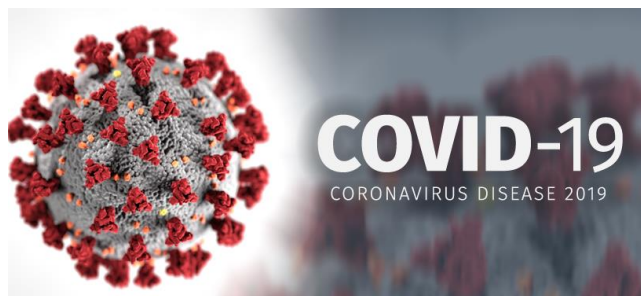


AOFOG NEWS

Established 1957 | 28 Countries | March 2020 | Volume 9



Covid-19 Pandemic

Stay Safe & Healthy
Follow the WHO, AOFOG guidelines



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President's Message

There is no sign that the epidemic of COVID-19 has yet to stopped, but I hope that NS members are staying healthy. First of all, I would like to.....

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Secretary General's Message

This newsletter is been released at a time, we all are facing COVID 19 which was declared as a pandemic by the WHO on 11th March 2020. At this moment all our efforts are to.....

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AICOG 2020



OGSB



IOCE



JOGR News

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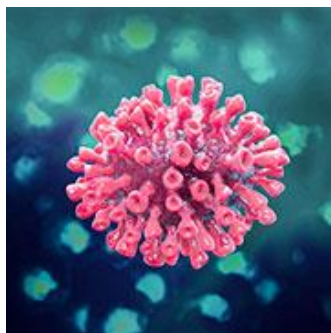
President's Message....

Dear Members,

There is no sign that the epidemic of COVID-19 has yet to stopped, but I hope that NS members are staying healthy. First of all, I would like to pay tribute to healthcare professionals who are at the forefront of this COVID-19 treatment. And I express my sincere sympathy to those who died of this difficult disease. My feelings of condolence are with their family and friends.



We feel the invisible enemy is terrifying and big. Anxiety and panic make people blind and impossible to make the right decisions. History is said to be repeated. We have learned a lot from the Pandemic of SARS, MERS, AIDS, and EBORA that happened in the past. Knowing, disclosing, and sharing the right information is very important while taking immediate public health measures.



To know the enemy correctly is crucial and the same for COVID-19. Unfortunately, information on COVID-19 infection and pregnancy, labor, lactation, and vertical transmission is very limited. I think that is natural. Because in this situation, it would be impossible to ask a doctor in the middle of the fight against COVID-19 for a detailed report. However, many of us are seeking information about how they responded and what the consequences were. WHO

is preparing to investigate these issues using an electronic capture questionnaire. I look forward to your cooperation

I posted the AOFOG statement on COVID-19 in this newsletter and on the AOFOG website (aofog.net). We carefully monitor the situation and try to keep updated periodically.

As of 31 March 2020, the total number of confirmed cases and deaths has reached 803,650 and 39,033, respectively. In this challenging time we must be solidarity and overcome this. Your dedicated efforts in delivering excellent care to your patients are highly appreciated and I sincerely hope for your safety and wellbeing.

Prof. Kazunori Ochiai

President AOFOG



Secretary General's Message.....

This newsletter is been released at a time, we all are facing COVID-19 which was declared as a pandemic by the WHO on 11th March 2020. At this moment all our efforts are to safeguard our women & children from this disaster and to attend to their needs. At the same time, I like to remind everyone to take all precautions to look after your health and stay safe.

Because of the escalating rapid spread of COVID-19 in most of our countries and the travel restrictions implemented, and also considering the safety of everyone we have postponed several of our activities including the Council meeting which was planned to be held in June 2020 in Dhaka. Our member countries such as Taiwan, Nepal & Japan have also postponed their Annual conferences for the same reasons.



Under the instructions of the President Prof. Ochiai, the Chair of the Maternal Fetal Medicine Committee Dr. Ratnasiri and the Members of the committee prepared a [statement on COVID-19](#). This was revised and approved by the Executive Board and it has been uploaded on the AOFOG website. It gives an idea about COVID-19 and also guidelines to follow when looking after patients with COVID-19. Subsequently, the statement was updated on 25th March 2020.

