

ESOG Newsletter is quarterly published by Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. It updates members and partner organizations by publishing the organization's activities and other major reproductive health issues.

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Message from the President

Dear Members

Greetings

During the handover meeting of the leadership that took place on March 11, 2022, outgoing President Dr Mekdes Daba welcomed the new executive board members and briefed on the status of ongoing projects and those which are on the pipeline in terms of fund allocation and activities. We have been impressed by the accomplishments of the outgoing and existing board members under the excellent leadership of Dr Mekdes Daba. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all outgoing executive board members. We will continue to raise the bar on our goals, promote our profession, advocate for reproductive health and rights and work diligently to improve the health of our patients.

ESOG's major projects are funded by MOH, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, CIRHT Africa, Lifebox Foundation Ethiopia, National Institute of Health through Georgia institute of Technology, University of Illinois, Laerdal Global Health, German Gynecologic Oncology Society, Concept Foundation, and International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics. I would like to express my deepest appreciation on behalf of ESOG to our donors and partners for collaborating with ESOG. I would like to request concerned donors and partners to continue supporting and collaborating with us on priority areas of RMNCAH at the primary health care unit in order to address the issues of quality and equity, advocacy, education and research.

Committees' Chairs and members managed to accomplish successful events at the 30th pre-conference CME and scientific meetings which took place from February 19-20 and February 21-22, 2022, respectively. This was achieved through great efforts, commitment and work by involving internationally and locally renowned experts. The CME sessions were over-crowded and members requested to add one more day so that they can attend all sessions in a relaxed manner for better consolidation of the knowledge and skills to update the current practice for the benefit of the

community we serve. During our regular board meetings, the issue of over-crowded CME sessions was discussed and the importance of adding one more day was emphasized and approved. For upcoming annual conferences, we will have pre-conference CME sessions lasting for three days from Friday to Sunday of February of each year.

As we all remember the theme for the panel discussion of the 30th annual conference was "Reproductive and maternal health services at the time of war and conflict" held on February 21, 2022. We felt that discussing on this issue was timely and appropriate as we were unfortunately passing through this difficult time in our history. We have learnt a lot during experience sharing discussions from concerned stakeholders: Health Bureau officials representing their respective conflict affected regions and MOH and health care providers, donors and partners supporting conflict affected facilities to restore basic RMNCH services under the guidance and direction of MOH. There has been a solid recommendation in developing a guideline for emergency preparedness and response in restoring reproductive and maternal health services in time of war and conflict, which ESOG has taken as an assignment.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to his Excellency Dr Ayele Teshome for opening 30th annual conference of ESOG, all distinguished officials and colleagues and friends being involved in the panel discussion under the chair of Dr Zufan Lakew, all committees' chairs and members, all distinguished international and local experts and renowned speakers, all ESOG staffs under the special leadership of Selamawit Kifle, ESOG's manager in organizing the Annual Conference for their tireless efforts, commitments and work.

Feel free to contact me if you have thoughts or questions about these, or other, ESOG's activities.

Best regards

30th Annual Conference Conducted



The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) concluded its annual conference on February 22, 2022. The conference themed- Reproductive and Maternal Health Services at Times of War and Conflict- started with virtual preconference CMEs on February 19, 2022. The preconference CMEs brought together dozens of speakers from all across the world for virtual lectures and hands-on training on ultrasound.

Featuring Dr. Bethel Dereje as its master of ceremony, the conference also brought to the stage Dr. Mekdes Daba, president of ESOG delivered the presidential speech, Mrs. Yemeserach Belayneh, advisor to The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, delivered a keynote address, Dr. Ayele Teshome, state minister of Health delivered, opened the conference. As the tradition dictates since recent years, the opening ceremony also saw the welcoming of newly graduating Ob-Gyns from the various institutions and the award of members for their services in health care.

At the opening conference, Dr. Fitsum Araya was awarded this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr.

Brook Getahun, on the other hand, took ESOG's Distinguished Service Award of the Year. This year's Award of Honor was given to all Ob-Gyns and health care providers who continued their service to their communities under challenging security challenges. ESOG's Lifetime Achievement Award is given to lifetime dedication to advocate and promote women's RH&R. Distinguished Service Award is extended to those health care providers for exceptional contributions to improve the quality of health care in Ethiopia through direct patient care. ESOG's Award of Honor recognizes initiatives to promote, protect and improve the quality of health care of Ethiopian women.

