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Letter From the President

It has been my privilege to serve as the 50th President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology. I am particularly grateful for the work done by our board and member volunteers that will launch SGO into the future with enhanced professionalism, egalitarianism, diversity and inclusion. For the first time in its history, SGO has a set of ethical principles for professional conduct and practice to guide our diverse membership and uphold the welfare of the patient.

In 2018, SGO members approved a sweeping set of bylaws changes expanding Full Membership to all licensed physicians and PhD scientists—from any country—who are dedicated to eradicating gynecologic cancers. Fellows, residents and medical students were combined into the new Trainee category, and advanced practice providers, non-MD allied health professionals, and patient advocates from around the world were welcomed into the new Associate category. Bringing together such an inclusive group of health care professionals can only enhance opportunities for mentorship in the future.

During the 2019 SGO 50th Annual Meeting on Women’s Cancer in Honolulu, HI, I was humbled to share the stage with so many of our past SGO presidents. In some way, shape or form—all of them are my colleagues, mentors, or people whom I consider to be legends in our subspecialty. SGO’s 50th anniversary year in 2019 serves as an important reminder of the subspecialty’s founders and other mentors who taught all of us the importance of our Society’s vision—to eradicate gynecologic cancers.

Carol L. Brown, MD, FACOG, FACS
2018-2019 SGO President
2018 AT A GLANCE

**Membership**
- Full 50.9%
- Candidate 10.6%
- Senior 9.8%
- Fellow-in-Training 8.6%
- Resident/Student 7.8%
- Allied 6.3%
- International Affiliate 4.4%
- Associate 1.6%
- Honorary .2%

**Social Media Reach**
- Facebook Likes 6,023 (+1,036)
- LinkedIn Followers 2,678 (+724)
- Twitter Followers 3,482 (+488)

**2018 AUDITED FINANCIALS**

**Revenue $6,195,181**
- Meetings 53%
- Membership 15%
- Management Services 13%
- Publications 9%
- Industry Council 9%
- Registry 2%
- Investments 2%
- Education 1%
- Clinical Practice 1%

**Expenses $6,189,305**
- Management and General 49%
- Meetings 35%
- Other Programs 11%
- Membership 5%
Throughout 2018, more than 60 SGO members participated in on-camera interviews to discuss milestones in SGO’s history, innovations in research and treatment, the importance of mentorship, the benefits of diversity and inclusion, and why they chose to pursue a career in gynecologic oncology. A commemorative video—Why Gynecologic Oncology?—was premiered at the opening ceremony and included sound bites from several of these interviews.
A Family Affair

The SGO 50th Annual Meeting was truly a family affair. Morning education sessions were followed by an afternoon break to give attendees a chance to enjoy the local surroundings with their loved ones. The main social events at the SGO 50th Annual Meeting were open to all attendees and their guests, adding to the festive atmosphere. These special gatherings included an opening night SGO Luau at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and A Night at the Royal Hawaiian—which took place in the 1920s-era Royal Hawaiian Hotel overlooking Diamond Head and Waikiki Beach.

Farr Nezhat Surgical Innovation Session: 50 Years of Progress

The Farr Nezhat Surgical Innovation Session addresses novel basic science research as it applies to surgical innovation as well as new surgical techniques for the management of GYN cancers. For SGO’s 50th anniversary, course sponsor Farr Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS, dedicated this year’s session to 50 years of progress in gynecologic oncology. Moderated by Andrew Berchuck, MD, Carolyn Muller, MD, and James W. Orr, MD, FACOG, FACS, the “50 Years of Progress” session featured several SGO Past Presidents sharing their reflections on the subspecialty in an entertaining, high-energy, fast-paced format.

Speed Mentoring

Moderated by Sandra E. Brooks, MD, MBA, and Eloise Chapman-Davis, MD, and organized by SGO’s Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, the speed mentoring session was a first for the SGO Annual Meeting. Mentors delivered brief round-table talks on topics specially selected to help early career attendees navigate their careers. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and make contacts for long-term mentorship before rotating to the next table.
Advocating for Equity

Presidential Address: Carol L. Brown, MD, FACOG, FACS

While invoking the spirit of Aloha at this year’s Hawaiian location, Dr. Brown also paid tribute to her early career mentors in the subspecialty. During her presidential address, Dr. Brown discussed the importance of being an “Advocate for Equity.” Dr. Brown pointed to SGO’s membership expansion to create a more inclusive Society, the effect of SGO’s open elections on increased female and minority representation, and how being an advocate for equity calls for interdisciplinary collaboration, egalitarianism, diversity and inclusion.

