

President's Message

Welcome to 2015! I can hardly believe we are already starting a new year. I remember when I was younger wishing for time to go faster and now I just wish it would slow down and let me catch up!

I am very excited to serve as your AMGO President and look forward to all that we will accomplish in the future. Since I joined AMGO in 2009, this organization has helped me grow professionally in numerous ways. I am grateful for the members that have become friends and the free advice that is always available; it is invaluable to me. Serving on the Board provided me with a way to "give back" to this wonderful organization!

As you probably already know, this will be a year of transition for AMGO. The Board continues to strengthen its relationship with the Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology (CUCOG) and through those efforts AMGO has changed the time of the annual meeting to spring. Based on input from our membership, the first part of this year's meeting will be for AMGO members only and then we will spend Friday with CUCOG. Saturday morning will be the final session for AMGO members only. Both planning committees have worked hard to make sure the combined portion of the meeting is effective for both AMGO and CUCOG members.

By changing the time of the annual meeting, we will also change the annual nomination and election process for the board. Due to the short time-

frame between the 2014 and 2015 meetings, the next elections will be held at the 2016 meeting. I greatly appreciate the willingness of our current Board Members to serve an extended term to help facilitate a smooth transition. Find out more about our great group of Board Members at our AMGO website: www.amgo.org.

Speaking of Annual Meetings, I want to take a minute to thank Dena Fisher and her planning committee for a terrific meeting in Jackson Hole in September. We thoroughly enjoyed the location and scenery as well as the "Murder at the Deadwood Saloon", interactive sessions and dinner on the mountain. We certainly celebrated the end of an era with our last fall meeting in style! We also welcomed several new members and first time attendees. Our annual meeting is a great place to network with other members and renew long-standing friendships.

I encourage you to get involved with AMGO. Visit our website to find out more about the committees and board positions available. The diversity within our membership makes life so much easier for our members since we work in such a unique setting – academic medicine! Feel free to contact me or any of the other board members at any time if you have questions or want to know more about getting involved.

See you in San Francisco!



Denise Porter
President

Mark Your Calendar

**AMGO Annual Meeting
2015**

**April 29-May 2, 2015
The Fairmont San
Francisco
San Francisco, California**

Visit our AMGO Website to register and the link below to make your hotel reservations
[https://aws.passkey.com/
event/11913420/owner/56407/home](https://aws.passkey.com/event/11913420/owner/56407/home)



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38th Annual AMGO Meeting

by Ken Adams

The 38th Annual Conference was hosted by President Dena Fisher at the Snake River Lodge and Spa in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. We had a group of excellent speakers this year including:



Dr. Howard Jones, Chairman of OB/GYN at Vanderbilt

University speaking on "Managing Disruptive Behavior"; Dr. Atul Grover of AAMC speaking on "AAMC- A New Frontier"; and Lucia DiVenere, of ACOG discussing the healthcare exchange. Dr. Todd Dewett provided us with a great keynote session entitled "Show



Your Ink." Dr. Dewett's entertaining and emotional talk left a lasting impression on all in attendance. Dena had many great social events planned including a "Murder at the Deadwood Saloon" complete with costumes and mystery. Everyone also enjoyed the gondola ride to 9,095 feet overlooking Jackson Hole Valley for the perfect social gathering with outstanding food and a few snowflakes for added atmosphere.



Thank you Dena for planning such a wonderful conference in the beautiful mountains of Wyoming!

AMGO Annual Meeting 2014 A New Member's Perspective

by Jennifer Kelley, MSN, NP-C

I have always been impressed by my department's senior leader support of AMGO's mission. They often reference AMGO while exploring opportunities or new initiatives within our academic environment. When I was approached by my senior leadership to become a member, I was eager to learn more about the organization. Perhaps I initially underestimated the power of networking with such a distinguished group of OB GYN professionals. However, instantaneously I was impressed when Dena contacted me to welcome me to the organization and her promptness in getting me plugged in with her team and to the fabulous online resources and listserv. It was at that point I realized the added value that AMGO membership would have on my role as Sr. Director of Clinical Services.

