Dear Colleagues

I enter the last year of my Presidency with plenty of activity in the next six months planned, including the much anticipated FIGO Regional Congress of Middle East and Africa in Dubai (11–13 April 2018). Please do visit www.figodubai2018.com to access all the details.

I visited Azerbaijan and Georgia – two of our smaller societies – in September. It was a tremendous experience for me, with mutually satisfying, excellent interaction. The warm welcome I received from both societies has reinforced my belief that FIGO needs to connect more extensively with them, to reassure them that they are certainly part of the FIGO ‘mainstream’, despite their smaller size.

The next stop was the United Nations’ General Assembly, in New York, where Johan and I attended many meetings, liaising with important NGOs and donors working in the field. Two particularly special meetings attended were the ‘She Decides’ initiative, and the ‘Global Financial Facility’, on behalf of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). Our visit was extremely productive, giving FIGO high visibility at the international level.

I travelled next to Moscow to attend a Russian Congress, which attracted over 5,000 delegates. It was a superb event where I gave a plenary address at the inauguration; the FIGO Fertility Toolbox™ was also showcased (www.fertilitytool.com). I was privileged to be given the status of Professor Emeritus of the National Research Centre for Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Perinatology. I offer sincere thanks to the organisers for their recognition and generous hospitality.

In the UK, I attended the PRE-EMPT annual
Keeping FIGO high on the global agenda – a busy end to 2017

continued from page 1

meeting (Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia, Monitoring, Prevention & Treatment) in London from 3–5 October 2017; I was invited by the women’s branch of the British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin to give a talk on leadership in Bristol the next day.

In mid-October, I attended two congresses – DOHaD (International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease) in Rotterdam, and the 12th Congress of the European Society of Gynecology, in Barcelona. In particular, the work of FIGO’s Working Group on Adolescent, Pre-conception and Maternal Nutrition was well appreciated at the DOHaD, which was attended by over 1,000 delegates.

The following week, I attended a meeting in Cairo – the ‘Merck Africa Luminary’, organised by the Merck Foundation, which was attended by many ministers and First Ladies of countries in the region. This was an extremely fruitful meeting, where FIGO’s global role was highlighted.

After Cairo, I travelled to Taipei, Taiwan, to attend the FIGO Urogynecology and Pelvic Floor Committee meeting, followed by the excellent APUGA (Asia-Pacific Urogynaecology Association) conference.

November was also extremely busy with a visit to Cairo to attend the 2nd Annual Conference of the Egyptian Society of Maternal and Fetal Medicine. I had a most welcome opportunity to meet up with Professor Mahmoud F Fathalla, an illustrious Past President of FIGO.

It was a long journey from there to Cancun, Mexico, where I attended the FLASOG (Federación Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Obstetricia y Ginecologia) Congress; a FIGO Officers’ Meeting was also held on-site. During the Congress, the joint FIGO-FLASOG Latin American Declaration on Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy was signed, and I also gave a plenary lecture on the subject. Afterwards, I stopped in Dubai for a government meeting regarding matters relating to FIGO’s forthcoming Dubai Congress.

The Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society held its Congress in Manila, on 17

November, which I attended as a plenary speaker.

On 25 November, Global Health Strategies held a meeting in New Delhi for a project on safe abortion in India, South Africa and Brazil – I represented FIGO in supporting the cause of safe abortion globally.

At the time of going to press, I am travelling to Abu Dhabi to attend the International Diabetes Federation Congress, where I will be signing a historic joint Declaration between FIGO and IDF on Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy.

Wishing you warm Season’s Greetings: a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes

Professor C N Purandare
FIGO President
2015–2018
Dear Colleagues and Friends

As the year draws to a close, there is reflection on the year that has passed and then looking over the horizon to what lies ahead. Women’s and infants’ health and wellbeing is a huge issue. Every day on my way to work, I think of the many women who are affected by abuse, inequality, rights issues, lack of services or support, and what FIGO can do to make a difference, particularly in the light of the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The solutions are not always easy. The reality is that women suffer the most in areas of conflict, unrest and poverty, and this is the reason why FIGO offers many key programmes in these countries.

