

# CONNECT



December 2025 (Issue 1, Council 2025/2026)

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Malaysian Gynaecologist  
Crowned Global “TopGun”  
Honour in Minimal Access  
Surgery at World  
Laparoscopy Hospital

OGSM AT XXV FIGO  
WORLD CONGRESS 2025

Mastering Fetal Brain &  
Spine Neurosonogram

## Malaysia's First FIGO President-Elect

A publication by the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia

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# From the President

Dear Esteemed Members,

It is my pleasure to address you in this edition of our Society's Newsletter. As we move forward together, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished so far and how these efforts continue to strengthen our community.

Over the past six months, the new council in our society has remained committed to supporting our members through education, professional development, and meaningful collaboration. We have organised a series of high-quality academic events, including webinars, clinical updates, further planning to have case discussions, and hands-on workshops with our sister Societies in the coming months. These sessions have not only enhanced our collective knowledge but have also provided valuable platforms for sharing experiences and best practices.

We have also expanded networking opportunities by hosting member engagement sessions and interdisciplinary forums locally as well as internationally.

These gatherings have allowed us to build stronger connections within our field, encourage mentorship, and create a more supportive environment for both senior practitioners and those early in their careers.



Dr. RM Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran  
President Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia

In response to feedback from our members, we have introduced new initiatives aimed at improving accessibility to resources. This includes providing online educational materials, strengthening our communication channels, and ensuring that our society remains a reliable source of current information in women's health and gynaecological care.

Behind the scenes, our committees have been working tirelessly to ensure that the society remains vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking. Their dedication has enabled us to continue advancing our mission and serving our members with pride.

As we look ahead, I am confident that with your continued participation and support, we will reach even greater milestones. Together, we will strengthen our speciality, elevate the standard of care, and create an enduring legacy for future generations of gynaecology professionals.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Ravi Chandran on his election as the President-Elect of the International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics (FIGO), Dr Sevellaraja Supermaniam for receiving the APAGE Lifetime Achievement Award in Gynae Endoscopy given by Asia-Pacific Association for Gynecologic Endoscopy and Minimally Invasive Therapy (APAGE) and Dr Suresh Kumarasamy for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in Gynae Oncology from the Asian Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

These appointments and awards bring immense pride to OGSM and represent a milestone moment for the Malaysian obstetrics and gynaecology fraternity.

Last but not least, thank you for your commitment, your enthusiasm, and your trust in our society.

Warm regards,

Dr RM Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran  
President  
Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Malaysia

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**MAKING DIAGNOSIS MOLECULAR**



# Every Drop Counts: The Breastfeeding Advocacy Column

## Promoting Evidence, Empowerment, and Equity for Mothers and Babies



**Dr. Chua Wang Ching**  
IBCLC, O&G Specialist,  
KPJ Sentosa Kuala Lumpur  
Specialist Hospital.

### The Composition of Human Milk – Nature's Personalised Superfood

In every golden drop of breastmilk lies a living miracle. It is not merely food; it is a sophisticated, biologically active fluid that evolves, adapts, and communicates with an infant's developing body. Far more than a simple combination of macronutrients, human milk delivers a dynamic cocktail of immunologic, hormonal, and microbiome-shaping components, making it one of the most complex and intelligent substances in nature.

### A Dynamic, Living Fluid

Think of breast milk not as a static recipe, but as personalised medicine that changes in realtime. Its composition is exquisitely tuned to the baby's immediate needs:

- **From Feed to Feed:** The foremilk quenches thirst with higher water content, while the richer hindmilk delivers fat, calories, and satiety hormones to ensure weight gain and satisfaction.
- **Based on Gestational Age:** Milk produced for a premature baby contains higher levels of protein, antibodies, and fats specifically tailored to support rapid brain and immune system development outside the womb.
- **A Response to Illness:** Fascinating research suggests that when a baby is unwell, feedback through their saliva during nursing may signal the mother's body to ramp up the production of leukocytes (white blood cells) and specific antibodies, effectively customising the milk's immune properties.
- **The First Medicine:** Colostrum: The thick, early milk—"liquid gold"—is concentrated with secretory IgA, lactoferrin, leukocytes, and stem cells. It acts as a protective sealant for the newborn's gut, creating a first line of defence against pathogens.





The Bioactive Powerhouses in Every Drop

The true magic of human milk lies in its bioactive components, which formula cannot replicate. These elements work in concert to protect, regulate, and build the infant’s systems.