Even more so, what an honor and privilege it was to attend the annual meeting. And, what an added perk to be held in Jackson Hole, WY; designated by Trip Advisor as a "Top World Destination". Breathtaking views of the ice capped Teton Mountains was certainly an awe inspiring start to what would be a great trip to Jackson Hole.

Dottie Watson and the program planning committee did an outstanding job coordinating a diverse panel of both external and internal speakers to address many challenging topics that we currently face in the academic environment. I had the pleasure to meet Georgia Brogden from Emory three years ago on a site visit so it was such a delight to learn that Georgia was assigned as my "buddy" to ensure that I was introduced and welcomed to the group as a new member at the opening reception.

The president's welcome reception and Murder at the Deadwood Saloon mystery surely proved that this was a lively bunch that I was getting involved with! I loved seeing everyone in costume and

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Save the Date!!

AMGO's 39th Annual Meeting
and the
Inaugural AMGO & CUCOG Combined Meeting on May 1

April 29—May 2, 2015
The Fairmont San Francisco
San Francisco, California

Make your hotel reservations at: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/amgo2015>

taking on the humorous roles of outlaws, bankers, marshals, and saloon girls in search of the mysterious murderer and prized tournament money. What a hoot!

The next two days of presentations were informative and relevant to the challenges in the current climate of academic medicine. The panel discussions were well planned, engaging, and complimented each other well. The non intimidating open dialogue confirmed for me that we are all facing common challenges and demands with decreased federal and state funding, highly competitive research funding, and quality initiatives. The forum allowed ample opportunity to network and share successful strategic initiatives.

As a nurse leader, my focus has been on clinical operations and providing safe, quality, patient centered care but I felt I lacked a well rounded understanding of the research and academic components to the health system enterprise. To hear speakers and practice experts from the best universities in the country gave me a better understanding of the complex, yet common challenges in sustaining a tripartite mission. I found it to be both valuable and insightful to learn about initiatives that my peers have to build successful programs.

When I reached a mid conference "reality check" that everyone was suffering with our own, yet common challenges, a dynamic speaker, Dr. Todd Dewett shared his hilarious and emotional views on leadership. In a span of an hour he had everyone in the room laughing and crying!

Did I mention how beautiful Jackson Hole is? My husband and I were able to go on a guided sunrise wildlife safari in search of the great grizzly bear. Although we were not successful in that endeavor, we did enjoy the beauty of the Teton mountains, elk sighting, and fly fishing.

You could not have planned a better way to end this great trip than with a beautiful group gondola ride with perfectly complimented snow flurries as we arrived at the top of the mountain to enjoy breathtaking views, wonderful food, and great company!

Ready, Set, Connect

(or "How to find all you need to know to be an active and happy AMGO Member")

by Sue Marshall

The purpose of the Association of Managers of Gynecology and Obstetrics (AMGO) is to improve the productivity of all Ob/Gyn departments through the promotion of managerial and administrative efficiencies and techniques. The value of a member driven organization like AMGO is that we, as members, are given a variety of opportunities to connect with other professional administrators in departments of obstetrics and gynecology at medical schools and academic health centers across the country.

There are a number of ways to connect and interact with AMGO members. One of my favorite ways of connecting is by attending the annual conference. The meetings are fun, informative, and never disappointing as an educational experience. Friendships and memories are always in the making, so try to attend as often as you can.

The AMGO listserv is another great tool for posting questions and discussing problem areas or innovative ideas. I can't tell you how many times that process has given me insight into a problem I was trying to solve.

The last two areas to get AMGO news is the AMGO website and the AMGO Facebook page. The rise of social media and technical capabilities lead us to search for one place where all the information can be found about a particular interest, item or in this case – an organization.

So let's get ready.....

Member access is easy. Go to www.amgo.org and login in with your email address and use the password amgonet. The home page headers lead you to all the topics you might want to explore.

Get Set.....

