

Dear all,

As a first-time World Congress with limited publicity and funding, WCOGA 2011 exceeded our expectations. The global political climate and sudden crises just before the congress impacted on international organisations preventing some speakers and delegates from attending or sending replacements, although suggestions were given to allow their topics to remain part of the programme. Most topics were retained and speaker slots were filled in.

Nonetheless, 31 countries were represented amongst over 300 attendees. Pertinent talks on various topics relevant to the physical and psychosocial health of women, men and children were given along with discussions on current controversies in detection and management of disease. Contributors included doctors and other health professionals, as well as user representatives and patients. With four rooms providing lectures concurrently and many workshops running simultaneously it was quite a challenge to ensure all was running as smoothly as possible. I could not have done this without the help of so many, especially Professor James J Walker (Chair of the Scientific Committee) and Dr. Clare Willocks (Secretary General), and others from the scientific and organising committees who stepped in to help, along with volunteers, user representatives, family and friends.

It was a memorable meeting and many enjoyed the networking and seeing London. Of course, there are always lessons to be learned and I am grateful to those delegates who managed to send their feedback. There are so many constructive comments that show the balanced outlook of the delegates and would be encouraging to those who endeavour to provide scientific education accessible to all. I apologise for any unfulfilled expectations despite our efforts. I am looking into the request of making available educational material on-line.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank again all those who participated from the UK and from different nations around the globe to make this congress an academic success.

With kind regards,

Mira Lal, MD, DGO, PhD, FRCOG
(President, WCOGA 2011)

P.S. Feedback and personal comments: The main themes were related to:

1. **The contents of the scientific programme** – Mention was made of it being diverse and competing interests between concurrent lectures made it difficult to choose. A wider scope was wanted by one delegate and another mentioned that an alteration in the lecture was frustrating. More organised poster sessions were suggested by one delegate and copies of some lectures were requested by another.
2. **Interaction and networking** – Learning from each other - was a wonderful opportunity
3. **General comments** – On the whole positive messages were given such as, Amazing Congress! Such a wonderful Congress! Extremely motivating and enjoyable Conference, Thank you, Excellent Conference, Well done for the first time, Inspirational Congress! Etc., and **Thanks, London!**