Category	Key Components	Primary Function
Immune Factors	sIgA, Lactoferrin, Lysozyme, Cytokines	Protect against infection; line and seal the gut to prevent pathogen entry.
Hormones & Enzymes	Leptin, Ghrelin, Adiponectin, Insulin	Regulate appetite, metabolism, and energy balance, influencing long-term health.
Prebiotics & Probiotics	Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs), Bifidobacteria	Feed beneficial gut bacteria, shaping a healthy microbiome for immune function.
Growth Factors	EGF, IGF, TGF-β	Support the maturation of the intestines and foster healthy brain development.
Stem Cells	Pluripotent Cells	(Emerging Research) May integrate into infant tissues, contributing to repair and development.
MicroRNAs	Epigenetic Molecules	Modulate gene expression, fine-tuning the infant’s immune and metabolic systems.

Breastmilk as the Chief Architect of the Microbiome

Breastfeeding plants the seeds of a baby’s lifelong gut ecosystem. The remarkable HMOs, which are indigestible by the infant, serve as premium prebiotic fuel for beneficial bacteria like Bifidobacterium. This process lays the foundation for a robust immune system and is linked to a lower incidence of conditions like eczema, asthma, and allergies.

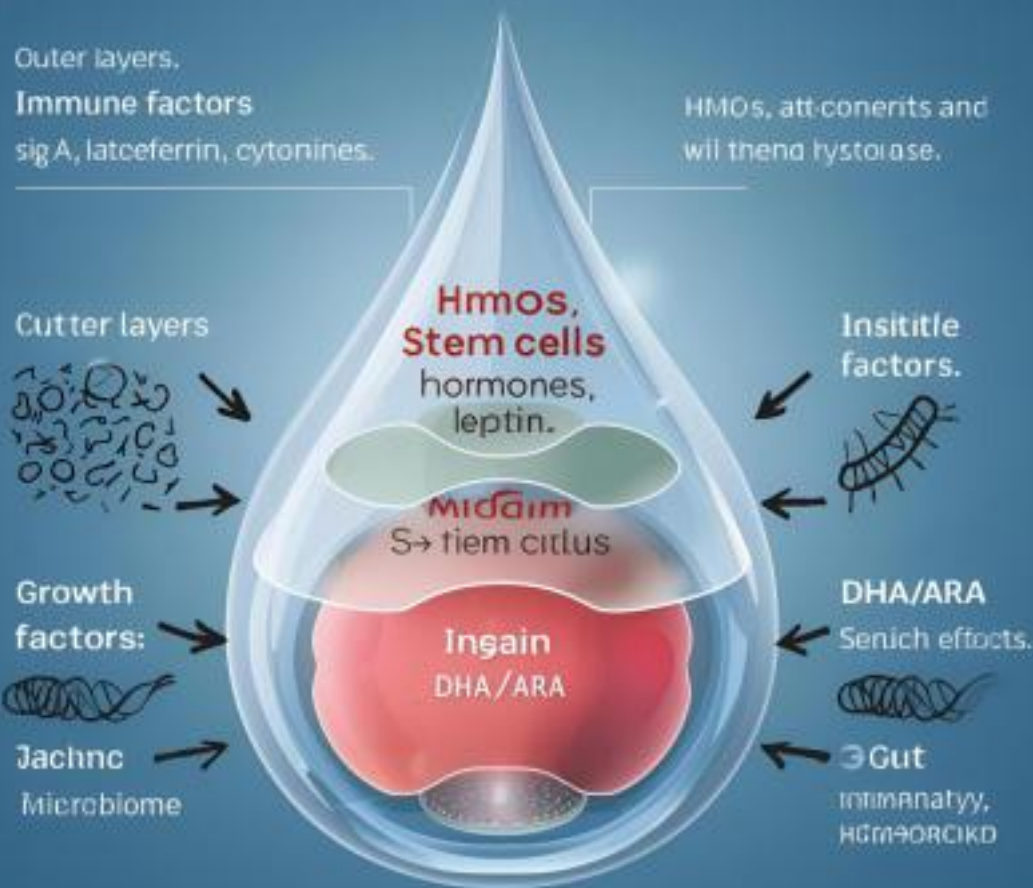
The Foundational Nutrition

- Of course, breastmilk is also complete nutrition. It provides:
- **Proteins:** Like easily digested α-lactalbumin.
  - **Carbohydrates:** Primarily lactose for energy and gut health.
  - **Fats:** Essential fatty acids (DHA, ARA) crucial for brain and retinal development.
  - **Vitamins & Minerals:** Tailored to the baby’s developmental needs for the first six months of life and beyond.

“What’s Inside a Drop of Nature’s Superfood?”

- Immune Cells (sIgA, Leukocytes) → Baby’s Immunity & Gut
- HMOs (Oligosaccharides) → Baby’s Gut Microbiome
- Hormones (Leptin, Ghrelin) → Baby’s Metabolism & Appetite
- Growth Factors (EGF, IGF) → Baby’s Brain & Intestines
- DHA/ARA Fats → Baby’s Brain & Eye Development
- Stem Cells & MicroRNAs → Baby’s Overall Development & Gene Regulation

# What's inside Breastmilk?



## Every Drop Counts

To my fellow clinicians: Let us remember that breast milk is not a standardised nutrient solution. It is a dynamic, living biological system — a mother's unique signature, perfectly adapted to her baby's evolving needs. Our role is to protect and promote this incredible biological process.

