

The “OG’s” and “GO’s” of Obstetrics and Gynecology



Students, Residents, and Young Faculty

Navigating the network of supporting societies and institutions as a student or a resident or a young faculty may be very confusing. What to join, what they do, what services they provide and how they fit into your career path are important choices that you will need to make. These choices are all the more confusing because the organizational nomenclature almost always ends in an “OG” or a “GO.”

We will begin with SASGOG. SASGOG is the Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology. We have a mission to support individuals in advancing the care of women through an organization that supports the development of academic specialists in general obstetrics and gynecology. SASGOG is an independent organization. It was founded in 2012 with support from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) Excellence Foundation Fund and has been supported by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) with the provision of space and information technology support to host its annual meeting in conjunction with the Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting of the College.

ABOG (American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology) is the certifying body of obstetrics and gynecology and is a recognized member of the American Board of Medical Specialties. This is the group that creates the annual written exam and carries out the oral board exams and maintenance of certification that result in initial and ongoing board certification.

ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist) is the “premier professional membership society for obstetricians and gynecologists.” It has several committees that represent different aspects and interests of its membership. One of those is CREOG which is the Council on Residency Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology which is responsible for setting the objectives for residency education in obstetrics and gynecology.

APGO (Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics) is an educational organization that represents obstetricians and gynecologists in North America. APGO produces educational materials that improve the ability to teach at many levels and faculty development opportunities across the specialty.

CUCOG (Council of University Chairs in Obstetrics and Gynecology) is the membership organization that helps to support the university chairs in obstetrics and gynecology.

Several subspecialty memberships exist similar to SASGOG and its representation of the academic generalist. Maternal Fetal Medicine is represented in the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM). SGO is the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists. ASRM is the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and the organization of reproductive endocrinology specialists. AUGS is the American Urogynecology Society. NASPAG is the North American Society of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. SFP is the Society for Family Planning. SGS is the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons. AAGL is the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopist. AGOS, the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society, is an interdisciplinary leadership group which represents the mission of research in obstetrics in gynecology.

In addition to the GO’s and OG’s you have several other organizations that may be important to you. You have your State Medical Boards; the RRC (Residency Review Committee) which accredits your residency for the ACGME (Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education); and the AMA (American Medical Association) which is the political organization representing physicians nationally. You also should be aware of the AAMC which is the American Association of Medical Colleges who accredits medical schools and also provides significant faculty development opportunities.

So you can see from all of the above that the OG’s and GO’s can be confusing and hopefully the above will serve as a tool to help you plan your future. If you have further questions, please reach out and we can try to help you navigate.