For example, our Fistula programme in low-resource countries in Africa and Asia has helped over 5,000 women have life-changing surgery, restoring their dignity and reintegration into family life. And our FIGO Post-Partum IUD project in six countries has provided 34,885 women with a contraception option that might not otherwise be available.

Also, in high-income countries, there will be issues that impinge on women’s health and wellbeing. In Ireland and Chile, for example, the abortion law is very restricted and therefore limits women’s choice over their sexual and reproductive lives. FIGO, through its past and present leaders, is proud to have been involved in discussing these issues in-country, and has seen Chile liberalise its abortion law and Ireland call for a referendum on abortion.

Every country has a choice in how it allocates its limited resources in health and in women’s health in particular. Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a key World Health Organization (WHO) objective for all countries. Lobbying and advocating in-country is very important to help change policy outcomes, and FIGO is very committed to offering more support in 2018 to help support Member Societies to become stronger advocates.

FIGO is also richly served by many experts who dedicate their time and efforts on our various Committees and Working Groups covering our specialties. The Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health Committee (SMNH), for example, has been very proactive, with leading statements on important topics such as reversing the Caesarean Section Epidemic. The Cancer Staging app from the Gynecologic Oncology Committee is used around the world. Producing leading and authoritative statements on all aspects of obstetrics and gynecology reinforces FIGO’s leadership within our professional field. In 2018, FIGO will offer more support and improved guidelines to Committees and Working Groups to ensure our global leadership position is strengthened.

FIGO will strengthen its leadership as the global voice for women’s health. As a global body, we are in official relations with WHO, and have consultative status with the United Nations. This special relationship provides us with enhanced opportunities to have input into global policy. FIGO will be investing in strengthening its communication and advocacy functions in 2018 in order to be more outspoken, visible and engaged. Our new brand will slowly be rolled out during 2018 to symbolise our new direction.

Many of the new changes and initiatives will become more visible during 2018, particularly during the FIGO World Congress in Rio (14–19 October 2018; www.figodubai2018.org) and the FIGO Regional Congress of Middle East & Africa in Dubai (11–13 April 2018; www.figodubai2018.com). You are all warmly invited to join and participate in our Congresses, as they bring you exceptional scientific and social programmes.

As 2017 draws to a close, the FIGO President, Officers and I want to take this opportunity to thank all our partner organisations, Committee and Working Group members, Member Societies, Executive Board, volunteers, donors, sponsors and staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

From FIGO House, I wish you and your loved ones joyous Season’s Greetings and I look forward to working with you all next year.

Best wishes

Johan Vos
FIGO Chief Executive

International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) Officers:

President: Professor Chittaranjan Narahari Parandare (India)
President-Elect: Dr Carlos Füchtner (Bolivia)
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Honorary Secretary: Professor Gian Carlo Di Perzo (Italy)
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Administrative Director: Sean O’Donnell

A new vision and momentum for 2018...
FIGO bids farewell to Events and Meetings Manager

FIGO recently said goodbye to Marta Collins, FIGO Events and Meetings Manager, who stepped down from her role. Marta successfully managed FIGO World Congresses in South Africa (2009), Rome (2012) and Vancouver (2015), as well as several Regional Congresses and other assorted events over the years.

Johan Vos said: ‘Marta has been a most valued, integral part of the FIGO framework for over a decade – she is well known and respected not only by the FIGO leadership and staff, but also by countless FIGO stakeholders. We wish her all the very best for the future.’

Marta said: ‘I would like to thank the FIGO leadership, past and present; Congress committees, speakers, delegates, exhibitors, PCOs; and – last but not least – my colleagues, for their support over the last 10 years. Hopefully our paths will cross again in the future. It has been a pleasure to work with, and for, you!’