To every mother: your body creates what your baby needs. Each feed is a powerful, personalised dose of protection, connection, and lifelong health. Whether you provide a few drops or years of milk, you are giving a gift that science is still striving to fully understand.

**Stay tuned for our next issue:** *"Navigating the First Hour — The Golden Window for Breastfeeding."*

### Suggested Reading & References

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# Making History: Malaysia's First FIGO President-Elect



## *Congratulations*



### **Dr. Ravi Chandran**

**President-Elect,  
FIGO 2025-2027**

The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) proudly congratulates Dr. Ravi Chandran on his election as President-Elect of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

This remarkable achievement is a testament to Dr. Ravi's exceptional leadership, dedication, and long-standing contributions to the fraternity. His election brings immense pride to OGSM and represents a milestone moment for the Malaysian obstetrics and gynaecology fraternity.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Ravi Chandran as he takes on this prestigious international role in shaping the future of women's health.

OGSM Council 2025/2026

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM)



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**Dr. P. Kannappan**  
President Elect & Organising Chairman  
33rd International Congress of the  
Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society  
of Malaysia

# 33rd International Congress of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM)

Greetings,

The Organising Committee for the 33rd International Congress of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia (OGSM) officially commenced its work, a month ago.

We are excited to announce that the congress will return to Kuala Lumpur next year, hosted at the prestigious One World Hotel from 9 to 12 July 2026. This year's theme, "Thriving Together: Integrating Sustainability into Women's Health Practices," highlights the vital importance of collaboration in ensuring women receive continuous, comprehensive healthcare throughout their lives.

Meet the Organising Committee:

**Scientific Chairman:** Prof. Dr. Mukhri Hamdan

**Business Manager:** Dr. Vicky Ho Miaw Ping

**Finance Manager:** Dr. Rama Krishna Kumar

**Pre/Post-Congress Symposium Coordinator:** Dr. Tan Gaik Imm

**Publicity and Website:** Dato' Dr. Krishna Kumar

**Abstract Management and Free Communications:** Dr. Voon Hian Yan

**Social Programme:** Dr. Vijayan Velayutham

**Programme Manager:** Dr Farah Azura Ab. Rahman

**OGSM Secretariat**

Following a thorough review of feedback from the recent congress held in Penang, we have carefully analysed both the praise and the challenges shared by our members. This invaluable input is guiding us as we move forward. To better tailor the scientific programme, we have already begun gathering our members' opinions on preferred topics and potential speakers.

## **Challenges and Commitments:**

One of the major challenges we face is the rising cost of organising a large-scale congress. Additionally, 2026 will be a busy year with many other scientific meetings scheduled locally and across the region. Venue costs have increased by 50% since 2022, and we remain sensitive to the economic difficulties confronting our loyal sponsors. Despite these obstacles, we are committed to maintaining a high-quality scientific and social programme at a nominal rate for our members. We are also exploring innovative ways to provide greater value and engagement opportunities for our sponsors.

OGSM pledges to keep all members regularly informed about the progress of the event, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming you to what promises to be a stimulating and memorable Congress next year.

Best regards,

**Dr. P. Kannappan**  
Organising Chairman and President Elect

# Mastering Fetal Brain & Spine Neurosonogram



**Dr Lim Chai Hong**  
Medical Officer  
Hospital Serdang

The Auditorium at Hospital Sultan Idris Shah (HSIS), Serdang, became a centre of international collaboration and learning with the International MFM Course 2.0: Mastering Fetal Brain & Spine Neurosonogram from 9 to 10 August 2025. This highly anticipated event brought together 41 participants, including two from Vietnam, reflecting the programme's growing regional significance.

The two-day course was led by a distinguished faculty of experts: Dr. B.S. Rama Murthy (Consultant Radiologist & Fetal Medicine Specialist, Bangalore, India), Dr. Rachita Ramamurthy (Consultant Radiologist, Bangalore, India), Prof. Madya Dr. Hasyma Abu Hassan (Consultant Radiologist, Universiti Putra Malaysia), and Prof. Dr. Dharmendra A/L Ganesan (Neurosurgeon, UM Specialist Centre).

Their teaching was not only insightful but also engaging. Each session was characterised by active two-way communication, with speakers encouraging questions, clarifying details, and ensuring that participants were fully immersed in the learning experience. This dynamic approach made the programme more than just a series of lectures—it became a conversation, an exchange of knowledge, and a shared journey towards mastering complex prenatal diagnoses.

