

The Obstetrics & Gynaecology Society of Wales

Hon. Secretary: Euan Kevelighan **President: Roopam Goel** Hon.Treasurer: Makiya Ashraf



Dear Colleagues

As there are ever expanding O&G departments all around Wales, we felt it appropriate to remind ourselves of the history of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of Wales (formerly known as Welsh Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society) with the aim of encouraging a broader and more inclusive participation.

Our society was founded in 1955 by the small and exclusive O&G consultant club. The purpose of the Society according to the original constitution was:

1. To promote Obstetrics & Gynaecology knowledge in Wales
2. To foster co-operation and friendship amongst members

With the passage of time the membership of this society has undergone changes which are positive and allowed us to move with the times and become more inclusive. Membership was extended initially to Senior registrar's and SAS/Speciality doctors and more recently to the ST 6-7's. The first appointment of an SAS doctor as the President of the Society was in 2015.

For some years now the Society has awarded bursaries for medical students doing their O&G elective and trainees wishing to do fellowships. This is intended to help recruitment to our speciality and support trainees in training. Listening to their experience during their electives has been very educational for the rest of us as they are required to present their work to the Society on their return. Typical bursaries range between £250 and £500 and are awarded on merit after discussion at the AGM. Application forms are available on the WISDOM (Welsh Information for Dissemination of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Materials) website.

The Society meetings take place twice a year in the spring and autumn. Meetings are held on a Friday. Trainees may count attending society meetings as part of their 60% requirement for regional study leave per year. Attendance at Society meetings is not counted as part of the consultant or SAS doctors annual study leave allocation of ten days. This was agreed with all Health Boards in Wales many years ago.

Local hospitals organise the event and draw up a programme with support from the WISDOM team. The WISDOM Website has a template of 'how to run a meeting' and the team provide support to the

organisers at the host hospital. The members' Business Meeting is held during the day, lasting 30 minutes and all consultants, SAS doctors and ST6-7s are welcome.

The scientific meeting typically involves a number of presentations from expert speakers in Obstetrics & Gynaecology and trainee presentations, both oral and posters with prizes being awarded for the best and the runner up presentations. This gives our junior colleagues an opportunity to present in front of a friendly and supportive audience. We have updates on O&G training issues in Wales. Most meetings have either the President or Vice President of the RCOG in attendance providing an update on RCOG affairs.

The coffee and lunch breaks provide ample time for networking and viewing trainee posters. In the evening, there is a subsidised O&G society dinner and all are welcome to attend (members, trainees and partners).

The President holds office for one year (2 meetings). The Honorary Treasurer updates accounts and provides bursaries following approval at the business meeting. The profit from the meetings is equally split between the host hospital and the Society. The Honorary Secretary facilitates the functioning of the society as well as keeping the minutes. He/she provides advice to host organisers regarding the content of scientific meetings and applications for bursaries.

All Health Boards/hospitals have an OGSW rep. They are responsible for providing updated members list from each hospital and forwarding it to Hon. Secretary.

The members' annual subscription is £20 paid by standing order. Retired members and ST6-7's do not pay the annual subscription to be members of the Society. Retired members do not pay to attend scientific programme.

We would encourage all current members to please check their annual subscription standing order to ensure they are up to date. For new members or those not subscribing as yet, a standing order form is available on WISDOM website.

We would also request you to attend the Business Meeting on the day. This will help us to continue supporting juniors in their academic pursuits and continue to modernise the society with fresh ideas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Goel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roopam Goel,
President of OGSW

15th April 2023