Don Hinrichsen – new Partnerships Manager

Don recently joined FIGO in the new role of Partnerships Manager. He has over 25 years’ experience designing programmes and raising funds for UNFPA, UNDP, NGO’s and others working in the broad field of sexual and reproductive health, covering areas such as family planning and women’s rights; environmental and resource issues; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and media training in conflict zones.

Don has worked within business development at the Malaria Consortium, Global Water Partnership, the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and, prior to this, as a Senior Program Specialist at UNFPA and as Senior Consultant within various UN specialised agencies (mainly UNDP, WHO, UNESCO and UNEP).

He is also the published author of six books and five major population reports (eg Obstetric Fistula – Ending the Silence, Easing the Suffering; Johns Hopkins University), and former Editor-in-Chief of both Ambio, the journal of the human environment published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the World Resources Report, published by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP.

FIGO Corporate Affairs Director retires after 17 years!

Marie-Christine Szatybelko, FIGO’s Corporate Affairs Director, retires at Christmas after 17 years’ dedicated service.

Marie-Christine, or ‘MC’ as she is affectionately known, has been at the helm of FIGO’s administrative and governance affairs for nearly two decades, and is truly a fount of knowledge on all things FIGO.

Johan Vos said: ‘Marie-Christine has helped take the organisation through many changes over the years. Her retirement is well deserved, and I am sure she has exciting plans for the future. We thank her for her immense contribution.’

Marie-Christine said: ‘FIGO has seen many changes during the time that I have been with the organisation which have placed it firmly on the international stage as a global leader in women’s health. It has been a real pleasure for me to work with the FIGO leadership, Committees, Working Groups, Member Societies and my colleagues. While I am greatly looking forward to the next stage in my life, it is with mixed feelings that I shall say goodbye to you all, but perhaps our paths may yet cross again at some point in the future!’

FIGO welcomes new Conference Manager

FIGO extends a warm welcome to Saskia Dean, who has joined us as our new Conference Manager. She has seven years’ experience working internationally within conferencing, events management and professional conference organisers. She joins us from Alzheimer’s Disease International, and, prior to this, worked at the National Joint Registry and the Ten Foundation. She is a graduate of Queen’s College, Oxford University.

FIGO strengthens PPIUUD team!

FIGO welcomes four new faces to its PPIUUD project team! We wish them well in their new challenges.

Kate Howard (Project Co-ordinator)

Kate has most recently been working within grants and partnerships’ coordination at Comic Relief. She has over eight years’ experience in sexual health, project management and international work including with IPPF, Brook and an MSc in Global Health from University College London. Prior to this, she graduated from Edinburgh University where she gained an MA (Hons) in Social Anthropology and Spanish. She also has fieldwork/outreach experience gained working and volunteering in Columbia and Ecuador.

Emily-Anne Tunnacliffe (Project Co-ordinator)

Emily has worked within grant and project management for over five years in a variety of Programme Management/Officer roles at Chance for Childhood, One to One Children’s Fund and Street Child. Her work to date has focused on improving access to, and quality of, health services to children and adolescents across various settings. She has a Master’s in ‘Middle East in Global Politics’, and, prior to this, graduated from Royal Holloway, London University, where she attained a BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations.

Eliza Bell (Project Assistant)

Eliza has previously worked within office support and data collection at the RCOG with respect to its Excellence in Obstetrics Project in Uganda. Additionally, she has worked as a French language consultant at the International Centre for Security Analysis in London, and in a voluntary capacity for Age UK Oxfordshire; International Bridges to Justice and the Gatehouse, Oxford (a shelter for homeless and poorly housed people). She is a graduate of King’s College, London University, where she attained a BA (Hons) in French Language and International Relations.

Ibrat Djabbarov (Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist)

Ibrat has extensive experience in global healthcare delivery; for the past seven years he has worked at Save the Children, Merlin and World Vision. He brings a specific expertise on quality improvement and monitoring and evaluation to the PPIUUD project.

He is a medical doctor, has studied at Oxford University (where he attained a Master of Science in Global Health), and is also a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce).
2017 has been a whirlwind for the FIGO Post-Partum IUD Initiative. With the approval of the No Cost Extension, four new members joined the HQ team.

