

# **S S Ratnam - Young Gynaecologist Award and the AOCOG 2017 Fellowship Program**

## **Background**

### **1. Objective**

The S S Ratnam - Young Gynaecologist Award (SSR – YGA) enables promising young obstetricians and gynaecologists from all the member countries of the Asia and Oceania region to attend the congress of the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOFOG, or the Federation) which are usually held biennially.

The participation of young gynaecologists:

1. provides them an opportunity to update knowledge and skills of obstetrics, gynaecology and reproductive biology.
2. promotes social interaction between them, their peers and other delegates.
3. provides an insight into the functioning of the Federation by encouraging attendance at General Assembly session.

All these help to prepare them to become future leaders of their national societies (NS) of obstetricians and gynaecologists and hence of the Federation. The criteria of selection provided to the NS reflects this hope.

### **2. History of the Award**

It was instituted in 1991 during the presidency of Professor Masahiko Mizuno through the support of the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and subsequently supported by donor agencies and member societies on a voluntary basis. Ten years later in 2001, it was renamed the SS Ratnam - Young Gynaecologists Award in memory of Emeritus Professor S. S. Ratnam, who was the President Elect of the AOFOG at the time of his demise and who had been its Secretary General for 21 years.

### **3. The Award**

On the year of the award, AOFOG provides the awardee with free economy airfare, registration fee and allowance for board and lodging. The awardee is given free registration for the next congress but he/she must now pay for his/her airfare and accommodations.

### **4. Guidelines on YGA selection**

Each NS is required to submit at least 3 candidates for consideration together with their curriculum vitae and full papers. Upon receipt of all the nominations and full papers, the Secretariat will transmit them to the committee (chaired by the President-Elect) which is given 2 months to do the pre-screening for 10 best papers.

The final list of the YGAs shall be given to the host society three (3) months prior to the Congress date.

On the presentation of the papers at the congress, the 10 best selected papers will be presented at a plenary session in the congress whereas other submitted papers will be presented like free communication. The two best presentations are selected for with a cash award c/o M/s Organon.

### **5. Activities of the YGAs in AOFOG Congresses**

During the Congress, the Young Gynaecologists Awardees present their papers at a special session.

They could participate in all congress workshops and other clinical activities. They shall take part in all the social events, attend sessions of the General Assembly and in some instances can represent their NS at the council meetings.

They are awarded certificates of attendance during the President's night. Representatives of all the donors are invited to the ceremony so that they could be thanked personally for their support and could interact with the YGAs and assess how well their contribution has been spent. During the ceremony several previous YGAs narrate their achievements in academic and at their National Societies.

### **6. Eligibility of a YGA:**

To qualify, the Young Gynaecologists must

1. be under 40 years of age;
2. have made a significant contribution to his/her NS;
3. demonstrate leadership qualities.

## **AOCOG 2017 Fellowship Program**

- Linked to the SSR – YGA Program
- Targeting young and promising ObGyn's from AOFOG member nations
- AOFOG to nominate, based on existing criteria for YGS Program
- Tentatively 1 Fellow per member nation
- Maximum 22 Fellows (more than 1 Fellow is allowed from 1 member nation if space available)

## **Proposed Program**

### **1. Theme**

- “Merging traditional and modern medicine, from the past, present and to the future”

### **2. Features**

- Each fellow will go through a self-selected period (2-3 days) of clinical attachment followed by a series of group activities
- Duration: a period of 3-8 days before the AOCOG 2017 Meeting at the choice of the Fellows (*any fellows can start on anyday between 7-12 June 2017*)
- Objectives: choice of different streams depending on the interest of the Fellows
- Opportunity to expose to different health care system in Hong Kong
- Introduction to Fellows concept and practice of traditional Chinese medicine
- Incorporated with group activities to promote interaction, friendship among fellows

### **3. Details**

Clinical attachment (2-3 days):

- Choice of subspecialties: gynaecology oncology, maternal fetal medicine, urogynaecology, reproductive medicine and general ObGyn
- Choice of duration: 2-3 days
- Attachments as clinical observers in different hospital setting: government-funded, private, university-affiliated
- Opportunity to expose to traditional Chinese medicine setting: attachment to Chinese Medicine Clinic (to be confirmed)
- Special clinic attachment to, Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic, Medical and Child Health Unit, etc (to be confirmed)

Group activities (2-3 days):

- Visits: Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Simulation Center, Hong Kong Medical Museum, HKU-Shenzhen Hospital (*needs valid China Entry visa*), etc
- Gathering for feedback and experience sharing (on 14 June)
- Fellowship dinner (tentative on 14 June)
- Potential others to be arranged

Optional activities:

- Social activities to be arranged during the weekend on 10-11 June.

### **4. Participating hospitals (Tentative list)**

- 8 Hospitals under Hospital Authority
- HKU-Shenzhen Hospital
- Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital

### **5. Commitments**

Our commitments:

- Accommodation during Fellowship period (6-14 June 2017, 9 nights - maximum)
- Dinner during days with Fellowship activities (7-9, 12-14 June)
- Lunch during days with Fellowship activities (7-9, 12-14 June)
- Program arrangement
- Site transfers
- Arrival airport transfers