

Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology

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President's Message: Mentoring and Our 2nd Annual Meeting

By David Chelmow, MD, SASGOG President

From the first time it met, the organizing committee followed by the executive board has been committed to ensuring that SASGOG is much more than just an annual meeting, and will bring value to its members throughout the year. Despite our brief existence, we have followed through on this commitment through the website, the newsletter that you are reading now (thanks to the hard work of Laurie Swaim and the Communications Committee), and *The Elephant in the OR: Robotic surgery and the Academic Generalist*, the first in a series of regular webinars, put together by Nancy Gaba. There is much more to come.

Despite this, I can't help being most excited about our upcoming annual meeting in Chicago. Those of you who were there last year will understand why. There was something truly magical about being surrounded by several hundred other people who do the same work that we do and understand the challenges and rewards. While the lectures and breakout sessions were tremendous, I think for most, the best part was being able to network with other academic generalists. Despite our best efforts, we really can't create this any other way than through our in person annual meeting. While last year was historic in that it was the first time academic generalists ever met as a group, I don't think it was a novel experience. Every SASGOG meeting will have the same feeling.

This year's meeting will be even better than last year's. Thanks to the hard work of Anita Blanchard and the Program Committee, and the support of ABOG, ACOG, and the 90+ Founding Departments, we are expanding to a whole day meeting. As promised, we have been paying careful attention to the needs assessments of our members. Many areas were noted including professional development, promotion strategies, mentoring, and developing research skills. Interestingly, choosing the theme of the meeting, mentoring, met with unanimous agreement with almost no discussion.

The choice of mentoring was easy. Given that it required so little discussion, I can only assume my reasoning paralleled the other board members. While SASGOG is committed to meeting all of its member's needs, many of the expressed needs are best facilitated at the individual level, largely through mentoring. The first step in globally meeting the many needs identified by academic generalists is building the infrastructure and skills within the membership for people to be successful mentors and maximally use the mentoring provided to them.

When this idea was first proposed, my immediate thoughts were of several mentors who devoted huge amounts of time and effort to developing my career. I will always be tremendously grateful to them, and can only properly express that gratitude by trying to do the same for my faculty, and helping create the opportunity for SASGOG members to have mentors like mine. With mentoring as a first step, plans are already under way for the 2015 meeting in San Francisco to be themed around developing successful research.

We all need skills in being mentors and using the mentorship we are provided. Even our early career members are important mentors for the students and residents who will be future academic generalists. While this meeting will also cover many other exciting things, developing mentoring skills is crucial to our success as a specialty, and an appropriate first priority for SASGOG's first whole day meeting.

And yes, there will be networking.

Please help spread the word about SASGOG and the Chicago Meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

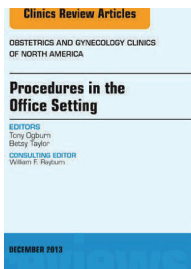
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SASGOG Book Review

By Laurie Swaim, MD, *Baylor College of Medicine*



The December 2013 issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinics of North America* entitled "Procedures in the Office Setting"

was edited by Tony Ogburn (current SASGOG treasurer) and Betsy Taylor. Bill Rayburn served as the consulting editor of this well-organized edition. The editors have compiled a practical and interesting guide to commonly performed office procedures which begins with a chapter detailing patient safety. While patient safety is a common thread discussed by nearly all authors in the book, it is this initial chapter which reviews common risks, the 2011 Presidential task force recommendations for patient safety in the office setting and the SCOPE program spearheaded by ACOG. Surgeons are reminded that office surgery must be performed frequently in order to maintain competence of the surgeon and team.

Throughout the book, clear stepwise descriptions of common office procedures are offered along with examples of checklists and forms for documentation which may be used in the office setting. The authors and editors have included multiple useful tables and lists throughout the edition which are quick reference guides. The second chapter on pain relief offers a refresher on neuroanatomy, defines categories of levels of sedation, requirements for safe provision of pain relief, and describes pain management techniques for common office procedures. While individual authors describe pain management techniques for the procedures highlighted in each chapter, readers will find themselves flipping back to this chapter as an excellent cross reference.