Fortunately, we were able to participate in several activities before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Annual Conference of the O & G Society of Bangladesh

The 28th International Scientific Conference & 46th AGM of OGSB was held on 18th to 21st December 2019 at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Prof. Ochiai, Dr. Sarikapan Chair in Oncology Committee and Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa represented AOFOG. The AOFOG session was on "Cervical Cancer in Pregnancy". The session was very successful and very well appreciated by the participants.

At the opening ceremony of the Conference, both Prof. Ochiai & Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa received the Global Women's Health Award from the Health Minister of Bangladesh, for the outstanding contribution to maternity care.

I wish to Congratulate Prof. Sameena Chowdhury President OGSB and Prof. Saleha Begum Chowdhury, Secretary OGSB and their team for organising this conference so successfully. [Read more...](#)

AICOG 2019.



All India Congress in O & G was held in Lucknow India from the 29th of Jan to 1st Feb 2020. This Annual congress was attended by more than 10,000 delegates. Prof. Ochiai, Dr. Ravi Chandran, Prof. Pisake and I attended the conference, and this allowed us to meet the FIGO officials and also have interactions with officials of FIGO, & RCOG.

Prof. Ochiai was awarded the Fellowship of the Indian College of O & G, in recognition of his services to women Nationally & Internationally. We Congratulate Prof. Ochiai for the achievement.

AOFOG conducted a session on cervical cancer during the congress, and it was well attended and well received by the audience.

We like to Congratulate Dr. Alpesh Gandhi who was elected as President of FIGO and Dr. Jaydeep Tank who was re-elected as the Secretary-General.

ICOE Programme in Laos

Intensive Care in the Obstetrics programme conducted by O&G Society of Malaysia continues to be a very helpful programme which has benefited many countries where the programme has been held.

Another programme was held in Laos on the 28th Feb - 1st March 2020. Prof. Ochiai represented AOFOG in this programme and he was very impressed with the programme and also the commitment of the resource persons headed by Dr. Munis. This has resulted in the organisers thinking of extending the programme to other countries in the region who will benefit from it. [Read more...](#)

Young Gynaecologist Awardees

As it has been repeatedly stated the most rewarding project AOFOG has undertaken is the SSR YGA programme. The YGAAs are the future custodians of the Federation. So the Exec Board would like the past YGAAs to be more active, interact with each other and be involved with organizing and participating in activities both locally and internationally. We would also like them to be involved with AOFOG activities whenever it is possible.

Past YGAAs could interact with each other through our Past YGA Facebook page and the Past YGA WhatsApp group.

Recently concluded YGA programme in Manila was very successful and was appreciated by all the awardees. We have received an article from one of the YGA recipients about his experience and views I request all the other YGA awardees also to share their experiences and views about the programme.

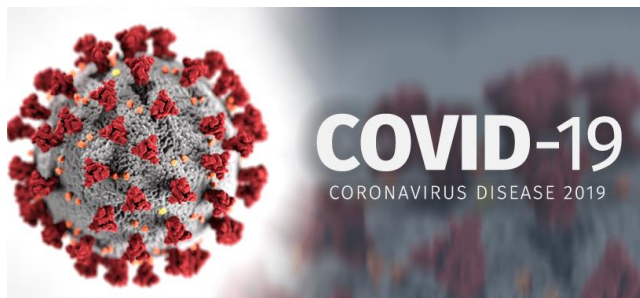
Executive Board has appointed Dr. Jaydeep Tank, Deputy Secretary-General, in charge of the Past YGAAs. [Read more...](#)

Finally, I request everyone to take it easy until the condition improves and stay safe and assist in helping to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and look after the pregnant mothers.

Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa
Secretary General AOFOG



AOFOG statement on coronavirus disease COVID-19



AOFOG views with great concern the current outbreak of COVID-19 infection since December 2019. Although the epicenter of this infection was in Wuhan city in China, the infection has since spread to many other countries in and outside of Asia. The situation is evolving and although it has resulted in mortality, the Case Fatality Rate is yet to be determined.

