

Seija Grénman (Finland) and Anette Tønnes Pedersen (Denmark)

Dear Colleagues,

We have good news !

1. The Nordic countries have now two members in the FIGO Executive Board:

Seija Grénman from Turku University Hospital, Finland since 2009 and Anette Tønnes Pedersen from Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark since 2012! Besides us there is only one more female representative in the Executive Board (3/24 members) - Christine Tippett from Australia.

2. Professor Kristina Gemzell-Danielsson from Karolinska Institutet received **FIGO Award** in Recognition of Women Obstetricians/Gynecologists due to her significant work to improve womens health. Congratulations to Kristina and SFOG !

The 22. FIGO congress held in Rome 7-12. October had over 8000 participants. The program was varied of a high quality, with hot topics and a global approach. There was however few exceptions like the session on cosmetic-plastic gynaecology arranged by Adam Ostrzenski (US) on Monday. It stimulated a heated discussion in the session arranged on this topic by FIGO on Wednesday. The free communication sessions were as usual stimulating, presenting solid research from all parts of the world and with substantial active participation from Scandinavia.

The reports on the FIGO projects in different countries were interesting and encouraging. FIGO's Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health (SMNH) Committee initiated in 2007 four-year projects in 10 countries. In the majority of these countries the different projects have lead to sustainable results and the activities will be taken over by the governments. In Haiti the earthquake, and in Pakistan the flood made conduction of the projects impossible or difficult. The support from the Swedish SIDA has been highly appreciated. The FIGO –LOGIC project (Leadership in Obstetrics and Gynecology for Impact and Change) was launched in 8 countries in 2009. The goal has been to improve policy and practice by strengthening FIGO Member Associations using their own position and knowledge to improve maternal and newborn health. The selected two instruments to influence practice have been evidence-based guidelines and maternal death reviews. Collection of data and improving advocacy skills within the professional associations help them to raise awareness in governments.

The new FIGO officers elected at the General Assembly were: Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran (UK) as President, Ernesto Castelazo Morales (Mexico) as Vice President, Gian Carlo Di Renzo (Italy) as Honorary Secretary. Wolfgang Holzgreve (Germany) continues as Honorary treasurer, and Gamal Serour (Egypt) will serve as past President for the next three years. After very tuff campaigns and an exiting election, professor C.N. Puradare (India) was voted as the President Elect.

At the closing ceremony the new FIGO President gave an excellent talk on **FIGO's goals during the coming three years**. The main problems of the female reproductive health are unsafe abortions and maternal deaths due to postpartum hemorrhage. They can be decreased if the unmet needs of contraception can be fulfilled. This means easy access to emergency and long-term contraception globally. Improving access to contraception will be the main focus of FIGO in 2012-2015.