

The Society of
Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists
of Canada

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Why should you become a Member of SOGC?

This is the time of year when you will be asked to renew your membership in the SOGC. The Society is conducting a full membership drive and you should take into consideration that the membership fee for obstetricians and gynaecologists has not been increased since 1989. This is unique among Canadian Societies and Associations. Please renew your membership early.

Membership includes the following categories:

Obstetrician/Gynaecologist Member: a person who is licensed to practise medicine in a province or territory of Canada and has a Specialist Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This carries full membership privileges. Membership cost is \$375.00 per year.

Junior Member: to qualify as a Junior Member with the SOGC a person must be enrolled in a postgraduate training course in obstetrics and gynaecology acceptable to Council, and be recommended by the Chair or Director of the residency training programme in which the person is enrolled. The membership cost is \$40.00 per year.

Life Member: a member who has reached age 65 and has retired from active practice or has been a member of SOGC for 35 consecutive years. Membership cost is \$40.00 per year.

Associate membership categories:

Associate PhD Member: this membership category includes those who are active in research in the field of obstetrics and/or gynaecology. Members of the Canadian Investigators in Reproduction are encouraged to become associate members. This group will bring important basic bench research to the bedside and will bridge the gap between research and clinical applications. Membership cost is \$60.00 per year.

Associate MD Member: this is open to all Canadian practising family physicians as well as physicians in specialties other than obstetrics and gynaecology. Physicians with a particular interest in obstetrics or gynaecology are encouraged to join the SOGC. Membership cost is \$125.00 per year.

Associate Nursing Member: this membership category is designed for Canadian nurses working in obstetrics and gynaecology. Nurses are very important strategic partners for gynaecologists working in maternal/child health, infertility, gynaecological oncology, menopause, and other areas of our specialty.



André B. Lalonde, MD, FRCS,
Executive Vice-President, SOGC.

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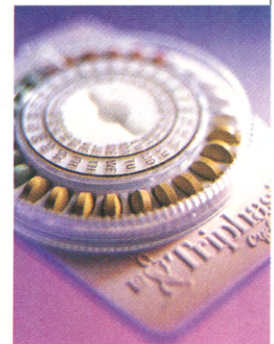


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Canada's Most Prescribed Oral Contraceptive¹



You are invited at discount prices to our Annual Clinical Meeting and Regional Meetings. A special programme is being organized for members of this category at our Annual Clinical Meeting. Membership cost is \$60.00 per year.

Associate Midwife Member: membership in the SOGC is open to qualified Canadian midwives. It provides midwives access to all Clinical Practice Guidelines and Continuing Medical Education (CME) events. The membership cost is \$125.00 per year.

Associate Health Care Member: this category is available to those who are not involved in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology but are occupied in such administrative positions as Public Health, Medical Directorships, Government departments and/or agencies. The membership cost is \$90.00 per year.

Associate Allied Health Care Member: this category is open to individuals working in such corporations as the pharmaceutical industry who have an interest in obstetrics and gynaecology. This membership provides access to current Clinical Practice Guidelines, the Journal of the SOGC, and News/Communiqué to keep members up to date on Society activities. The membership cost is \$125.00 per year.

OBSTETRICAL CRISIS IN CANADA

The SOGC is committed to put all of its efforts in the next few years into helping to resolve the crisis in obstetrics in Canada. This crisis is based primarily on the poor reimbursement for obstetrical services in Canada. There is no adequate compensation for the time, stress, and education required to become an obstetrician/gynaecologist. The introduction of a new profession in maternal infant care, midwifery, has shown that our services are undervalued and poorly reimbursed. Midwifery practice allows for proper reimbursement at approximately \$3,200 per delivery with full payment of office overheads and medico-legal insurance. The reimbursement of obstetricians in Canada is abysmally poor. The SOGC will provide a forum for Regional and Provincial Ob/Gyn Associations to meet, discuss, and join together to resolve this issue. Our Human Resources and Economics Committee has addressed these issues as has a newly created Provincial Tariff Advisory Committee.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The SOGC has been an innovator in the production of Continuous Medical Education resources adapted to the needs of our members, particularly extremely busy obstetricians and gynaecologists. Our meetings are designed to allow maximum participation by the attendees with a large faculty available for one to one discussion. Our programmes are based on needs assessments, and use touch pad technology and small group learning techniques. Our Annual Clinical Meeting with its International Symposia, Clinical Updates, Workshops, Post Graduate Courses, Paper/Poster Sessions, and individual interest groups meetings is rated excellent or very good by over 80 percent of those attending the meeting. We will continue to try to encourage those in specialty interest societies in obstetrics and gynaecology to meet during the Annual Clinical Meeting. Innovative social programmes have also attracted members' attention. The SOGC Youth Programmes available for physicians during the ACM and at regional meetings recognize the importance of young families at our meetings.

NEWS/COMMUNIQUE

The SOGC News/Communiqué is a bilingual monthly newsletter. It reaches approximately 2,600 readers. It is an important information vehicle which provides news about the activities of the Society, updates in the fields of obstetrics, gynaecology, reproductive medicine (Clinical Practice Guidelines), and CME Programmes.

JOURNAL SOGC

Our Journal has received high acclaim from our members during our recent survey. The Journal always welcomes both review and research manuscripts from the membership. Submissions are peer reviewed.

GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT

The SOGC has 20 Committees which prepare guidelines. These guidelines are produced by our colleagues on the committees. They are analysed and scrutinized by the SOGC Executive Committee and Council. Specially prepared for our profession with the collaboration of other professions and the public, they give guidance for the provision of optimal care to Canadian women.



COMMITTEES

Standing Committees have been created and are active. You can request participation by notifying your Regional Representative and SOGC of your interest.

Public Education: the Public Education Committee has been designed to develop public education pamphlets that will be distributed to Canadian women by their physicians. These pamphlets are very much appreciated by the patients and are written especially for them. Members should take advantage of them and display them prominently in their offices.

ALARM

The ALARM Courses have been designed to address one of the crucial areas of our practice; medico-legal risks in obstetrics. We view the medico-legal risk situation in Canada as extreme and increasing. Reimbursement for obstetrical care does not reflect the costs of malpractice nor the risks involved in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology. The SOGC intends to make strong representation at the CMPA, CMA, and Provincial Associations to address this situation in order to ensure effective reform of the medico-legal system. We will also pressure the CMPA to engage in risk management strategies that will not only benefit our specialty but all high risk specialties. What we will learn in developing a proper risk management programme with the three high risk specialties (neurosurgery, orthopaedics, obstetrics/gynaecology) will serve to address similar issues in all other specialties.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Society has been very active in this area on behalf of its members. An example is Bill C-47, an Act regarding human reproductive technologies and commercial transactions relating to human reproduction. The SOGC works closely with Health Canada in projects of interest to obstetricians and gynaecologists: Guidelines for Nutrition in Obstetrics, Family Centred Maternity Care, HIV Guidelines, Blood Products, Perinatal Surveillance System, Maternal Mortality/Morbidity, and Preterm Labour.

RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS

The SOGC would like to encourage every member to recruit one new member during the next few months. A stronger membership base strengthens our voice with

government in our efforts to achieve our mission of optimal reproductive health care for Canadian families. Please call our National Office and we will provide you with a list of obstetrician/gynaecologists and associate members according to the region or city where you live. We would like to raise the awareness of our association amongst your colleagues who are not members.

Please write to us. We pledge our support and undivided attention to your concerns and needs in order to deliver the best possible care to Canadian women and their families.

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