Historically, pregnant women have been disproportionately affected by respiratory illnesses presumably due to their immunosuppressed state. Data from the SARS epidemic of 2003 pointed to a poorer outcome among pregnant women (1). Based on limited data from COVID-19 cases, it is considered that pregnant women may be at higher risk of severe illness, morbidity, or mortality compared with the general population (1-3). However, pregnancy-specific data is currently lacking and we advise continued vigilance until more data becomes available.

As there are no specific clinical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection, a high index of suspicion is required. We advise our pregnant women and health care providers to adhere to strict infection prevention and control measures to limit acquiring and transmission of the infection. Currently, there is no specific treatment or vaccine available for COVID-19 and suspected cases should be referred for isolation and supportive care in designated centres with specialised infection control facilities as per local guidelines.

At present, there is no reliable evidence of vertical transmission from the mother to the baby (4). Neonates of mothers with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be isolated and it would be prudent to consider expressed breast milk to avoid close contact with the mother. These decisions should be made in consultation with the family and the healthcare team.

AOFOG reiterates the importance of primary infection control measures such as those employed during the epidemics of SARS in 2003 and MERS in 2012. We further endorse the WHO guidelines for the general safety and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 which can be accessed via the link below:

[WHO/2019-nCoV/Surveillance Guidance/2020.3](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/WHO/2019-nCoV/Surveillance-Guidance/2020.3)

AOFOG will keep abreast of developments and provide our obstetric community with updates as more information becomes available.

References:

1. Schwartz DA, Graham AL. Potential Maternal and Infant Outcomes from Coronavirus 2019-nCoV (SARS-CoV-2) Infecting Pregnant Women: Lessons from SARS, MERS, and other Human Coronavirus Infections. *Viruses* 2020;12, 194; [doi:10.3390/v12020194](https://doi.org/10.3390/v12020194).
2. Chen H, Guo J, Wang C et al. Clinical characteristics and intrauterine vertical transmission potential of COVID-19 infection in nine pregnant women: a retrospective review of medical records. *Lancet* 2020, published online Feb12.
3. Favre G, Pomar L, Musso D, Baud D. 2019-nCoV epidemic: what about pregnancies? *Lancet* 2020; [DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30311-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30311-1).
4. Zhu H, Wang L, Fang C, Peng S, Zhang L, Chang G, et al. Clinical analysis of 10 neonates born to mothers with 2019-nCoV pneumonia. *Transl Pediatr* 2020; 9:51-60.

****Prepared by the President & AOFOG Maternal-Fetal Medicine Committee (Feb. 2020)***

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Updated Statement (25 March 2020) on coronavirus disease COVID-19

In the short time since our previous statement, the situation with regards to COVID 19 has changed very rapidly. It has now spread to more than 190 countries throughout the world, resulting in the WHO declaring it a pandemic on the 11th March 2020.

Wuhan province in China appears to be recovering with very minimal progression due to continued strict hygienic and health precautions coupled with possible herd immunity.

To date, only limited data is available on clinical presentation and perinatal outcomes after COVID-19 during pregnancy and puerperium. The large majority of women will experience only mild to moderate cold/flu-like symptoms. Cough, fever, and shortness of breath are other relevant symptoms. Only one case requiring extracorporeal membranous oxygenation has been reported. Asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 may be possible and all pregnant women with an epidemiologic history of contact should be carefully monitored and quarantined/self-isolated for two weeks.

There is still no good evidence of vertical transmission from mother to child as evidenced by negative samples in vaginal secretions, cord blood, amniotic fluid, and breast milk. There is uncertain evidence to show increased maternal and perinatal mortality or morbidity.

Pregnant mothers suspected of infection should be screened with the COVID-19 viral swab test and triaged according to the WHO guidance once diagnosed positive. The involvement of a multidisciplinary team is essential in comprehensive care and management for improved outcomes. Continuous fetal monitoring is advised as there is potential for increased risk of fetal hypoxia in labour. Decisions on the mode of delivery should be dictated by obstetric/medical indications. All Obstetric units are encouraged to develop a standard protocol in managing suspected or infected mothers in consultation with hospital administrators, midwifery staff, infectious disease physicians and intensivists to ensure a positive outcome for both patients and healthcare providers.

