

## **Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) – Junior Member Committee Report (2010-2011)**

SOGC ACM (Vancouver, BC)

June 2011

The Junior Member Committee of the SOGC started the year (June 2010) with major restructuring of the committee. As the largest subcommittee of the SOGC (38 members), we felt that we would improve the overall function & productivity of our Committee by re-organizing ourselves into 5 smaller “working groups”. These groups were created in response to the 5 Junior Member Priority Areas identified at last year’s Annual Clinical Meeting in June (Montreal, QC). Our committee/working groups continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Below is a list of our main activities to date:

### 1) Re-structuring of the committee into 5 smaller working groups:

- a. Education
- b. Communication
- c. Junior Member Well-Being
- d. Advocacy
- e. ACM Planning (Resident & Medical Student Tracks)

### 2) Standardization of Committee Member Selection:

- a. A major initiative from last year was an attempt to try and standardize the selection process of Junior Member representatives. While the exact process remains up to the jurisdiction of each individual residency program, we have standardized the *timeline* for which the process must be completed.

As such, all incoming Junior Member reps must be chosen by April of that year (ie: before the SOGC ACM). There was excellent uptake of this initiative by programs across the country. This meant that many of the incoming Juniors were able to attend the face-to-face meeting of the Junior Member Committee at the ACM in Montreal. (In past years, the reps are chosen in the Fall *after* the ACM. This has led to delays in initiating new projects & overall inefficiency in the Committee.)

This initiative has been continued this year as well, with almost all incoming Junior members having already been selected by their home university. Again, they have been invited to attend the Junior Member Committee meeting as observers.

### 3) Publications:

- a. In response to discussions surrounding this issue of resident publications, we are excited about a recent proposal from the Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology

of Canada (JOGC) to have a resident representative on their Board. We are in the process of selecting a qualified resident rep.

4) Current Projects:

a. National Career Plan Survey of Ob/Gyn Residents

- i. This survey has been an initiative of the Junior Member Committee in the past. Last conducted in 2006, we have updated the survey and are in the process of obtaining ethics approval. The survey will be conducted between in June 2011. Stay tuned for the data!

b. C.A.R.E Project

- i. The "Canadian Advocacy in Residency Education" Project was developed by our past-Chair in coordination with discussions with the ACOG JFCAC executive, in an attempt to improve health advocacy training & initiatives in Canadian Obstetrics & Gynecology residency programs. Based on similar principles to the ACOG's "Project in a Box", the C.A.R.E program this year will serve as a "challenge" sent out to all the residency programs across the country, inspiring them to develop a health advocacy initiative in their local communities. The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health has generously offered to provide an award for the best project.

5 resident projects & 1 medical student project were submitted. The award winner will be announced at the ACM.

c. Annual Clinical Meeting (June 2012 – Vancouver, BC)

i. Resident Professional Development Program (RPDP)

1. This year's resident-track of the ACM will feature 3 leadership sessions discussion topics of: 1) medico-legal issues in obstetrics & gynecology; 2) preparing for an academic career; and 3) stress management & physician burnout.

ii. Medical Student Program

1. Due to budget constraints, the Medical Student Program at this year's ACM has been cancelled. It is the hope of the SOGC that this program will continue in upcoming years.

In response to this change, we plan to invite all medical students in attendance at the ACM to join the residents during the 'Resident Professional Development' sessions. This should hopefully facilitate interaction and networking between junior members of all levels. While the resident reps from each university were keen to volunteer their time to insure the Residency Fair takes place, it was felt that there was no funding available to sponsor a conference room in which to host the event.

iii. Dress for Success

1. As a health advocacy initiative, the Junior Member Committee will hold a clothing drive during the ACM. We will be collecting gently used business attire, and will be donating the proceeds

to a local shelter which assists women (& men) with re-entering the workforce. It is our hope that this project will become an annual event.

iv. ACM 1-Day Pilot Program

1. In past years, the major (& consistent) complaint from resident and medical student attendees at the ACM Medical Student & Resident Leadership tracks was the scheduling conflict between the scientific sessions and the Junior Member sessions.

In an effort to address this issue, we developed a 1-Day Pilot Program to be held on the first day of the ACM (International Women's Health Day – IWH Day). We felt this would eliminate the conflict that occurs with scheduling the Junior Member activities later in the week when the scientific sessions are running. Also, by combining one of the sessions with the lunchtime IWH presentation, it would effectively improve resident/med student attendance at International Women's Health Day as well. (Of note, many Junior Members have noted issues with being allowed to attend IWH Day in years past. Many say that they have to use IWH Day as a "travel day", and are not given time off from their programs)

This pilot program was discussed at the recent SOGC Council meeting in Ottawa in early November. Unfortunately, the Council felt that it would not be desirable for the Junior Member tracks to conflict with IWH Day. As such, the Pilot Program will not be happening this year. However, it is likely that a 1-day program will be organized for the ACM in 2012.

d. Website Development

- i. We are in the process of improving the Junior Members section of the SOGC website. Main initiatives include: 1) Updating the "Landmark Articles" section; 2) Creation of a national/international electives bank; 3) Updating the 2011-2012 Fellowship guide; and 4) Improving the overall appearance & visibility of the Junior Members section within the SOGC website. It is our hope to have a direct link to the APOG website.

5) APOG Resident Track

- a. The Association of Academic Professionals in Obstetrics & Gynecology of Canada (APOG) held their annual general meeting in December 2011 in Toronto, ON. The meeting again featured a resident-track, which this year focused on Health Advocacy Education in Obstetrics & Gynecology residency training in Canada. The facilitator was Dr. Shafik Dharamsi from the University of British Columbia.

6) ACOG

- a. It was a pleasure attending the ACOG ACM in Washington DC in April/May this year. The Junior Fellows committee of ACOG, which is the American equivalent of our Junior Member committee, & our organization have a few joint projects in the works for next year:
  - i. List of Faculty “Resident Champions” between Canada & US (it is the hope that these individuals can serve as mentors/facilitators/presenters for resident initiatives in both countries PLUS receive recognition for their work in the area of resident leadership.
  - ii. Joint ‘Health Advocacy’ initiative (likely a North America-wide diaper-drive). To be held in the Fall.

We have a keen group of resident representatives & junior members across the country who are looking forward to continued partnership with the senior SOGC membership in the future. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Pylypjuk  
Chair, SOGC Jr Member Committee