Over the course of the weekend, participants were guided through intricate aspects of fetal brain and spine neurosonography. From normal anatomy to the most challenging congenital anomalies, the content was rich, clinically relevant, and brought to life through live demonstrations and hands-on workshops.

A major highlight this year was the practical workstation sessions — a brand-new addition to the programme. To ensure a seamless experience, the IT team provided remote live support before the course, assisting participants with software installation on their personal laptops, which was available for one month of use. Participants also had the option to use their own laptops or rent devices. This innovation allowed them to fully immerse themselves in exploring different planes and views of fetal scans, closely replicating real-life practice.

The feedback from participants spoke volumes about the success of the programme. Many described the speakers as exceptional — interactive, approachable, and deeply knowledgeable. The course was praised for offering excellent value, not only for the depth of information provided but also for the practical skills acquired.





Participants appreciated the quality of the sessions, the engaging teaching style, and even noted that the food catering contributed positively to the overall experience. Of course, no event is without its minor limitations, with the most common remark being that the auditorium was uncomfortably cold at times.

In the end, the International MFM Course 2.0 achieved what it set out to do: to empower healthcare professionals with the skills and confidence to detect fetal brain and spine anomalies earlier and more accurately. More importantly, it fostered a spirit of collaboration that extended beyond Malaysia's borders, building bridges with colleagues in Vietnam and beyond.

This was more than a course; it was a testament to the power of interactive teaching, global expertise, and a shared mission to improve prenatal care. As participants left Serdang with sharper skills and renewed inspiration, one thing was clear — together, we are shaping a brighter future for maternal and fetal health.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organisers. Dr. Vairavan Ramesh, a renowned MFM consultant at Hospital Serdang, together with Dr. Ravichandran, the President of the MFM Society, Dato' Bava, the Treasurer of the MFM Society, and Dr. Arlies Chua, an O&G specialist with a deep interest in MFM and detailed scans, who provided the leadership and dedication that made this course possible.

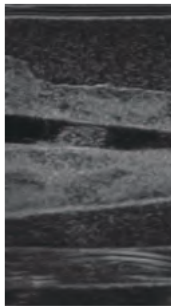
We also sincerely thank our sponsors, GE Voluson, Cytogenomix, Pantal Premier, and DNA Lab, for their generous support in advancing maternal-fetal medicine education.



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# MFM Subcommittee Report (2024-2025)



**Dr T P Baskaran**

Chairperson  
OGSM MFM Sub Committee  
(2024-2026)

The main activity of the MFM Subcommittee was organising and conducting a free monthly webinar series entitled 'The Fetal Physician Series.' This was held under the banner of the OGSM Academy.

The presentations in this series were as follows:

1. 'Fetal Obstructive Uropathy: Dr S Suresh (21.02.2025)
2. 'Fetal Intracranial Cystic Lesions: Site, Size and Sequence': Dr Sudheer Gokhale (21.03.2025)
3. 'Portal System Anomalies: 'Deciphering the code X': Dr Bijoy K Balakrishnan (18.04.2025)
4. 'Fetal Spine: Deviation from the Norm': Dr. Lakshmy Ravi Selvaraj (23.05.2025)
5. 'Different Facets of the Face': Dr Nitin Chaubal (20.06.2025)

The proposed future programmes / activities of this subcommittee include:

1. Continuation of the Free Webinars. These will be held as usual on the 3rd Friday of each month
2. Industry-sponsored webinars, with topics to be related to MFM issues
3. One-day workshops/ seminars:
  - a) Early Pregnancy Issues
  - b) Fetal biometry and Growth Pattern Disorders
  - c) The third trimester scan
  - d) NIPT: is it changing the care of the first trimester pregnancy care?
4. The Fetal Case Book: Diagnosis, Discussion, Decision (2 days)

I conclude this report by highlighting that members who wish to conduct regional MFM activities may contact me directly or through OGSM.

Dr T P Baskaran  
Chairperson  
OGSM MFM Sub Committee (2024-2026)



# OGSM AT XXV FIGO WORLD CONGRESS 2025

**Prof Nazimah Idris**  
OGSM Past President, OGSM  
Representative to FIGO Council  
and FIGO Women Facing Crisis  
Committee Member

XXV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics took place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa from 5-9 October 2025.

Cape Town is a beautiful port city of about 5 million people, located on South Africa's southwest coast, on a peninsula beneath the imposing Table Mountain. From the mountain's flat summit there are sweeping views of the city, the busy harbor and boats heading for Robben Island, the notorious prison that once held Nelson Mandela. Known as the 'Mother City', Cape Town is celebrated for its natural beauty, cultural diversity, and community spirit.