New Project Coordinators Emily Tunnaciffe and Kate Howard joined in the midst of the reporting period, diving right in at the deep end. Ibrat Djibbarov has joined Maya Sethi to form the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team and together they have been working hard to develop a strategy that can best make use of the data so far collected in order to inform future progress. Deputy Director Anita Makins has worked with the new Project Assistant Eliza Bell to finalise a collection of resources entitled FIGO Minimum Standards for Training on Counselling and Insertion of PPIUD. We also saw the departure of Project Manager Laura Banks, who will be greatly missed by all.

The six project countries also continue to work tirelessly and facilitate several visits from FIGO HQ. Kenya has been dealing with ongoing strikes, which have now ended, and working against the odds to make real progress with the involvement of Community Health Volunteers in the project; Tanzania has been successfully expanding into satellite clinics; Nepal has developed an innovative on-the-job training package; and Bangladesh is busy planning OGSB’s Annual General Meeting, which Anita will attend; Sri Lanka held their Golden Jubilee earlier in the year, which Professor Sabarapathnam Arulkumaran attended, and 2017 saw PPIUD accepted into the National Programme of contraception; India continues to see the highest rates of counselling and insertion in the initiative with Kalyani rates soaring predominantly due to task-shifting to nurses.

We were all, however, deeply saddened by the recent loss of Dr C V Hegde, Chief Coordinator at Nair Hospital in Mumbai, who worked tirelessly for the initiative. FIGO offers sincere condolences to his family and friends at this very difficult time. PPIUD also continues to work closely with the Contraception Working Group and has coordinated the successful implementation of Medical Eligibility Criteria workshops in numerous countries in partnership with the World Health Organization. A new round of workshops in the Eastern Mediterranean region is now underway.

Beating fistula! – FIGO convenes top surgeons in Addis Ababa

With the Fistula Training Initiative’s increasing need for coaching visits by expert fistula surgeons for existing Fellows, the FIGO Team decided to hold a vital training-of-trainers course for new, as well as existing, FIGO accredited trainers in the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital (Hamilin Fistula Ethiopia/HFE) in September 2017.

The meeting was opened by HFE’s CEO, Dr Yacob Tesfaye; MCH Coordinator/Ethiopian Ministry of Health, Mr Sintayehu Abebe; and FIGO’s Chief Executive, Johan Vos. Chaired by Professor Ajay Rane, Dr Andrew Browning, Dr Fekade Ayenachew and Senior Project Manager Gillian Slinger, the participants were given a thorough induction in the training initiative’s progress, challenges and their responsibilities as future FIGO Trainers.

Medical Aid International’s Managing Director, and supplier of FIGO’s new instrument sets, Mr Tim Beacons, was also present in the meeting and, with the participating 20 expert fistula surgeons, discussed the new fistula instrument sets and equipment, as well as the need to supply surgical head-torches to Fellows in the future.

All in all, it was an extremely fruitful meeting. All objectives were met and seven well-established fistula surgeons received FIGO accreditation and will start to provide Fellow coaching visits in 2018. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to HFE and the team at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital for their generous support and hospitality, without which these unforgettable few days would not have been possible!

The training-of-trainers course was followed by a very productive meeting of the FIGO Expert Advisory Group (EAG) of the Training Programme, who, after helping steer the first meeting, were able to meet face to face with the Project Team to discuss Fellow progress and key training issues of the Initiative. Report courtesy of Eliza Bell, FIGO Project Assistant

FIGO NEWS

PPIUD team recaps on a whirlwind year!

FIGO and FLASOG join forces in Cancun!

From 5–9 November 2017, FIGO’s Latin American Regional Affiliate – Federacion Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Obstetricia y Ginecologia (FLASOG) – held its Congress in Cancun, Mexico. Attended by around 4,000 people, it provided a useful opportunity for FIGO to undertake various activities and meetings, as well as promoting FIGO’s work through a busy exhibition booth and sessions in the programme.

