

NEWS FROM SOGC COUNCIL MEETING

*André Lalonde, MD, FRCSC,
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Important decision-making took place during the last SOGC Council meeting, held in Ixtapa, Mexico, on March 6, 1995. Here are some of the highlights:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rodolphe Maheux, President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) intends to develop a position on the issue of our specialty being recognized as providing primary care and/or consultative care to Canadian women. Dr. Maheux suggested that obstetricians and gynaecologists in Canada be recognized as consultants but that direct access to gynaecologists in certain areas such as infertility, obstetrics, etc., be maintained. Regional representatives will be asked to meet with council members in order to discuss this issue.

SOGC INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AD HOC COMMITTEE

A meeting is scheduled during the Annual Clinical Meeting in Calgary on Saturday morning, June 24th, 1995, from 1030h to 1200h to discuss the creation of a new SOGC *ad hoc* committee on International Women's Health. Every gynaecologist, family physician, and nurse who is interested in international health is welcome to

attend this meeting, and everyone who has a special interest in international health can become a member of this committee. Terms of reference will be developed and a representative group will be elected. The meeting will be chaired by Drs. Henry Muggah, from Hamilton, and Ferd Pauls, from Winnipeg.

APPROVAL OF GUIDELINES

The SOGC has approved a series of guidelines to be distributed to members in June and presented to the press during the Annual Clinical Meeting in Calgary: Fetal Surveillance, Dystocia, Attendance at Labour, Hysterectomy, Antenatal Corticosteroid Therapy, Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and Colposcopy.

INTEREST GROUPS

The SOGC has received a request from individuals wanting to form an interest group on menopause. Time will be allocated at the Annual Clinical Meeting for those interested to meet and form this group. The SOGC Council will approve terms of reference for all interest groups affiliated with the SOGC. We are hoping that these groups will use the SOGC Network as a communication tool.



FOUNDATION

The SOGC has reactivated its Foundation and would like to inform all those interested in participating in Foundation activities that a meeting will be held during the Annual Clinical Meeting. Recently appointed members include Drs. Morrie Gelfand, from Montreal, Josef Scott, from Edmonton, Walter Hannah, from Toronto, Robert Lea, from Halifax, Victor Gomel, from Vancouver, Mrs. Janet MacMillan, from Halifax, as well as Drs. Michael Van den Hof, from Halifax and Sydney Kronick, from Ottawa.

SOGC/FIGO REPRESENTATIVE

The SOGC Council has approved the nomination of Dr. Rodolphe Maheux, from Québec City, to represent the SOGC on the FIGO Board for a three-year term. Dr. Leo Peddle, from Halifax, is now the Vice-Chair of the FIGO Scientific Committee, while Dr. Lou Benedet from Vancouver has been elected as the Chair of the FIGO Oncology Committee. Dr. André Lalonde has been named as a member of the Safe Motherhood Committee.

SOGC NETWORK

A strategic alliance between the SOGC and the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) has been established. The SOGC and the CPA have agreed to exchange information at the administrative level. Furthermore, the SOGC has mandated the Executive Vice-President to work with the CPA to develop a plan for a partnership in MEDSPECnet, the Internet network, in order to implement the SOGC Network. Also, the SOGC has nominated Dr. Rodolphe Maheux to chair a committee on the SOGC Network over the next three years. He will be responsible for recruiting members, drafting terms of reference, and scheduling a meeting for those interested in the Network.

The SOGC has furthermore hired an informatics and computer coordinator to provide support to the National Office staff. The Executive Vice-President will pursue discussions with *Clinidata* regarding the establishment of the SOGC Clinical Research Network.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional representatives discussed the problems encountered regarding government cutbacks, availability of operating rooms, and the difficult relationship with

midwives. A request was made to the SOGC to undertake, with the Canadian Medical Association, a study on the cost benefits of different types of obstetrical practice both in hospitals and outside.

APOG SECRETARIAT IN OTTAWA

The SOGC has agreed with the Association of Professors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology to provide partial secretarial support to this association.

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