

Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP): from its Inception till Date

“Events Place in their right Perspective”

The Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP) is the oldest specialist professional body. Its foundations were laid in March 1957 when Prof.H.Dewattleville, President of International Federation of Gynecology & Obstetrics (FIGO) visited Karachi. He addressed the students, the staff members of the Dow Medical College, Karachi and member of the Pakistan Medical Council. He stressed the importance of having a Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Pakistan. Later in the same year MBBS Examination, there was a meeting to discuss the formation of the Society. This was attended by 15 Gynecologists and Obstetricians including Professors from all over Pakistan.

The aims and objects of the Society were discussed at length. As a result of this meeting the first ad hoc Governing Body of the Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Pakistan was formed with the following office bearers.

- **President:** Prof. Abdus Samed Chaudhari
- **Secretary:** Dr. Alvi
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Zubaida Sobani

The founder members of the Society were

Dr. Miss S. A. Siddiki (Karachi), Dr. Samie (Lahore), Dr. Abdul Samed Chaudhari (Karachi), Dr. Noor Ahmed Seyal (Multan), Dr. Mrs. Abbasi (Karachi), Dr. Mahammad Nazir Ahmed (Karachi), Dr. M. Alvi (Karachi), Dr. Mrs. Zubaida Aziz (Karachi), Dr. Bilquis Fatima (Lahore), Dr. M. Chaudhari (Karachi) Dr. Ghulam Bheek (Lahore) and Dr. Miss Zubaida Sobani (Karachi).

Soon after, a preliminary constitution was drawn up by the constitution committee, which was formed at the first meeting of the Society on 24th June 1957. The constitution was published in August 1957 issue of the Journal of Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) after being circulated to the

members. The Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan was informed regarding the formation of the ad hoc governing body. It was decided to have a Central Office in Karachi and to form branches all over Pakistan.

In 1958 there was another meeting of obstetricians & gynaecologists of Pakistan at the time of Annual Conference of Pakistan Medical Association(PMA) and the first elections were held. Dr. Samie of Lady Willington Hospital, Lahore was elected President as proposed by Prof. N. Seyal and seconded by Dr. Miss Sobani. Between 1958 and 1962 there were 50 clinical meetings at different places in Karachi including the Dow Medical College and Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, and about a dozen Clinico-pathological Conferences. At these seminars and meetings gynaecologists of the city and professors from different Medical Colleges all over Pakistan were invited. Some foreign visitors also attended these meetings including Prof. Mclennan as a representative of Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCDG) in May 1961, and Prof. Jeffcoate of Liverpool.

On 15 November 1962 a general body meeting was held and was largely attended. Among those present were: Dr. Bilquis Fatima, Dr. Zubaida Aziz, Dr. Noor Ahmed Seyal, Dr. Alvi, Dr. Z. Sobani, Dr. Narges. Talani, Dr. Mahammad Said, Dr. A. S. Chaudhuri, Dr. S/ A. Siddiki, Dr. Shaukat Haroon, Dr. Masiur Rehman (East Pakistan) and twenty one other doctors. The meeting was opened by Prof. Chaudhri giving a summary of the activities of the Society. The 2nd Election took place in this meeting. The following were elected.

Dr. A. S. Chaudhri, President (proposed by Dr. Seyal seconded by Dr. Bilquis Fatima). Vice President (West Pakistan) Dr. Bilquis Fatima (East Pakistan) Dr. Nurul Islam, Secretary, Dr. Shaukat Haroon (Proposed by Dr. Seyal

seconded by Dr. Zubaida Azia), Joint Secretary (East) Dr. Masiur Rehman (West) Dr. Salar Aziz (Hyderabad), Treasurer, Dr. Alvi (Proposed by Dr. Haroon seconded by Dr. Chaudhuri) Executive Members: Dr. Seyal (Multan), Dr. Miss S. Siddiki, Dr. Z. Aziz, Dr. N. Talati, Dr. Shafqat Muneer (Peshawar), Dr. Qudsia Omar, Dr. M. Said and one member from East Pakistan.

The amended constitution was read out and proposed for acceptance by Dr. Seyal and seconded by Dr. Alvi. This list of the elected members of the Governing body was sent to Ministry of Health.

At this time it was decided to start a Journal of Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and several committees were formed.

1. Maternal Mortality Committee
2. Perinatal Mortality Committee
3. Scientific Committee
4. Social Committee
5. Research Committee

The Maternal Mortality Committee tried to collect data of maternal deaths in the form of confidential enquires from all over Pakistan, unfortunately the response was poor.

