

## *IUGA International Symposium on Birth and Beyond: Management, Assessment, and Prevention of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction*

The third IUGA International Symposium designed for Allied Health Professionals was entitled Birth and Beyond: Management, Assessment, and Prevention of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction and was held virtually on March 12-13, 2022. The symposium had 432 registrants from 66 countries and 40 speakers. When asked about their field of work, 45% responded to be working in physiotherapy, 19% responded to be working urogynecology, 18% to be working in OB/GYN, 8% to be working in midwifery, 4% responded to be students/residents/fellows, 2% to be working as a nurse, and 4% responded 'Other'. Registrants who were not IUGA members in the last two years and did not register through an Endorsing Organization paid a registration fee of USD 110. With this registration, they were offered one year of free membership in IUGA. 74 registrants took advantage of this promotional offer. We were pleased to offer scholarships to cover the cost of registration for those who demonstrated the need for financial assistance to participate in the Symposium. We received 27 applications from practitioners in Category B and C countries, all of whom were awarded free registration.

The program was filled with up-to-date, evidence-based information about pelvic floor dysfunction, birth trauma, nursing and physiotherapy management, and the role of the multidisciplinary team. The Symposium was composed of a 1.5-day program with two rounds of one-hour workshops. There were 8 different workshops offered. Each attendee had the opportunity to participate in two workshops live. Recordings of all workshops remain available for all attendees to watch on-demand for three months following the meeting. The IUGA International Symposium concluded with the first IUGA virtual Public Forum, developed by experts and patients to provide information about urinary incontinence, how and where to get help, and available treatment options. It was free and open to the public to attend.

A total of 11 Organizations endorsed the IUGA International Symposium: ASCRS, AUGS, BSUG, CSPM, EUGA, ICS, JPFPM, MASIC, NVFB, POGP and PUGA. Through their endorsement and promotion of the meeting, all Endorsing Organizations were able to offer their members the same reduced registration fee as was offered to IUGA members (USD 50). We gained 56 attendees through the Endorsing Organizations.

Although the IUGA International Symposium did not have any sponsors, preliminary results indicate a financial profit of more than USD 4,000 allocated to the meeting budget and USD 5,550 in membership fees.

We received 115 filled in evaluation forms and feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with all respondents reporting that they were either extremely satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience and with the quality of the content. No one indicated that they were dissatisfied with any aspect of the program. For more detailed information, please see the table below with averages (1 being extremely dissatisfied and 5 being extremely satisfied).

<b>Overall- IUGA International Symposium on Pelvic Floor Dysfunction experience.</b>	4.54
<b>Quality of the content.</b>	4.55
<b>The promotion of the IUGA International Symposium on Pelvic Floor Dysfunction.</b>	4.36
<b>The support provided by IUGA staff.</b>	4.54
<b>The IUGA International Symposium on Pelvic Floor Dysfunction virtual platform (provided by BigMarker).</b>	4.51

The minimal negative feedback that was received centered around a lack of networking opportunities, repetition of topics, and CME points.

### **Attendee feedback**

“Very well done!”

“Really enjoyed all the workshops and the round tables”

“ante partum and intrapartum methods of preventing or minimizing childbirth pelvic floor trauma was discussed extensively which I would want to share to obstetricians, residents-in training, midwives and nurses . thanks”

“Thank you again, It was a very positive (had almost a joyful vibe!) event. I came away with lots of new ideas and great new connections. Please do invite me to take part in any way I can again.”

“Inspiring sessions. Thank you very much.”

“It was my first IUGA symposium, I was pleased about the content and the conferences, the discussion that was made helped me understand the need of these activities to keep making a professional a better one, for well being of the patients we treat. ”

“Keep up the good work. I was particularly impressed with the whole organisation and delivery of the programme”

“It was a good refresher of daily live issues of clients and very worthy to have exchange with experts”

“My favourite element is the fast response of the committee and the strong knowledge all presented”

“thank you so much for offering high quality information virtually and for a very very good prize. I wouldn't be able to attend if it would take place somewhere abroad.”

“Nearly every session was eye catching.”

“Every lecture taught me something I had not known and was definitely enriching for me.”

“Loved it! I did it virtually after the event as was slightly out of time and found it fascinating!”

“favorite elements: to be able to review the conferences after the symposium”

“I have learnt a lot of message from this webinar. Thank you so much .”

### **Recommendation**

We had 432 attendees in 2022 compared to 603 delegates in 2021, and 101 in 2019. IUGA also gained 74 new members through the 2022 symposium. As a virtual meeting, this symposium was both accessible and affordable for attendees around the world. It was also not limited by space or the size of the venue. Based on the success of this symposium, both in terms of financial benefit to IUGA and providing education and information to a broader audience, we would highly recommend continuing this as a virtual meeting. We may consider making it a biennial meeting depending on demand and content.