Participants were treated to four presentations from an expert international panel. One of the speakers presented the latest evidence on routes of administration of oxytocin for PPH management, while another presentation covered the WHO’s new recommendations on tranexamic acid for PPH treatment. Meanwhile, at the FIGO booth, we were able to disseminate FIGO’s very popular misoprostol only recommended dosage charts.

The FIGO Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy (HIP) Working Group continued its global advocacy efforts by signing the Latin American HIP Declaration with the FLASOG President and representatives from all Latin American Member Societies’ senior management. Linked to this, the NCD Committee hosted a scientific session in the programme which outlined the issues in Latin America and some practical examples of efforts in Chile and Ecuador to address them.

Finally, the FIGO Violence against Women Working Group met to discuss its plans for 2018, which include a campaign on the issue to take place at the FIGO Congress – watch this space and we look forward to your participation in October!

Report courtesy of Samia Khatun, FIGO Project Manager, and Matthew Pretty; FIGO Project Coordinator

Laura and Kate (third and fourth in row)
FIGO has recently signed new Memorandums of Understanding with Childhood and Early Parenting Principles (CEPPs) and the Chilean Ministry of Health

Childhood and Early Parenting Principles (CEPPs)

The CEPPs’ Global Initiative was formed in 2016 by a group of organisations working in the field of Maternal and Perinatal Health and Early Childhood Care and Development.

Valerie Unite

The CEPPs’ “Mother and Child Manifesto” proposes seven principles, providing a policy framework for a unified multi-sector and multi-stakeholder partnership between government, private sector and civil society organisations at city, regional and national levels.

We believe this Initiative has the transformative potential to break inter-generational cycles of adversity and disadvantage in the world, thereby helping to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda (in particular, Sustainable Development Goals 3-5 which address health, nutrition and women’s human rights, both globally and at a country level. A handbook entitled ‘Care’ – this will be done through campaigns via Facebook, Instagram, viral video, banners and user-friendly informative material.

We intend to create a universal format adaptable to various contexts, to allow FIGO Member Societies to manage their own

Further steps towards human rights! A blueprint for the future...

– A Committee update from Professor Chiara Benedetto, Chair of the FIGO Committee for Women’s Health and Human Rights (WHHR)

‘Our Communication Campaign – a way to share’

We plan to continue our commitment to share important information on women’s health and educate the population at large to actively participate in their own ‘care’ – this will be done through campaigns via Facebook, Instagram, viral video, banners and user-friendly informative material.

‘Down the path of respect for human rights’

Advocacy plays an important role in our plan. We aim to develop a strategy to target policymakers and regulators in order to further the recognition, promotion and protection of girls’ and women’s human rights, both globally and at a country level. A handbook entitled ‘Women’s Health and Human Rights – mapping possible contributions to the United Nations’ selected bodies for more conductive legislation, regulations and policies at country levels’ is being prepared.

Another important step is education. Our action points include the set-up of checklists for professionals to raise awareness on providing human rights-based healthcare assistance. In addition, we will also include the creation of posters to be placed in public spaces, so as to educate the general population on how to participate in their own healthcare.

Our Workshops, aimed at stimulating professionals towards a thinking approach where women’s health and human rights are wholly integrated, have been scheduled in various locations (eg Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Lebanon, Kenya, the Republic of Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Texas, the United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe).

‘Focus on migrants, refugees and displaced persons: a global emergency’

Focus groups with migrants will continue to be encouraged! This strategy will be aimed at improving their ‘know-how’ on anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system; contraception; preconception counselling; prevention of STIs and cancer; healthy life-styles; and access to healthcare. Male involvement in these meetings will also be encouraged!
New author resources page from IJGO!

The official journal of FIGO, the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (IJGO), is delighted to announce the launch of its new author resources page, and to highlight the recent addition of new reviewer resources to the journal’s website. IJGO hopes that the resources will provide useful information for reviewers and authors of all experience levels.