The then President of the Society was an active member of a joint study group of International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics, and International Confederation of Midwives on International Survey of Midwifery practice and training.

Due to unavoidable circumstances, elections could not be held for some time. Dr. Shaukat Haroon, the Secretary of the Society passed away suddenly on 27th July 1968 and Dr. Mahmuda Said who was already working jointly with Dr. Shaukat Haroon, was asked to take over the responsibilities of the Secretary.

During all this time, the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Session of the Annual Symposium of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC) was used as a forum for scientific activities of the Society. Two seminars were held in 1977 and 1978 with the collaboration of WHO. In March 1977, a seminar on Tumours of Female Genital Tract, and in February, 1978, on Perinatal Care.

In March 1977, during the seminar of Tumours of the Female Genital Tract, a General Body Meeting was held and Prof. Zubaida Aziz was elected as President until the general

elections. A constitution amendment committee was formed to amend the constitution to suit the changing circumstances (i.e. the separation of East Pakistan). This was done and the amended constitution circulated among members, finally passed after approval and reregistered. The meetings of the Society, including clinical conferences were now held on the first Saturday of every month in hospitals of the city.

The general elections were held in February in 1979. The following members were elected as members of the governing body:

President	Dr. Mehmooda Said
Vice President	Dr. Bilquis Fatima (Punjab)
	Dr. Mumtaz K. Faruqui (NWFP)
	Dr. Fehmida Naheed (Balochistan).
Secretary	Dr. Sadiqua N. Jafarey
Joint Secretary	Dr. Faridon Setna.
Treasurer	Dr. Saida Siddiqui.
Executive Members	Dr. Zubaida Aziz Dr. Razia Latif Ansari Dr. Razia Akhani Dr. Anwar Shadi Khan Dr. Naseem Bani Rehman Dr. Noor Jahan Samad.

The following committees were also formed:

- Maternal Mortality
- Perinatal Mortality
- Scientific Committee
- Research Committee
- Social Committee
- Oncology Committee

Affiliations

The Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Pakistan is affiliated to:

1. Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (AOFOG)
2. International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics (FIGO)
3. South Asian Federation Obstetrics & Gynaecology (SAFOG)

Brief History: Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP)

4. The World Medical Association
5. The World Health Organization
6. The Council of Internal Organization of Medical Sciences

The elections of the Society are held every three years. The Secretary and the Treasurer are elected from Karachi where the central office is located. The office of the President rotates between different provinces and the Vice Presidents are elected from provinces other than that of the President.

Some where along the line SOGP was broken into a North and a South component. I had a good chance of being the Secretary General of the North part. With the support of Prof. Bilquis Malik, the President of the North part, it was desired to re-unite the two components of the society. However a final go-ahead decision was made in the office of Maj General Mohsin Pal, the then DG health of Pakistan (a proponent of the united cause), with all concerned being present. Amidst various objections, I could manage to hand over the meagre funds of the North society to Prof. Mahmooda Saeed, at a specific visit to Karachi. Thus SOGP became one Re-United strong body again, running a smooth course till date. Since 1983 the following have been the office bearers of the SOGP:

1979-1983

President	Prof. Mahmuda Said
Vice President	Prof. Bilquis Manzoor (Punjab) Prof. Fehmida Naheed (Balochistan)
Secretary	Dr. Nafees Burney (Late)
Joint Secretary	Dr Saeeda Siddiqui
Treasurer	Dr Bilquis Manzoor
Executive Members	Prof. Mahmuda Said Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafarey Prof. Razia Ansari Prof. Noor Jehan Samad Prof. Abdul Majeed Memon Dr. Anwar Shadi Khan

1983-1986

President	Prof. Mumtaz Khattak
Vice President	Prof Aftab Muneer
Secretary	Dr. Nafees Burney
Joint Secretary	Dr Saeeda Siddiqui

Treasurer	Dr Bilquis Manzoor
Executive Members	Prof. Mahmuda Said Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafarey Prof. Razia Ansari Prof. Noor Jehan Samad Prof. Abdul Majeed Memon Dr. Anwar Shadi Khan

1986-1989

President	Prof. Fakhar-un-Nisa
Vice Presidents	Prof. Majeed Memon Prof. Shafiq Ahmed Dr. Shahnaz Baloch
Secretary	Dr. Shadi Khan
Joint Secretary	Dr. Fehmida Naheed
Treasurer	Dr. Salma Mohsin
Executive Members	Prof. Mahmuda Said Prof. Zubaida Aziz Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafarey Prof. Mumtaz Khattak Prof. Nurjehan Samad Dr. Azema Qureshi

