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 Welsh Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society with the aim of encouraging a broader and more inclusive participation.

The 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 Obstetric & 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 were positive and allowed us to move with the times and become much more inclusive. Membership was extended initially to Senior registrar’s and SAS/Speciality doctors and more recently to the ST 6-7’s. Last year saw the first appointment of an SAS doctor as the president of the society.

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 specialty 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. Application forms are available on the WISDOM(Welsh Information for Dissemination of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Materials) website.

The Society Conferences take place twice a year in the spring and autumn. Conferences are held on a Friday. Trainees may count attending society meeting as part of their 60% requirement for regional study leave per year. Attendance at Society meetings is not counted as part of the annual career doctors’ study leave 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 WISDOM. WISDOM have a template of ‘how to run a meeting’ and provide support to the organisers at the host hospital. The members’ AGM is held at the end of the academic session and usually lasts half an hour.

The scientific meeting typically involves a number of presentations from expert speakers in O & G and trainee presentations, both oral and posters with prizes. This gives our junior colleagues an opportunity to present in front of a friendly and local audience. We have updates on O&G training issues in Wales. The RCOG President is also invited annually. The coffee and lunch breaks provide ample time for networking. 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 when members have agreed. 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. The members’ annual subscription is £20 paid by standing order. A recent audit by the Honorary Treasurer reported that many members are not up to date with subscription fees. Some members are still paying the old annual fee of £3 per year and some nothing at all! Retired members and ST6-7s do not pay the annual subscription to be members of the Society.

We would encourage all current members to please check their annual subscription standing order to ensure they are up to date. A standing order form is attached and can be taken to your bank to set up the payment. We would also request you to attend the AGM at the end of the scientific meeting. This will help us to continue supporting juniors in their academic pursuits and keep modernising the society with fresh ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Stokes  President
Janet Evans  Immediate Past President
Euan Kevelighan  Honorary Secretary
Makiya Ashraf  Honorary Treasurer