Ensuring that the design of a study is clearly described is vital in accurately conveying research findings and the new IJGO study design infographic provides authors with a clear visual aid to correctly identify the design employed in their work. In addition to describing their research, the infographic can be used to help researchers identify if a planned study will require registration as a clinical trial in a public registry prior to enrolling study participants, an essential step for all prospective clinical trials.

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Peer review is a crucial process for assessing the scientific value of research findings and IJGO is hugely appreciative of the time and effort contributed by its expert reviewers. To help support our reviewers, IJGO has prepared its own succinct guide to the peer review process. This includes a brief summary of the most useful information to include in a review, examples of how to format comments and of review comments that are helpful for the Editor; a brief guide to areas for close examination in article abstracts; and links to further useful peer review resources.

IJGO is very grateful for the contributions of reviewers and seeks to recognise this through providing the journal’s reviewers with free access to all IJGO content on Wiley Online Library for 30 days, a 30 per cent discount on Wiley books, and recognition for review contributions on Publons.

IJGO’s author infographic (http://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1879-3479/ijgo-infographics.html) and reviewer resources (http://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/hub/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1879-3479/about/reviewer-resources.html) are available through the journal's website.

Courtesy of Sean Fitzpatrick, IJGO Manuscript Editor

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Visit www.figo2018.org!

The Congress website – www.figo2018.org – is fully up and running, with new information being added regularly.

Save the dates! 14–19 October 2018.

Visit FIGO 2018 on Facebook!

The dedicated Congress Facebook page is at: www.facebook.com/figocongress.

Stop by and like the page!

Diary Dates


Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine Annual Meeting 29 January–3 February 2018, Dallas, Texas, USA www.smfm.org/smfm18


18th World Congress, International Society of Gynecological Endocrinology 7–10 March 2018, Florence, Italy www.isge2018.isgesociety.com


The 2nd Asia Pacific Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome and Pregnancy – DIPAP Greater China 16–18 March 2018, Shanghai, China www.comtecmed.com/dipap/2018

Last Call!: FIGO/Chien-Tien Hsu Fellowship on Gynecologic Oncology

The Chien-Tien Hsu Research Foundation and FIGO have established a Fellowship on Gynecologic Oncology to enable young obstetricians and gynecologists – who are beginning a career in gynecologic oncology – to attend the FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics, and to visit a gynecologic oncology centre in Brazil where the Congress will be held from 14–19 October 2018.

Further details of the Fellowship and an application form can be obtained from the FIGO website at: www.figo.org/news/figochien-tien-hsu-fellowship-gynecologic-oncology-0015683

Please note that the deadline for submission of applications is 31 December 2017 after which applications cannot be considered.


FIGO Regional Congress of Middle East & Africa 11–13 April 2018, Dubai, UAE www.figodubai2018.com


FIGO 2018 World Congress 14–19 October 2018, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil www.figo2018.org

FIGO accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the external event information. Inclusion of any event does not necessarily mean that FIGO either endorses or supports it (unless otherwise stated).
SAVE THE DATE

14 – 19 • OCTOBER • 2018

The FIGO World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics is the single largest global congress on maternal and infant health, bringing together obstetricians, gynecologists and related health professionals from around the world.

The Congress Scientific programme will offer a cutting-edge line-up of renowned international speakers that will appeal to all audiences: clinicians, health workers, policy makers, global agencies, health care leaders and industry specialists alike - passionate professionals concerned with maternal and infant health and well-being.

The incredible city of Rio de Janeiro will host the Congress - experience its tremendous beauty, attractions, culture and people.

The topics include:

- Maternal Fetal Health
- Clinical Obstetrics
- General Gynecology
- Operative Gynecology
- Reproductive Medicine
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Urogynecology
- Gynecological Oncology
- Women’s Health Issues and Policy

Register your interest today and join an estimated 8,000 delegates for the FIGO 2018 World Congress - it promises to be an unforgettable learning and networking experience.

FIGO warmly invites you and looks forward to seeing you in Rio.

‘The global voice for women’s health’

www.FIGO2018.org