1989-1992

President	Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafarey
Vice Presidents	Prof. Rashid Latif Khan Prof. Shafiq Ahmed Dr. Shahnaz Baloch
Secretary	Dr. Shahida Zaidi
Joint Secretary	Dr. Yasmin Rasheed
Treasurer	Dr. Haleema Hashmi
Executive Members	Prof. Mahmuda Said Dr. Anwar Shahi Khan Prof. Aftab Munir Prof. Mumtaz F. Khattak Prof. Noor Jehan Samad Dr. Nafees Burney

1992-1995

President	Prof. Shafiq Ahmed
Vice Presidents	Prof Majeed Memon Prof. Hajra Hanif Dr. Arifa Anwar
Secretary	Dr. Haleema Hashmi
Joint Secretary	Prof. Saeeda Majeed

Treasurer	Dr. Shahzaki Neelam
Executive Members	Prof Mahmuda Said Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafery Prof. Aftab Munir Prof. Noor Jahan Samad Prof. Rehana Malik Dr. Shahida Zaidi

1995-1998

President	Prof Rashid Latif Khan
Vice Presidents	Prof Nurjehan Samad Prof Saeeda Majeed Prof. Shahnaz Baloch
Secretary	Dr. Rubina Idrees Siddiqui
Joint Secretary	Dr. G. S. Riaz
Treasurer	Dr. Shereen Zulfiqar Bhutta
Executive Membres	Prof. Sadiqua N. Jafarey Prof. Abdul Majeed Memon Dr. Shahida Zaidi Prof. Haleema A. Hashmi Prof. Hasan Fatima Jaffery

1998-2001

President	Prof Aftab Munir
Vice Presidents	Prof. Farrukh Zaman Dr. Nasreen Ruby Faiz Dr. Tasneem Ashraf
Secretary	Dr. Shereen Zulfiqar Bhutta
Joint Secretary	Dr. Mehmood Aleem
Treasurer	Dr. Subhana Tayyab
Executive Members	Prof. Sadiqua N. Jaferey Prof. Rashid Latif Khan Dr. Shahida Zaidi Dr. Haleema Akhtar Hashmi Dr. Rubina Idrees

2001-2004

President	Prof. Shahnaz N. Baloch
Vice Presidents	Prof. Nargis Soomro Prof. Bilquis Afridi
Secretary	Dr. Subhana Tayyab
Joint Secretary	Dr. Naila Ehsan
Treasurer:	Dr. Razia Korejo
Executive	Prof. Aftab Muneer

Members	Prof. Rashid Latif Khan Prof. Farrukh Zaman Dr. Shahida Zaidi Dr. Rahatunnisa Dr. Shereen Zulfiqar Bhutta
----------------	---

2004-2007

President	Prof. Farrukh Zaman
Vice Presidents	Prof. Haleema A. Hashmi Prof. Lubna Hassan Prof. Rubina Shah
Secretary	Dr. Razia Korejo
Joint Secretary	Dr. Rubina Sohail
Treasurer:	Prof. Rubina Hussain
Executive Members	Prof. Rashid Latif Khan Prof. Yasmin Rashid Dr. Shahida Zaidi Dr. Shereen Z. Bhutta Prof. Shahnaz N. Baloch Prof. Subhana Tayyab

2007-2010

President	Dr. Shershah Syed
Vice Presidents	Prof. Arif Tajammul (Punjab) Prof. Shahnaz Akhtar (NWFP) Prof. Tasneem Ashraf (Balochistan)
Secretary	Dr. Ayesha Kamal Nasir
Joint Secretary	Dr. Fareed Zafar
Treasurer:	Dr. Nighat Shah
Executive Members	Prof. Fehmida Naheed Prof. Farrukh Zaman Prof. Yasmin Rashid Prof. Shereen Z. Bhutta Prof. Muhammad Tayyab Dr. Razia Korejo

2010-2013

President	Prof. Lubna Hassan
Vice Presidents	Prof. Shereen Z. Bhutta (Sindh) Prof. Fareed Zafar (Punjab) Prof. Aisha Siddiqa (Balochistan)
Gen. Secretary	Dr. Nighat Shah
Joint Secretary	Prof. Muhammad Arshad Chohan
Treasurer:	Dr. Haleema Yasmin

Executive Members	Prof. Yasmin Rashid Prof. Shamsa Humyan Dr. Samrina Hashmi Dr. Sadia Ahsan Pal Dr. Shershah Syed Dr. Ayesha Kamal Nasir
--------------------------	--

2014

The current President Prof. Tasneem Ashraf and her team with be listed later.