ABOUTUS spells out the purpose, mission and goals of the group and includes all the 'nitty gritty' bylaws, policies, terms and conditions that should be shared if you are an incorporated organization. There

are links for ANNUAL MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP, RESOURCES and posted JOBS. Did you know you can apply for a scholarship to attend an upcoming annual meeting? All the information is on the website and easy to use and submit. The membership directory has all you need to call, email or write to almost 100 other professionals working from Manitoba Canada to Vermont and Minnesota to Alabama. Do you like to keep up with news and events? Current and past newsletters are at your fingertips on the home page. If you want to join a committee, serve as a future board member or explore other leadership roles, you can find these opportunities easily. You will discover the process for becoming a director-at-large or board member, or you can volunteer to be a new member's buddy at our upcoming meeting.

AMGO has a Facebook page and if you are like me you will certainly enjoy seeing photos, hearing stories about events, and sharing information with your friends and colleagues. Please take a moment and go to <https://www.facebook.com/AMGO.ORG>. You'll like it.

Connect.....

Everything you need to be connected to this great group of Ob/Gyn professionals, known as AMGO, is there for you to access. I hope you have a great time participating in all the activities, events, and tools (in person and on line) that a membership with AMGO provides. I sure have.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the organization for making the time I spent over the past eight years so enjoyable. I have truly been honored to be a member of this great organization called AMGO. I plan on retiring from my position here at UMN in late spring 2015 so I won't see you all at the San Francisco meeting (except in spirit - look through the fog). I will miss the fun, the knowledge and the relationships I have formed with many of you.

Best wishes to you all!

Membership Drive

The AMGO membership drive was held in early May, 2014. Schools without participating members in AMGO received a membership packet that included a letter of introduction, AMGO information sheet outlining the benefits of membership, a 2014 conference postcard and the last AMGO newsletter. AMGO used the current CUCOG member list to target the mailing. Both the Chair and Business Administrator received the AMGO packet. Previous membership drives have been very successful in creating more awareness about AMGO and revitalizing the membership.

Current Active Members:	72
Current Associate Members:	32
Honorary Life:	8
Total Current Members:	112

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest members:

Angela Caggianelli	Tufts University
Sabrina Fong	Stanford University
John Garbay	University of Buffalo
Kelsey Hussey	University of Missouri
Jennifer Kelley	University of Alabama - Birmingham
Susan Kim	Wake Forest
Dr. Sharmila Makhijah	University of Louisville
Sarah Martinez	University of New Mexico
Valerie McDaniel-Packlaian	Drexel University
Nicole Pharoah	University of Oklahoma HSC
Mark Phillips	Indiana University
Douglas Richardson	University of Chicago
Danny Rickert	University of South Alabama
Ankit Patel	University of Illinois – Chicago
Gina Taglia	Loyola University
Colin Thomas	University of Utah

Scholarship Reminder

AMGO offers an annual conference or educational/seminar/certification scholarship of up to \$1,500 to cover registration, travel and lodging. In return, the scholarship recipient agrees to share information learned at the conference by holding a session at the AMGO annual meeting or by writing a brief article for the AMGO newsletter. Past recipients of the scholarship include Denise Porter, Carolyn Gorman, Jeff Arscott, Marsha Cannon, Dena Fisher and Jenni Stevens. It is a great way to attend a conference or increase your knowledge base in very difficult economic times and to share the information with your colleagues. If you are interested in applying, send an email to Dena Fisher at dena.fisher@vanderbilt.

Board of Directors 2014-2015

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Wright State University

Dena Fisher
Immediate Past President
Vanderbilt University

Sheila Dolezal
President-Elect
Stanford University School of Medicine

Angie Johnson
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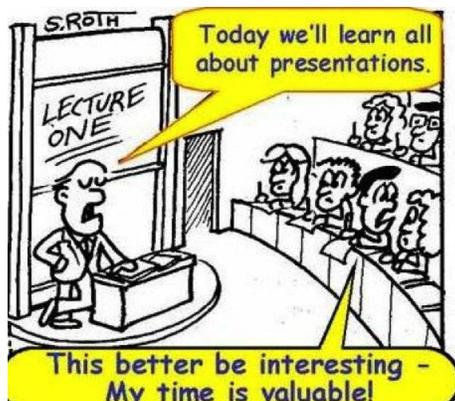
Lydia Ikeda
Director-at-Large
University of California, San Diego

Nominating Committee

This committee solicits nominations for Board Members, including the positions of President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Active Directors and Associate Directors. This committee is usually comprised of the immediate Past President (Chair), one other Past President, one Active Member and one Associate Member.