One of the biggest attractions in Cape Town is Table Mountain National Park, a natural World Heritage Site, and one of the New 7 Wonders of the world. This national park is a haven of magnificent mountains that plunge into crystal seas fringed with bleached white sands of the Cape Peninsula. It stretches 70km from Signal Hill and Table Mountain in the north to Cape Point in the south and encompasses a Marine Protected Area and many of the beaches around the Peninsula. The park forms part of the Cape Floral Kingdom and is home to many interesting animals and thousands of exquisite plants and tree species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Visiting these sites is a must for all visitors, and we had a lovely experience exploring their beauty. We found the city to be clean, safe and filled with friendly people. I especially love the Oranjezicht City Farm Market, the largest market of its kind in Cape Town. Supporting over 40 local farmers and 80 artisanal food traders, it is a hub for promoting local food systems and innovative retail practices.



FIGO World Congress 2025 was set as a global platform for participating delegates and organisations to learn, share, exchange ideas, build alliances and propose solutions to the challenges facing women and girls' health and rights. This year, over 8,000 delegates including local, regional and international thought leaders came together at FIGO 2025 with the intention of advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology.

OGSM was represented by the President Dr. R.M. Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran, Honorary Treasurer Dr Rama Krishna Kumar Krishnamurthy and Past President Prof Dr Nazimah Idris who is also OGSM Representative to FIGO Council. Dr Ravi



## XXV FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics

5-9 October 2025

Cape Town International Convention Centre



Chandran, who is an OGSM Past President, is a member of FIGO Board of Trustee as the Honorary Secretary.

Among the highlights of FIGO 2025 were:

1. The launch of the WHO-FIGO-ICM Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Postpartum Haemorrhage at FIGO President's Session on 5 October 2025. Through these guidelines, leading reproductive health agencies are calling for a major shift in how postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is prevented, diagnosed and treated. The recommendations highlight the urgent need for earlier detection and faster intervention – steps that could save the lives of tens of thousands of women each year. The guidelines advise on the use of calibrated drapes and recommend the immediate deployment of the EMOTIVE bundle of actions once PPH has been diagnosed.
2. The Pregnancy Passport. This is an innovative tool to provide tailored intervention in the postpartum period. The pregnancy passport facilitates screening and planning for the optimal management of women who have had complications, such as hypertensive disorders or gestational diabetes during pregnancy. The FIGO Pregnancy Passport enables women to record their background, pregnancy information and pregnancy-related cardiometabolic risk indicators in a simple document. It also supplies information on the impact of pregnancy complications on future health, along with appropriate interventions to reduce such risks. In addition, the passport includes recommended tests and schedules for monitoring women within the first 12 months after delivery, which should enhance their participation in postpartum intervention programmes. This is hoped to lead to better future health and pregnancy outcomes.
3. Women Facing Crises Committee and Violence Against Women march. This committee acts as the global voice for women's health and focuses on the multitude of crises affecting women around the world. It aims to work with organisations and societies to build capacity of health care providers, identify vulnerable populations and recognise their needs. The committee supports and delivers rights-based approach to provide access to reproductive and sexual health care across the world. The Chair is Dr Margit Endler from Sweden







and Prof Nazimah Idris is a committee member. At FIGO 2025, this committee organised the Violence Against Women march (The DHEERA March). The march united delegates from around the world to say, 'No Means No' and advocate for women's safety, dignity, and respect. Participants wore orange shawls to indicate their support to the cause.

4. Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths. Prof Nazimah shared Malaysian data on preventable maternal deaths between 2018-2023 and invited discussions on the subject at the e-poster tour session on the second day of the congress. On average, our maternal mortality ratio is around 25 per 100 000 live births and the preventable maternal deaths made up about 70% of all maternal deaths. Professor Eliana Amaral from Brazil who was the moderator of the session acknowledged the challenges in further reducing the maternal mortality rates when the rates are already quite low. It was suggested that maternal near misses be studied together with maternal deaths to better identify preventable factors.
5. Impact of decreasing fertility rates. Globally, the average number of births per woman over a lifetime has declined from around five in the 1950s and 1960s to slightly above two in 2024. Current projections from the United Nations indicate that global fertility will reach the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman by 2050, much faster than the earlier expectation of 2073, and will reach below replacement level at 1.8 births per woman by 2100. Decreasing fertility rates have led to closure of schools and maternity services.

The big question is, will it also cause 'death' of obstetrics as a specialty?

6. FIGO General Assembly and Election of office bearers. FIGO 2025 witnessed Dr Ravi Chandran, Past President of OGSM and Honorary Secretary of FIGO stood for the election of FIGO Board of Trustees as President Elect and won. The three votes allocated to OGSM were used wisely and we are most pleased with the outcome. This is a first for Malaysia and we are very proud of this achievement. We wish Professor Frank Louwen, FIGO President and Dr Ravi as the President-Elect all the best in leading FIGO to greater heights. Malaysia, represented by OGSM, will continue to be in the role as council member until 2027.