Breastfeeding protects against morbidity and mortality in general and should be promoted in infected mothers with standard infant feeding guidelines. The use of a face mask by the infected mother in tandem with other general hygienic measures like hand washing is strongly advised while feeding to avoid transmission. Expressed breast milk can be used for infants of mothers isolated due to the severity of the respiratory illness. As always, decisions on infant feeding should be made in consultation with the family after an adequate explanation of the pros and cons.

There has been increasing concern recently of exposure of health care providers to COVID 19. Needless to say, protocols for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be in place for their adequate protection and safety.

Please refer to the link below to the recent WHO publication for further information and details.

[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

28th International Scientific Conference & 46th AGM of OGSB

The 28th International Scientific Conference & 46th AGM of OGSB was held on 18th to 21st December 2019 at Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Cox's Bazar. About 1500 participants from home & abroad attended the conference.

The Inaugural Session was held on 18th December 2019 at Royal Tulip Sea Pearl Beach Resort, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Mr. Zahid Maleque MP Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the opening session as chief guest. Mohammad Enamul Haque Ena, Additional Secretary, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Prof. Dr. Nasima Sultana Additional Director General (Admin), DGHS were the special guests. Prof. ABM Khurshid Alam, Honorary Secretary, Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons and Dr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Line Director, MNC&AH, DGHS were the guests of honour. Prof. Saleha Begum Chowdhury Secretary General-OGSB welcomed everybody. Prof. Sameena Chowdhury, President-OGSB chaired the inaugural session.



Master Class, AGM, Workshop on Hypertension in Pregnancy, OGSB Night & Dinner was held on 19th December.

The scientific session started from 8:00 am till 6:00 pm simultaneously held in 3 halls on 20th & 21st December 2020. There were plenary sessions, Infertility, MNH, Family Planning, Midwifery session, panel discussion, symposium, FIGO session, AOFOG session, SAFOG session, RCOG, SAFOM session, Skill & drill, updates, and memorial lectures with a good number of a mixed bag; video & posters presentations.



"Global Women's Health Award" given to Prof. S. Arulkumaran (UK), Prof. Kazunori Ochiai (Japan) & Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa (Sri Lanka) for their contribution on maternal health on 18.12.2019 at Royal Tulip Hotel, Cox's Bazar.

There were Master class lectures on 19th December from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm given by eminent speaker Dr. Stefan Schneyer, Dr. N. Rajamaheswari, Dr. Meeta Singh, Prof. Hemantha Senanayake, Prof. T.A. Chowdhury, Dr. Khaleque Khan & Prof. S. Arulkumaran.

Gestosis Workshop on Hypertension in Pregnancy was held on 19th December at the Sagorika (Safinah) Hall. Dr. Sanjay Gupte, Dr. Girija Wagh & Dr. Suchitra Pandit from India conducted the workshop. An elaborate & details presentation on Hypertension in Pregnancy was followed by an interactive discussion in the meeting. The participants expressed their satisfaction as the session enrich their knowledge immensely.

The **AOFOG** session was a very interesting session which was held on 20th December in Sagorika (Safinah) Hall. The theme of the session was “Gynaecological Cancer in Pregnancy”.

The presentations were: Rare but Beware: Cancer during Pregnancy presented by Dr. Sarikapan Wilailak, Cervical Cancer in Pregnant women: Treat, wait or interrupt? by Prof. Sabera Khatun & How to handle Ovarian cancer complicated pregnancy by Prof. Kazunori Ochiai. The session was chaired by Prof. Kazunori Ochiai, Prof. Rowshan Ara Begum & Dr. Rohana Haththotuwa.

There was a very enlightening and gorgeous gala night with colorful cultural programs on 18th, 19th & 20th Night. The cultural program was followed by a grand dinner



The Closing ceremony of the very successful conference was held on 21st December 2019 at noon at the presence of a good number of members. It was a very gorgeous event.

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6th Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies (ICOE) in Vientiane, Laos

The Laos Association of Obstetrics and Gynecology (LAOG) together with the Obstetrical & Gynecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) jointly organised the ICOE on 28th - 29th of February 2020 in collaboration with the AOFOG. This is our sixth visit to Laos, after initiating the first ICOE in November 2017. Over the last 30 months, we have organized and completed five courses in two different provinces, namely Vientiane and Luang Prabang and have trained 123 doctors from various provinces in Laos. At the same time, we have also had one train the trainer (TOT) course in 2018 and a refresher course in 2019 and we now have 14 capable Lao trainers.



