



**March, 2015**

Dear ISOM Member,

Welcome to my first President's Newsletter. After a very successful and enthusiastic Congress in New Orleans, we have a number of projects we will be pursuing in coming months. This includes a revamp of our ISOM website. This is your main portal for information about ISOM and its activities. The newly designed website should be up and running in the first half of 2015 under the capable management of Michael Carson (New Jersey) and Niharika Mehta (Rhode Is.).

Financial members of ISOM will have access to a broad range of information about Obstetric Medicine from around the world. In addition, as part of our commitment to the development of improved Obstetric Medicine to all women, the Council of ISOM have agreed to create a new category of "Corresponding Membership" for interested individuals and institutions from Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) to allow them easier access to the resources of ISOM.

In the website redesign, we will have the capacity to store or provide links regarding Practise Guidelines on Obstetric Medicine topics. These may be International, National or even local guidelines. If you or your institution wishes to upload or provide links to suitable Guidelines, please contact Nika ([NMehta@Wihri.org](mailto:NMehta@Wihri.org)).

We have many enquiries from doctors in training wishing to pursue a career or sub-speciality interest in Obstetric Medicine. We would like the ISOM website to be an up-to- date repository for information regarding training in Obstetric Medicine. If you have such a training position, whether for internists/physicians or obstetricians/maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists; and would like to place details of the position on the ISOM website, please contact Professor Lawrie McMahon ([lawrence.mcmahon@monash.edu](mailto:lawrence.mcmahon@monash.edu)), who is the ISOM Council representative responsible for Training and Research.

Future plans include an active Journal Club aiming particularly for contributions from trainees, a database of clinical trials in Obstetric Medicine and a bank of lectures on Obstetric Medicine topics. This will include lectures from previous ISOM conferences. If you would like to assist in curating any of these sections of the website, please contact myself ([s.lowe@unsw.edu.au](mailto:s.lowe@unsw.edu.au)) or Winnie Sia ([Winnie.Sia@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Winnie.Sia@albertahealthservices.ca)), the ISOM Secretary/Treasurer. No qualifications are required other than a commitment to doing a great job and a desire to support the activities of ISOM.

We will be co-hosting our first regional conference in Singapore from 13-15<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 along with the Singapore General Hospital Maternal Medicine Course.

[<http://www.sgh.com.sg/subsites/sghssc/training-programme/isom/pages/isom.aspx>].

This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet particularly with our Asian colleagues, but everyone is invited, particularly trainees in obstetric medicine and maternal-fetal medicine. The programme is wide ranging and has a strong practical, clinical focus. The International Faculty include Prof Catherine Nelson-Piercy, Prof Ray Powrie, Dr Ken Chen and myself. We thank Lay-Kok Tan for all his work in the organisation of this meeting and look forward to the contributions of a most expert local Faculty.

Finally, in response to a strong interest from our members, ISOM has formed a special interest group being led by Tabassum Firoz ([tfiroz@cfri.ca](mailto:tfiroz@cfri.ca)) to pursue opportunities for ISOM to provide expertise, training and mentorship in Obstetric Medicine for LMIC. We will be working alongside a similar committee from ISSHP which already has a number of active research projects in this area. We also intend to engage with WHO and FIGO to ensure Obstetric Medicine remains part of the agenda when addressing improvements in maternal morbidity and mortality. Many of you responded to the survey of the status of Obstetric Medicine in your home country, the results of which will be published in *Obstetric Medicine, The Medicine of Pregnancy* shortly. There will be opportunities in future to be more involved with these projects.

We are a small but active group of clinicians and scientists who recognise the special place of Obstetric Medicine in Womens' Health. The future of ISOM as a Society depends on the engagement of our members, both financially and personally. This includes contributing to the website, attending and presenting at our meetings, and very importantly supporting our journal "*Obstetric Medicine: The Medicine of Pregnancy*".

I look forward to seeing many of you in Singapore.

**Sandra Lowe**

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