Presidential Invited Guest Speaker

Agnes Binagwaho, MD, M(Ped), PhD
Vice Chancellor, University of Global Health Equity
Kigali, Rwanda

Dr. Binagwaho delivered an inspiring address on the role of social capital in the response to cervical cancer.

ABOG Lectureship

Groesbeck Parham, MD
Director, African Center of Excellence for Women’s Cancer Control
Lusaka, Zambia

Dr. Parham shared his insights in international leadership during a talk about creative disruption of the cervical cancer prevention status quo in an African nation.
Membership: Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Task Force becomes full committee

The Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Task Force was created to identify and address issues relevant in gynecologic oncology for Advanced Practice Providers. For its inaugural year in 2017-2018, the APP Task Force’s goals were to 1.) Create scope of practice guidelines for Advanced Practice Providers; and 2.) Create online education offering to provide overview models for optimizing utilization of Advanced Practice Providers based on the new APP guidelines/scope of practice.

At the 2018 SGO Annual Meeting, SGO announced that the APP Task Force would become a full SGO committee, and in December 2018 the Gynecologic Oncology journal published Delivery of gynecologic oncology care: Optimizing scope of advanced practice providers to enhance patient care: A Society of Gynecologic Oncology Position Paper by Joanne K. Rash, Karen D. Lyle, Arati Jairam-Thodla and Yevgeniya Ioffe.

The Position Paper’s highlights were as follows:

• Advanced practice providers (APPs) possess multiple skill sets utilized for gynecologic oncology care.
• With the aging population and future physician shortage, APPs are critical to providing gynecologic oncology care.
• APPs provide revenue and add value to a gynecologic oncology practice. Understanding the nuances is essential.
Tackling the Opioid Crisis

**Opioids in Gynecologic Oncology series in journal**

As the only oncologists that provide both medical and surgical care, gynecologic oncologists encounter an exceptionally broad range of indications for prescribing opioids in clinical situations ranging from management of acute post-operative pain to chronic cancer-related pain to end-of-life care. Due to the explosive growth of opioid prescriptions and opioid-related overdoses and deaths during the first decade of the 21st century, there has been a recent concerted public health effort to prevent and treat opioid misuse through both legislation and education. In May 2018 the *Gynecologic Oncology journal* published a two-part series on this topic:


- **Opioid use in gynecologic oncology in the age of the opioid epidemic: Part II – Balancing safety & accessibility** by Amin A. Ramzan, Stacy Fischer, Mary K. Buss, Renata R. Urban, Bruce Patsner, Linda R. Duska, Christine M. Fisher, Carolyn Lefkowits

**Opioid education modules on SGO Connect Ed**

In October 2018 SGO’s Palliative Care Task Force launched a four-part online educational module series on SGO Connect Ed addressing the use of opioids in gynecologic oncology. The 15-minute modules review best practices and cases relevant to the use of opioids in women’s cancer care.

Part 1: “Clinical Uses of Opioids in Gynecologic Oncology,” offers an introduction to opioids and different times through the course of cancer care in which opioids are used.

Part 2: “Opioid Conversion,” is a practical case-based primer on opioid conversion, escalation, and rotation.


Part 4: “Opioid Misuse,” reviews the current landscape of the opioid epidemic and regulatory issues.
New in 2018: Clinical Practice Statements

Genetics

Practice Advisory: Response to FDA's Authorization of *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* Gene Mutation Direct-to-Consumer Testing
(ACOG, May 2018)

Committee Opinion: Cascade Testing: Testing Women for Known Hereditary Genetic Mutations Associated With Cancer
(ACOG, January 2018)

Cervical Cancer

Notice to SGO Members: Emerging data on the surgical approach for radical hysterectomy in the treatment of women with cervical cancer (November 2018)

Leading Women's Health Care Groups Issue Joint Statement on USPSTF Final Cervical Cancer Screening Recommendations
(August 2018)

Additional Resources

Recent Drug Approvals in Gynecologic Oncology: A Statement from SGO's Communications and Clinical Practice Committees
(July, 2018)

A contemporary framework of health equity applied to gynecologic cancer care: A Society of Gynecologic Oncology evidence-based review
(April, 2018)

Practice Management


Society of Gynecologic Oncology Clinical Outcomes Registry: From small beginnings come great things (March 2018)
2018–2019
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