Overall, it was a very productive outing by OGSM at the XXV FIGO World Congress. Moving forward, we hope to continue our effective contributions toward the health of women and girls worldwide.





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# Malaysian Gynaecologist Crowned Global “TopGun” Honour in Minimal Access Surgery at World Laparoscopy Hospital

Exemplifying skill, focus, and perseverance, **Dr Chua Wang Ching (Arlies)**, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist from **KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital**, has placed Malaysia on the global surgical map by winning the prestigious **TopGun Award** in the **Diploma in Minimal Access Surgery (D.MAS)** programme. The course was organized by the **World Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons (WALS)** at the renowned **World Laparoscopy Hospital**, Gurugram, India.

Competing among **41 international surgeons and gynaecologists** from over 15 countries, Dr Arlies achieved an exceptional feat with an impressive **7 minutes 30 seconds** completion time in the **Objective Skills Clinical Examination (OSCE)** — the **fastest performance in the entire cohort**, far surpassing the average timing of other candidates. Her precision, composure, and surgical mastery stood out as the embodiment of excellence in advanced laparoscopic training.

The **TopGun** recognition is awarded to the single best-performing candidate, celebrating superior technical prowess in **laparoscopic suturing, knotting, ergonomics, and energy safety** under high-pressure evaluation.

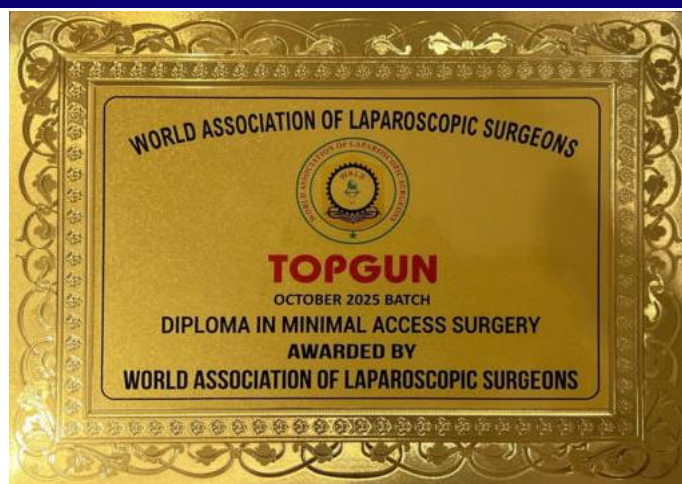
“Winning the *TopGun* title was both humbling and empowering,” Dr Arlies reflected.

“This experience deepened my appreciation for precision, patience, and safety in minimal access surgery. I hope this inspires more Malaysian gynaecologists to strive for international excellence.”



**Dr. Chua Wang Ching**  
IBCLC, O&G Specialist,  
KPJ Sentosa Kuala Lumpur  
Specialist Hospital.

Global Recognition,  
Malaysian Pride





### A Global Surge in Minimal Access Surgery

The recognition of Dr Arlies' TopGun achievement comes at a time when minimal access surgery (MAS) is undergoing remarkable global expansion and innovation.

Over the past two decades, MAS — encompassing laparoscopic, endoscopic, and robotic techniques — has revolutionised the surgical landscape by replacing large incisions with small keyhole approaches that minimise trauma, pain, and recovery time.

Globally, the minimal access surgery market continues to demonstrate rapid growth. According to MarketsandMarkets, the MIS market was valued at approximately US \$81.6 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach US \$94.4 billion by 2025, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16 % between 2025 and 2030.

Other reports, such as Data Bridge Market Research, estimate the 2024 figure at US \$47.5 billion, predicting it will rise to US \$89.8 billion by 2032.

Despite differing methodologies, these data consistently point toward a strong global transition from conventional open surgery to minimally invasive and robotic-assisted approaches, driven by patient demand for quicker recovery, lower complication rates, and enhanced cosmetic outcomes.

In the field of gynaecology, MAS has become a cornerstone of modern practice. A 2021 review by Levy et al. highlighted that laparoscopic surgery “has been widely adopted in gynecology because of numerous benefits compared with open surgery,” including reduced postoperative pain, shorter hospital stay, minimal scarring, and faster return to normal activities (Levy et al.,

Recent Advances in Benign Gynecological Laparoscopic Surgery, 2021).

The evolution of single-site laparoscopy and mini-laparoscopic instrumentation has further expanded the surgeon's ability to perform complex procedures through smaller incisions while maintaining precision and safety. At the same time, the advent of robotic-assisted laparoscopy has marked a new era in surgical precision and ergonomics.

A 2023 comparative review by Patel et al. described how robotics offers enhanced three-dimensional vision, tremor filtration, and articulated wristed instruments, allowing for more refined dissection and suturing in confined pelvic spaces (Patel et al., Surgical Frontiers: A Comparative Review of Robotics in Gynecologic Surgery, 2023).