The remaining chapters provide organized detail on indications, contraindications, risks, benefits, supplies, equipment, techniques, troubleshooting, complications, and follow up of gynecologic office procedures.

The procedures described include first trimester abortion, hysteroscopic sterilization, endometrial ablation, contraceptive procedures, colposcopy and LEEP, vulvar biopsy, management of Bartholin's abscess, and condylomata treatment. The final clinical chapter reviews cystoscopy, intravesical injection, urethral bulking agents, percutaneous nerve evaluation, tibial nerve stimulation, techniques to manage mesh exposure and sling release. The last chapter of the edition on reimbursement for office procedures serves as a primer on coding, provides an introduction to fee structures and global payment systems, the use of coding modifiers, and facility fees. Most useful are examples which describe efficient billing practices for the procedures described in the preceding chapters.

Evidence based approaches to common procedures performed by gynecologists are described in each chapter of this edition of *Clinics*. This small text packs a handy punch, and will no doubt become an often used reference.

SASGOG Second Annual Meeting, Sunday, April 27, 2014, Chicago, IL

The Second Annual Meeting of SASGOG will be held on Sunday April 27, 2014 at Sheraton Towers in Chicago Illinois, coinciding with the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting. After the success of our first meeting, we are expanding to a whole day meeting. ACOG is allowing SASGOG registrants to book hotels at the ACOG rate without registering for the ACM. When you register, please also pay your annual dues to become a full member! ([registration now open](#))



SASGOG Meeting Objectives:

- Facilitate collaboration and exchange of information among academic specialists in general obstetrics and gynecology
- Foster excellence in research and education
- Support career development of academic specialists in general obstetrics and gynecology

SASGOG Annual Meeting Registration Fees:

- Members: \$250.00
- Early Career Members: \$100.00*
- Nonmembers: \$500.00
- Residents: \$100.00 **

*Early career members must be within their first two years on faculty after training.

**Residents must provide a letter of proof from their program director of good academic standing at an ACGME approved program.

GRANT WRITING TIPS

By David Ashton, Senior Analyst, Sponsored Programs , *Baylor College of Medicine*

The first advice anyone is likely to offer an investigator in search of funding is: plan ahead. It pays to draft the specific aims and proposal narrative well in advance to share with colleagues for feedback. No established researcher whose input would be valued is interested in reviewing a 6 to 12 page narrative draft with limited turnaround time. Additionally, no principal investigator likes to reconfigure a proposal with extensive critiques received immediately before a deadline. Constructive comments from colleagues are indispensable when preparing a research proposal and this takes time.

It is also important to identify a range of opportunities for your project. As federal funding has become extraordinarily competitive over recent years, it will pay to develop a strategy – i.e. start small and look for a specific RFA. If your proposal is not awarded, cherish the comments you receive from reviewers, refine it and try again. In Ob/Gyn, one tendency might be to look toward NICHD for funding but many topics may also be of interest to other institutes at NIH, assorted foundations or industry sponsors, so try to keep your eyes open and cast a wide net.