This two-day course was conducted at the Mother and Newborn Hospital, Vientiane where 32 participants were trained. The participants were Obstetricians from the various provinces of Laos. The course was honoured by the presence of the President of AOFOG, Prof. Kazunori Ochiai. Prof. Alongkone represented LAOG as the secretary together with the President of LAOG, Dr. Anan Sacdpraseuth as well as the director of the Mother and Newborn Hospital. Dr. Muniswaran was the ICOE course director from OGSM.

The OGSM trainers were Drs Melanie Kuan, Thawaneswaaran, Yong Soon Leong and Mr. Baskeran as ICOE executive. The Mongolian trainers were Drs Sittysack, (Head) Panima, Anusone, Sengaloun, Sengchanh, Vanpaseud, Svamphai, Vixay, Phetsamone, Souphaphone, Sisamphone, Johnny, Monglor, Vilaxanh, Souphany, Sonephachan, Sanack, Viengkham, and Khamhou.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Ochiai spoke on the role of AOFOG and assured his continued support for this course in Laos and the region.

This course was conducted almost entirely by the Lao trainers with minimal supervision from the OGSM trainers. Most of the simulation was conducted in the Lao language. The presence of the OGSM trainers in each breakout ensured the course stayed to the core objectives and managed within the stipulated time.



The success of this course was evident based on the improvement between the participants' pre and post-tests performance which showed a significant increase after the course. The participants too felt they were engaged and that their objectives were met while having had a simulation, hands-on enjoyable course with focused feedback.

This course was also special in the form of a fellowship dinner and a guest lecture by Prof. Ochiai who delivered an excellent lecture titled "Research Mind and Evidence-Based Medicine" to the members of LAOG and ICOE trainers which were very well received.



The course once again proved popular and was well received and there is a demand for ICOE to continue in Laos. The local trainers proved they are capable to deliver the course independently while maintaining the required standards and prerequisites. Among the future plans between LAOG and OGSM is perhaps to assist the LAOG in running these courses

independently while supporting them in various provinces, especially in areas of need. Discussions are in place to initiate a midwifery course in Laos which may also have a significant impact in terms of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity which is still a major concern in Laos.

The lack of funding, resources, and equipment are the common challenges especially to sustain the quality of such a simulation-based course in obstetric emergencies and thus the continued support from AOFOG is crucial and much welcomed by LAOG.

This collaboration would not have been successful if not for the able leadership of Prof. Alongkone who has been instrumental in the ICOE chapter in Laos and we will like to note heartfelt gratitude for his vision and leadership.

We hope to continue this strategic collaboration within LAOG, OGSM, and AOFOG as we continue our endeavor in making childbirth safe, every time, everywhere. We believe we have made a change.

Dr Muniswaran Ganeshan

Team Leader 6th ICOE LAOS

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SSR YGA Recipient's View

The 26th Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology Congress that was held from Nov 10 - 14, 2019 at Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines was one of the largest obstetrics and gynecology conference I have ever attended. I would like to congratulate the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) and AOFOG for the successful program. I am also thankful for my national society; Nepal Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (NESOG) and AOFOG for supporting us as young gynecologists and enrolling us for the community fellowship program. The logistic, program schedule for YGA on Community fellowship, hospitality, program contents were well arranged and executed. Community fellowship program sensitized me on our responsibility towards community, national and international issue related to maternal and neonatal health. This encouraged me to join a small 50 bedded community hospital (Nepal Korea Friendship Municipality Hospital) when I returned to Nepal.

From here I am providing obstetric care, general gynecologic services, oncology services and laparoscopic services targeted to community people with low and average income in the country. I wish I could make some significant contribution to the society.

Dr. Suresh Kayastha
Nepal

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From the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecological Research (The AOFOG Journal)

JOGR Volume 46, Issue 3 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here;

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14199>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14189>

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jog.14178>

JOGR Volume 46, Issue 3 has been published and Editor's choice has been updated here

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14470756/current>

We hope these articles will be useful as references and updates for our members.



Prof. Kiyoko Kato
Editor-in-Chief,
JOGR

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