However, the authors also cautioned that the technology brings considerations of cost, operative time, and learning curve — highlighting the importance of structured training such as that provided by WALs.

The global diffusion of advanced technology in surgery has been striking.

A large multicentre study in the United States demonstrated that robotic surgery usage rose from 1.8 % to 15.1 % between 2012 and 2018 across a wide range of surgical disciplines, reflecting how swiftly new technology has integrated into daily surgical practice (Sheetz et al., JAMA Network Open, 2020).

This acceleration aligns with the growing emphasis on precision medicine, patient safety, and surgeon ergonomics — all of which define the modern principles of MAS.



Dr Chua Wang Ching (Arlies), Consultant O&G, KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital, receiving the prestigious TopGun Award in Minimal Access Surgery at the World Laparoscopy Hospital, India.



The 2025 International Batch of the Diploma in Minimal Access Surgery at World Laparoscopy Hospital — 41 surgeons and gynaecologists from 15 countries united by one goal: mastering precision in minimal access surgery.

For surgeons and gynaecologists alike, the advantages of minimal access surgery are multifaceted:

- Reduced postoperative pain and blood loss, leading to less dependence on analgesics.
- Shorter hospitalisation and faster recovery, allowing earlier return to daily activities and work.
- Lower infection and adhesion rates, improving reproductive and surgical outcomes.
- Enhanced cosmetic, with small incisions leading to minimal scarring.
- Improved visualisation, as high-definition and magnified views allow for meticulous dissection even in complex anatomy.

In this global context, Dr Arlies' success is more than an individual milestone— it symbolises Malaysia's participation in a global transformation of surgical care.

**Mastery in Practice: From Wet-Lab to Live Surgery**  
Throughout the Fellowship and Diploma in Minimal Access Surgery (F.MAS & D.MAS) training, Dr Arlies demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication. She mastered a comprehensive range of procedures, including **laparoscopic myomectomy, total laparoscopic hysterectomy, salpingostomy, salpingectomy, tubal recanalization, cystectomy, bowel repair, hysteroscopy (polypectomy, myomectomy, TCRE), Burch suspension, hysteropexy, and sacrocolpopexy.**

Her extensive **wet-lab practice on porcine models** refined her precision, hand-eye coordination, and

instrument coordination, while her active participation as assistant in **numerous live surgeries** provided invaluable exposure to real-world operative challenges. These experiences fortified her capabilities in both routine and complex minimal access gynecologic surgery.

**Significance for Malaysian O&G & the Regional Surgical Community**

Dr Arlies' top-ranking performance, reflecting not just a personal achievement but is a landmark moment for Malaysia's O&G fraternity. It underscores Malaysia's growing sophistication in minimally invasive techniques and sends a strong signal of the country's potential on the global surgical stage.

Her success also serves as an inspiration for colleagues across the region: through disciplined training, adoption of advanced techniques and engagement with global standards, surgeons and gynecologists in Southeast Asia can continue to elevate the level of care delivered to patients.

#### About the Award

The **TopGun Award** by the **World Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons (WALS)** recognises the top-performing participant from each international D.MAS batch, acknowledging surgical excellence, efficiency, and composure.

**Dr Chua Wang Ching (Arlies)** now stands among an elite circle of global surgeons who have demonstrated mastery and innovation in advanced laparoscopic surgery — bringing distinguished honour to Malaysia and **KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital.**



# PIX1

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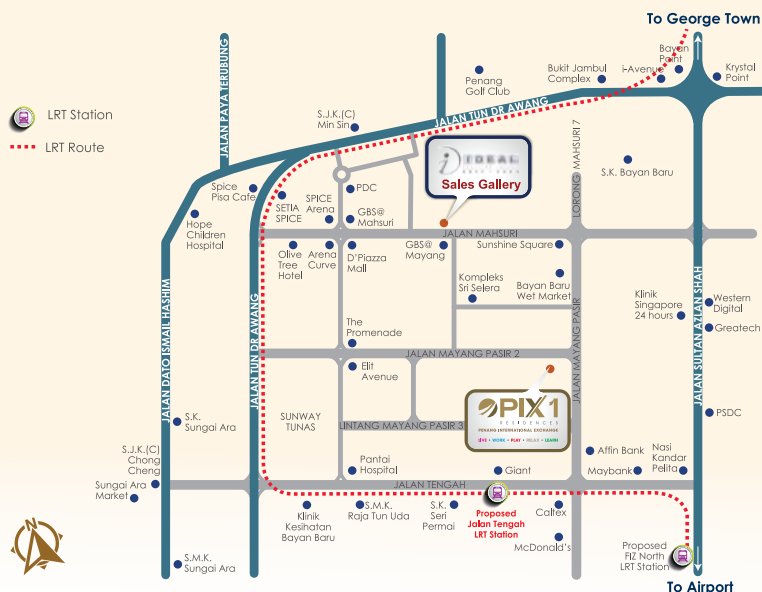
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Artist's Impression



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13th October 2025

# JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Radiology fraternities, together with the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), are deeply concerned about the rapid rise of unlicensed ultrasound centres across Malaysia.