Amendments to the Constitution

Some amendments to the constitution were made by General Body on 16th September 1990. These are:

1. Branches of the Society would be formed in all cities of the country where there was a medical college. Each branch would be headed by a local chairperson, who would be elected by the local members. These local office bearers would be accountable to the Vice President of the province, and would assist him/her in achieving the sole purpose of the local committee viz: promotion of continuing medical education. They would not represent the Society at national or international meetings.
2. The membership fee raised by the branches would come directly to the main society account in Karachi.
3. The immediate past President and the Secretary General would be inducted into the Executive Committee to ensure continuity and ease in organizing the affairs of the Society. The numbers of Executive Committee members would remain six.
4. The Editor of the Pakistan Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology would be elected with each election of the office-bearers.

Newsletter

The Newsletter of SOGP was started in 1990 and has become a regular feature. It appraises the members of the activities of the SOGP.

Surveys of Maternal and Perinatal Deaths
In 1990 and 1991, the SOGP held surveys of maternal deaths and perinatal deaths from hospitals form all over Pakistan.

The results have been published as a monograph and in journals.

Recently SOGP together with National Committee for Maternal Health (NCMH) and with the financial assistance of UNICEF (Sindh) has carried out a situation analysis of facilities for emergency obstetrics care in selected districts in Sindh. The salient findings have been published in the Journal of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (JCPS).

Scientific Meetings

Scientific meetings are held in different cities of Pakistan. In Karachi bi-monthly meeting are held regularly.

Biennial scientific conferences are held every two years in different parts of the country. The last one was held in Lahore in October 2003.

JSOGP

The long desired Journal of The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan came up as a major land mark in 2011, being a venture of Prof. Lubna Hassan, the then President of SOGP. I was invited to become the Editor-in-Chief at a meeting held in December 2010. An Editorial Board was formed with Scientific Editors from all over the country as well as some from abroad. An advisory board of the past presidents was constituted, so also a Management Committee, headed by Prof. Rizwana Chaudhri, it being absolutely essential for the working details of journal publication. Prof. Rizwana Chaudhri was also nominated the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the journal, to carry out the day to day 'can' of the journal.

Thus far 15 quarterly issues of the journal have been published in regular succession although meeting 'the dead lines' and achieving continuous quality enhancement has been an arduous, though a joyful task.

Affiliation with International Organizations

AOFOG

The SOGP works in close association with AOFOG. Members of SOGP server on the council of the AOFOG as well as on the editorial board of the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology research of AOFOG. Dr. Shahida Zaidi, who has been on council for several years, has been elected as Vice President of AOFOG.

At the same time, an Annual Meeting of ADFOG was held in Lahore and the council members served as resource persons for the Safe Motherhood workshop. The first workshop on Safe Motherhood of the region organized by AOFOG and SOGP was held in Lahore in 1988 and attended by members from all Asia Oceania countries. Since then workshop on Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health have been held all over Pakistan, Karachi, Larkana, Nawabshah, Lahore, Multan, Islamabad, Peshawar and Abbottabad. AOFOG initiated they "Young Scientist Award" for young members interested in research. Our first nominees were selected in 1991 and presented papers in Bangkok at the XIIth AOFOG Congress. Since then many young awardees have presented papers both at the AOFOG and the FIGO Congress.

FIGO

In 1997, at the 15th World Congress of International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FIGO) in Copenhagen, Pakistan was elected to Executive Board of FIGO. Prof. R. L. Khan, the then President of SOGP was elected as a member.

South Asia Federation Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology (SAFOG)

The first SAFOG Congress was held in Lahore in November 1996. A large number of participants from the SAARC countries (Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh) participated and presented papers.

Collaboration with National Organizations

The SOGP works in close collaboration with the national committee on maternal health (NCMH). It has conducted studies related to maternal health with the NCMH and participants in all its activities. SOGP also collaborates with CPSP, PMA and College of Family Medicine in their activities

Contributors: the initial portion of the history of SOGP had been written by the (late) Prof. Zubaida Aziz, most of the history after that has been written by Prof. Sadiqa N Jafarey (and others). Some pertinent parts had been contributed by me.

Prof. Khalida Adeeb Khanum Akhtar