with Catherine Stihler MEP on a number of occasions and she and her staff helped us to host an open access meeting at the European Parliament in September 2012.

It is clear that we need to have a broad base of support from MEPs from across the spectrum of political parties and that it is crucial to engage with MEPs at national and regional levels. I would urge you to contact your own MEPs so that we can promote EBCOG's hugely important agenda of providing equitable, high quality standards of care for women and their babies throughout Europe. You can find a list of the MEPs in your own country at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/search.html>

The work to develop European Standards of Care is progressing well and we hope that both documents will be finalised in summer 2013 and officially launched at the European Parliament later in the year. I have secured some financial support and I hope we can also find other forms of support. I would like to thank the President-Elect for all his work and for producing these important documents. Thanks are also due to the EBCOG EU Liaison Officer and the Chair of the Working Party on EU Funding for arranging a meeting between the Officers and the CEO of UEMS, Mr Frederic Destrebecq. This was extremely helpful in both strengthening the cooperation between EBCOG and UEMS and exploring avenues which can be used to help us to take EBCOG's agenda forward at EU level.

During this meeting we also raised the possibility with UEMS of EBCOG's taking responsibility for CME accreditation into its own hands. Mr Destrebecq's response was very encouraging and under the leadership of the Secretary-General, our CME Working Party is looking at how this might be achieved. My thanks go to the Secretary-General for this work and also to Prof Van Assche, who has reviewed an extremely large number of applications on EBCOG's behalf. My sincere thanks go to the Treasurer who has ensured that EBCOG has the funds available to support all its activities. Under his stewardship, I know that EBCOG's finances are in very safe hands.

One of EBCOG's most visible activities continues to be visiting and, thanks to the enormous efforts of the Chair of the SCTR, the number of specialist visits has now reached 119. The visiting system has been slightly re-structured as with the rising number of visits and re-visits the old system was unsustainable. The new system will involve a 'paper visit' in year 4 with the aim of providing accreditation for a 7 year period. Training the Visitor (TTV) and Training the Trainers (TTT) Courses took place in November in Turin and my thanks go to the Chairs of the SCTR and Working Party on TTT. As a result of this TTT course, EBCOG has been invited to run courses in Malta, Barcelona, Perugia and Ukraine.

Subspecialist visits are also continuing and our relationship with our subspecialist sisters remains both close and valuable. A meeting of the EBCOG and all the Subspecialist societies' Executive Committees is planned for this year in order to discuss the best way for us all to collaborate to reach our common goals.

Our relationship with ENTOG continues to be extremely positive and my thanks go to the President of ENTOG. The ENTOG/EBCOG Fellowship Programme last year attracted an excellent response. Another 3 Fellowships will be awarded this year and the successful applicants will complete their placements by the end of this year. These Fellowships were

advertised on the EBCOG Website which is currently being re-developed by the new Webmasters. This is a major means of communication and I would ask you to please send any suggestions or information to upload onto the site to the Webmaster.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking you all - the Officers, Executive Committee, Council delegates and Working Party members, for so willingly giving your precious time, effort and contributions to EBCOG and last but not least to Charlotte Mercer for always keeping us all in the loop with the latest developments.

Kind regards,

*Professor Chiara Benedetto, M.D., PhD*  
**President of EBCOG**

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