These centres are actively advertising their services via social media. There is a wide range of services being offered, many of which should be performed by trained medical specialists.

At present, many of these centres are operated by sonographers who remain unregulated. There is currently no legislation or provision under the Medical Act that permits this practice.

As a result, these unregulated, and unlicensed practitioners are able to evade legal action. This situation raises serious medicolegal issues and, more importantly, poses significant patient safety risks and concerns.

Worryingly, many of these individuals often practice without any medical supervision. We, as concerned and caring professionals, urge the public not to be misled by these centres that appear to provide highly specialised ultrasound scans at lower costs. These services may provide a wrong diagnosis which can alarm a patient unnecessarily or worse still delay urgent treatment.

They may also give a false sense of security and well-being, while lacking the quality, accuracy, and accountability that patients rightly deserve.

It is our strong and concerted view that:

\*Detailed screening, diagnosis for fetal anomalies in pregnancy, follicular tracking and more detailed ultrasound for infertility management should be done by Qualified Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists & Fertility Specialists respectively.

\*Specialised and targeted scans—such as breast and thyroid lesion characterisation, tumour assessments in abdominal organs,

and musculoskeletal evaluations—should remain within the expertise of radiologists. These can be performed by trained sonographers strictly under a radiologist's supervision and not on their own. All formal ultrasound reports (apart from targeted specialised ultrasound by respective subspecialties) should be authorised by radiologists.

\*General Practitioners (GPs) with appropriate training in Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS), may perform basic and focused scans, including but not limited to routine checks in low-risk pregnancies, simple gynaecological conditions, basic abdominal scans, and targeted assessments of lumps, bumps, and soft tissue swellings. These are preliminary assessments intended to guide patient care, and any complex or uncertain findings must be referred to the relevant specialist for full evaluation. Complex, inconclusive or high-risk findings from an initial scan must be referred to a higher level of specialist care for definitive diagnosis and management.

Our patients deserve the highest standard of medical care and the assurance of their welfare. To safeguard patient welfare and uphold the highest standards of medical care, we call on the authorities to urgently address this regulatory gap, and we advise the public to seek ultrasound services only from appropriately trained and accredited medical professionals.

We stand united as one, with a single voice, and we want this practice to STOP immediately.

**Dr RM Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran**  
President of Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society Of Malaysia

**Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo**  
President Of Malaysian Medical Association

**Dr Farhana Fadzi**  
President of College of Radiology  
Academy of Medicine of Malaysia



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Tel : 603-88831039

Rujukan Kami : KKM.87/A9/7/34 Jld 5 (35)  
Tarikh : 18 September 2025

Senarai Edaran.

YBhg. Datuk/Dato'/Tuan/Puan,

### **CHARGING PROTOCOL FOR MYOMECTOMY PROCEDURE**

Dengan hormatnya perkara diatas dirujuk.

2. Untuk makluman, Persatuan Obstetrik dan Ginekologi Malaysia (OGSM) telah membangkitkan isu *charging protocol for conventional myomectomy procedure* yang tidak dinyatakan dalam surat kami KKM.87/A9/7/34 Jld 5 (35) bertarikh 25hb Julai 2025.

3. Sehubungan itu, Bahagian ini telah mengemaskini dan telah dipersetujui oleh OGSM untuk *charging protocol for myomectomy procedure* seperti berikut:

<b>PROCEDURE</b>	<b>SURGEON FEE</b>	<b>ANAESTHETIST FEE</b>
<i>Myomectomy of a single fibroid, any method</i>	RM 2040	RM 760
<i>Myomectomy of two to four fibroids, through the same or different incision(s), any method</i>	RM 3100	RM 1815
<i>Myomectomy of five or more fibroids, through the same or different incision(s)</i>	RM 3600	RM 2110

4. Surat ini akan menggantikan surat kami KKM.87/A9/7/34 Jld 5 (34) bertarikh 25hb Julai 2025.

Sekian, terima kasih.

**"MALAYSIA MADANI"**

**"BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA"**

Saya yang menjalankan amanah,

**( DR. HIRMAN BIN ISMAIL )**

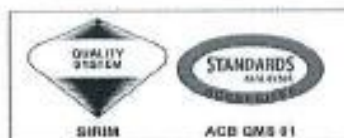
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Pengarah

Bahagian Amalan Perubatan

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia

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**SENARAI EDARAN:**

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 No. 2, Jalan Kiara, Mont Kiara  
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