This brings us to the next tip: utilize available resources. Identify the expertise that is available both within your institution, throughout your field and the sponsoring organization. Whether it is budget preparation or scientific review, it always helps to contact individuals in your network to let them know that you are planning to submit a proposal. At the NIH, there is a program officer to oversee every funding opportunity announcement who willingly advises about the appropriateness of topics and methods as they relate to specific funding mechanisms. They are always interested in offering feedback, however brief it may be. Administrative components can be highly consuming – this should not be underestimated. Because most funding organizations require institutional approval (usually obtained from your Office of Research), a majority of institutions require submission of a complete proposal at least a week before the sponsor's specified deadline. This ensures both overall quality as well as consistency with institutional guidelines. Budget preparation can be painstaking depending on the scope of the project, whether there are sub-awards with collaborating institutions or ensuing personnel and effort adjustments. There can be numerous interdependent variables to consider as a budget is finalized. Anyone with limited experience in this area will likely prefer to consult with someone who has this kind of expertise. Policies that influence various types of expenses change over time; salary caps, cost of living allowance, indirect rates, patient care costs, etc. Many of these stipulations can be clarified by the sponsor but occasionally the details are lost while the narrative, the heart of the proposal, is perfected. As an investigator, your attention is better focused on improving your chosen field of practice rather than becoming absorbed by the intricacies of pre-award research administration.

Tips for Tweeting

by Hope Ricciotti, MD, *Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*

Follow us on @SASGOG and join in the conversation. Here are some tips for the novice Tweeter to get you started: **Sign up on Twitter.com.** Choose a username, upload a picture or graphic that represents you, and complete a profile so others with similar interests can follow you.

Find others to follow. Start with @SASGOG!

Be yourself. Use the same voice you would use in a conversation with your colleagues or a friend.

Tweet Quality Not Quantity – Focus on topics, events, and news to engage with other academic generalists.

Share inspirational words of wisdom, other relevant posts, links to interesting manuscripts or news.

Celebrate new recruits, other generalist accomplishments.

Listen and respond to other tweets. Repost tweets. Answer a question or respond to a comment.

Have fun!



[follow@SASGOG](https://twitter.com/SASGOG)

Calendar of Events

Evidence-Based Medicine Course at Society of Gynecologic Surgeons' 40th Annual Scientific Meeting , March 23, 2014, Scottsdale, Arizona

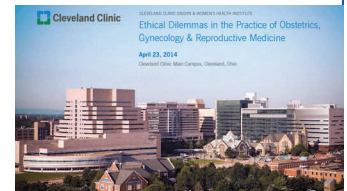
This course will help the busy gynecologist advance his/her knowledge and skills in evidence-based medicine (EBM). This interactive course is designed to build the skill set needed for an individual gynecologist to translate evidence into his/her clinical practice. Experienced faculty in the conduct and education of EBM will use a combined didactic and hands-on approach. The program will cover core content on literature appraisal and how to apply the EBM approach to gynecological literature. Attendees will gain hands on experience in critically reviewing landmark and pertinent gynecologic research publications through interactive breakout sessions with faculty, immediately applying new knowledge from didactic sessions. To register go to: [SGS-ABOG Workshop: Building Evidence-Based Medical Skills in Gynecology](#) .

ASCCP 2014 Biennial Scientific Meeting, April 9-12, 2014, Scottsdale, Arizona

The ASCCP Biennial Scientific Meeting will be April 9-12, 2014, at the Westin Kierland Hotel, in Scottsdale, AZ. The 2014 Biennial Scientific Meeting is designed to provide learners with: 1) a review of currently available screening and management guidelines, 2) Up-to-date information on advances in prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment. More information on the Biennial is available at: <http://www.asccp.org/Home/2014-Biennial-Scientific-Meeting> .

Spring Conference in Ethical Dilemmas in ObGyn, April 23, 2014, Cleveland, Ohio

The Cleveland Clinic Department of Ob/Gyn invites you to consider their ethics conference. The goals of the conference are to review leading ethical issues in obstetrics and gynecology and to provide the clinician with the resources and strategies to help manage and resolve these problems when they arise in clinical practice. To register go to: <http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/live/courses/2014/obgyn14/default.asp>. For additional information contact Danielle Berry at berryd2@ccf.org or 216.445.2358.