Chaired by Dr. Zufan Lakew, the plenary session of the conference brought to the stage Dr. Martha Minwelet, senior advisor at the Ministry of Health (MoH) and lead of Resource Mobilization for Conflict-Related Health Facility Restoration, Dr. Melkamu Abte, head of Amhara Regional State's Health Bureau, Dr. Mekdes Daba, Mohammed Abdukadier, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Director, Afar Regional Health Bureau, and Adinew

Post Partum LAFP Training for Providers



The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted training at Adama General Hospital from November 15-24, 2021. The training

was given on Long-Acting Family Planning (LAFP) focusing on Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices (IUCDs) and implants. Attending the training were 50 health care providers from Oromia and Somali regions.

LAFP methods, specifically IUCDs and implants provide uninterrupted protection to women from 3 to 12 years. A good opportunity to provide IUCD is during the post-partum and post-abortion periods. But they must be inserted by trained providers in a safe clinical environment. With limited facilities and few providers, widespread implementation of LAFP in Ethiopia requires training of significant numbers of rural providers and developing properly equipped facilities for implant and IUCD insertions.

There is a plan to cascade the training to other areas.

New Executive Board Took Over

The Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) has conducted a handover program on March 11, 2022. As the tradition in the Society dictates, the outgoing board has handed responsibilities over to a newly elected board on a meeting conducted at ESOG's Project Bureau.

At its business meeting, ESOG's general assembly has elected a new president and replaced executive board members who have finished their terms. ESOG's general assembly elected Dr. Abdulfetah Abdulkadir as its

new president replacing the outgoing Dr. Mekdes Daba while Dr. Gelane Lelissa replaced the outgoing vice president Dr. Fikremeleket Temesgen. The general assembly retained former members Dr. Rahel Demissew, who was elected as an honorary secretary, and Dr. Abdu Mengesha. The general assembly has also elected Dr. Tadesse Urgie, Dr. Demissew Amenu, and Dr. Ethiopia Kumlachew.

ESOG Supports (Cont'd from Page 4)

of on-the-ground assessments and meetings and made a two-way plan of providing support to GBV survivors and strengthening maternal and reproductive health services at selected health facilities.

During its latest emergency response travel, ESOG also took part in the Safe Motherhood Month event

that took place in Dessie on January 31, 2022.

ESOG also received recognition from the Ministry of Health for its continued support on Safe Motherhood Month launching event, which was held in Semera and Dessie in Afar and Amhara Regional States, respectively.

ESOG Supports Health Facilities in CAAs



Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ESOG) donated about 2.4 million Birr worth of medical equipment and supplies to the selected health facilities in the Amhara Regional State. Dr. Dereje Duguma, state minister of Health, and Abdulkirim

Mengistu, deputy head of the regional health bureau received the donations. ESOG is on the road again as part of its effort to support health facilities in Conflict-Affected Areas (CAAs).

ESOG's latest support is aimed at restarting maternal services and reproductive health services at Mersa Primary Hospital and Mersa Health Center, Kobo Primary Hospital and Kobo Health Center, Walda Primary Hospital, Taja Health Center, Kone Health Center, and Kombolcha Health Center. ESOG's support is expected to help the facilities fully restart their maternal health services.

As part of its continued support, ESOG is also responding to the impact of the conflict on women and girls who experienced GBV and health care facilities. Previously, ESOG has donated dignity kits to Kelewan and Chifra health facilities in the State of Afar. The same support has also been provided to One-Stop Centers at Debre Birhan Hospital and Dessie Hospital in the State of Amhara.

ESOG has set up an emergency response team comprised of its staff, members, and volunteers accountable to and under the direct supervision of its President. The emergency response team has made a series (Please find ESOG Supports... on Page 3)

30th Annual Conference... (Cond'd)

Hussien, acting program director at Family Guidance Association of Ethiopia. The panelists shared their views and experiences on the Challenges of Women in Accessing Reproductive and Maternal Health Services, Susceptibility and clinical care for sexual assault survivors in times of war and conflict, Country preparedness, recovery plan, and Response: the Role of Stakeholders.

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The scientific sessions of the conference, which were conducted on February 22, 2022, saw presentations from more than a dozen of researchers and a state-of-the-art lecture on war victims' memorials by Professor Peter Schwartz. The conference also involved a series of sessions on updates on different maternal and reproductive health matters.