Memoirs of an Introvert, Presenting at an AMGO Conference

by Sherri Stone



Although it may seem daunting at first glance, presenting at an AMGO Conference is not as difficult as you might imagine. Sure, you may experience stage fright but you are amongst friends and what better place to practice presenting in public, right?

Your first step is to **Think of a Topic**.

This may seem elementary but selecting a topic is one of the largest hurdles. You may think you do not do anything special in your day-to-day work that is worth talking about. However, each of us has key initiatives annually that require research, planning, organizing, implementing and follow up. And, many of us struggle with similar issues. So, think about selecting an initiative from the current year or one from a prior year, particularly if you had hurdles to overcome. It is likely we all experienced hurdles and can learn from one another.

That leads me to the second step in presenting at an AMGO Conference, **Find Partners to present with you**.

Consider organizing a panel by offering a topic to the AMGO President. Look for other members to participate on the panel. Not only is this a marvelous opportunity to network and get to know some of your fellow AMGO peers, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to learn how things are done in another institution.

Now that you have identified a **Topic** and found some **Panel Members** to work with you, **Organize a Conference Call and Develop an Outline**.

Take a little time in advance to prepare a preliminary outline to send to the panel members. This will assist with jumpstart-

ing the conversation. What I have experienced in the past, is that the idea originally proposed will likely morph into something that addresses the entire panel's concerns. So, it is important to remain flexible.

"The whole is greater than the sum of its parts" – Aristotle.

During the first call, set a schedule to meet regularly. Take notes and after the conference call is completed, update the outline and send it to the panel members.

Thus begins the process of **Formulating the Presentation**.

By the second conference call you should start to organize the presentation. Ask the panel members to select sections of the presentation to work on, realizing that each of you will be contributing and editing all the sections as you go along. This will help to share the workload and all panel members should feel more vested in the presentation. Additionally, you will feel less stressed by having others assist you with the work.

Over the next few conference calls, the presentation will begin to gel as it is shared with each member allowing everyone time to edit and revise the content.

Finalize the presentation by selecting a catchy title and theme.

The next step is to **Organize the Presentation**.

Determine who will present and in what order. If time permits, have a practice session.

Final tips for presenting:

- If you are afraid of public speaking – practice, practice, practice! Practice in front of your kids, pets, co-worker, friends. Practice in front of a mirror, in the shower or car. Talk about the topic with anyone who will listen.
- Decide and inform your audience prior to the start of the presentation if you will take questions during the presentation or to hold their questions until the conclusion.
- Watch your time allotment.
- Allow ample time for discussion at the end.

- During the presentation remember to smile, breathe deeply, slow down and don't be afraid to pause and gather your thoughts. Avoid the "ums" and "ahs."

Remember to keep it simple and focus on your key points. In other words:

- At the beginning, tell them what you are going to tell them
- During the presentation, tell them
- At the end, tell them what you told them

Presenting at an AMGO Conference and leading a group of AMGO Peers may seem daunting but the challenge is worth it and the opportunities are endless to learn from others.

Circle of Excellence

The Circle of Excellence was formed in the 1980's by the AMGO Education Committee who wanted to give members an opportunity to receive recognition for their service to the organization. The point system was designed to both reward outstanding individuals for their contributions to the organization and to entice all members to strive to be excellent managers. Annually each member is sent a form that outlines the number of points assigned by the Board for various categories. These points are accumulated and once a member obtains a total of 50 points they are inducted into the AMGO Circle of Excellence. They are recognized at the next annual meeting and presented a specially designed Circle of Excellence pin. Members are then encouraged to keep working for the organization by continuing to accumulate points and these members are recognized at each annual meeting as they achieve points at 50 point intervals.

2014 Inductee: Denise Porter

*2015 AMGO Annual Meeting
San Francisco, California*



Fairmont
HOTELS & RESORTS

April 29-May 2, 2015

For hotel reservations:

<https://aws.passkey.com/event/11913420/owner/56407/home>