SASGOG's participation in the "Cutting Edge Updates" session on April 29, 2014 at the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting

SASGOG is deeply appreciative for the Kathryn M and Thomas F Purdon MD endowment to sponsor SASGOG's participation in the "Cutting Edge Updates" session at the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting. This generous endowment will allow SASGOG to participate along with representatives from the major subspecialty societies. It is a tremendous recognition for our new organization, and we are very grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Purdon for making it possible. The session will be moderated by SASGOG Board Member Ches Thompson, and Nancy Gaba, the new SASGOG President, will present important updates in General Obstetrics and Gynecology. The session is Tuesday April 29 from 2-3:30 PM. We hope to see you there!

Don't Forget about our List-Serve!!

Have a question about a perplexing case of resistant vulvovaginitis? Want to collaborate on a research project with another institution? Want to find out how generalists at other institutions balance office and L&D coverage issues? We invite you to join our List-serve and email the group with your inquiries. To join, simply email David Chelmow at dchelmow@verizon.net. To send an inquiry to the List-serve, send your email to SASGOG-L@LISTS.VCU.EDU.

Career Development Opportunity for the Academic Educator

Consider the Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Academic Scholars and Leaders Program. The purpose of this program is to enhance education in obstetrics and gynecology by preparing ob-gyn physician faculty, through a rigorous 15-month curriculum, to possess the skills and knowledge necessary to be outstanding teachers and educational administrators. Next application period will be in the Spring of 2014. <https://www.apgo.org/faculty/scholars-program/academic-scholars-and-leaders.html>.



SASGOG Spotlight:

L. Chesney Thompson, MD

By Tricia Huguelet, MD, *University of Colorado School of Medicine*

Communications Committee:

Laurie S. Swaim, MD-Chair
Baylor College of Medicine

Caryn Dutton, MD
Brigham and Women's/Harvard Medical School

Todd Aeby, MD
University of Hawaii-John A. Burns School of Medicine

Tricia Huguelet, MD
University of Colorado School of Medicine, Editor February issue

Hope Ricciotti, MD
Beth Israel Boston
[#sasgogtweetingninja](#)

L. Chesney Thompson (known to all as Ches), MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Colorado has dedicated his career to academics, focusing much of his energy in administrative roles to help further the career of academic generalists in our field. Upon graduation from residency, he joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago and helped to create the first generalist division in their department. A short time later, he moved his family to Denver and built the generalist division from a small three-member team, to a division that now supports almost twenty faculty.

In his faculty appointment at the University of Colorado, he has helped mentor and guide academic generalists through his roles on the Promotions committee, Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board, Faculty Senate and Clinical Faculty Appointment Committee. He has served as Medical Director of Labor and Delivery, Practice Director for the Outpatient Clinical Enterprise, and currently holds the position of Vice-Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Through his role as President of the Faculty Senate, he was instrumental in drafting and implementing the Conflict of Interest Statement with industry, thereby becoming the first hospital in the state of Colorado to prohibit industry involvement in day to day clinical practice. In 2004, Dr. Thompson was awarded Full-Time Physician of the Year by the Medical Staff, and recently, he was also awarded the Extraordinary Service Award for his commitment and service to his patients. His closest colleagues have described him as warm, self-effacing, congenial, unflappable, and completely trustworthy and honest.

Dr. Thompson has also been involved nationally in our field through his role as an ABOG oral-board examiner for the past 10 years, as well as becoming one of the founding fathers of our SASGOG organization. Although the idea of a generalist society had been circulating for years, it was his persistence along with several others that pushed the notion forward from an idea to a reality. Since his graduation from residency, he has staunchly supported the academic career of the generalist obstetrician/gynecologist, and this passion has helped to create a new forefront for generalists to collaborate on education, research and career advancement in academics.

His clinical interest lies in lower genital tract disease, where he has published several noteworthy articles and has also served on several sub-committees for the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology.

With so many clinical endeavors, Ches remains deeply committed to his wife and two sons. In their free time, they enjoy traveling and outdoor activities in Colorado, including skiing and hiking in the mountains.



LET'S US HEAR FROM YOU

Suggestions for future issues?

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