

**Members of the
Guideline Development Group for
WHO recommendations on surgical and medical interventions to improve caesarean
section outcomes
(Surgical Subgroup)**

Ibraheem Olayemi Awowole

Dr. Ibraheem Olayemi Awowole is a distinguished Nigerian Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with exceptional academic and professional achievements. He graduated as the best medical graduate from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and the best Fellow from the West African College of Surgeons. He is also a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, and a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (UK). He further specialized in fetal medicine at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, England.

Dr. Awowole has been recognized for his research, winning the Majekodunmi Young Researcher's Award and the John J Sciarra Honorable Mention Award. He has also received the ISUOG Travel Grant in 2020 and 2022 and had several top-scoring abstract presentations at the RCOG World Congress published in BJOG. His research involvement extends to WHO-coordinated trials like ACTION-I, ACTION-III, IKMC and IKMC-IR.

Currently an Associate Professor at OAU, he coordinates the Feto-Maternal Unit, specializing in prenatal diagnosis, fetal Doppler, growth restriction, and preterm labour management. Passionate about capacity building, he aims to enhance access to specialized care for pregnant women and newborns in Nigeria through training and research. His career reflects a commitment to advancing maternal and fetal health in low-resource settings.

Yoo Kuen Chan

Dr Yoo Kuen Chan has been an academican in the primer university of Malaysia for the last 40 years specializing in the field of anesthesia and in particular obstetric anesthesia. In that period, she herself continued to grow through teaching and learning as a faculty member of University of Malaya.

She is now an honorary professor in the Department and covers an obstetric list for one day in the week for the hospital for which she is paid for the hours spent in the role. She continues to be invited to speak at various conferences in the region as well as the more international arena focusing mainly on obstetric and educational topics for which she is not paid. She believes in

assisting the discipline to improve the training of providers and with the wide expertise she has, this is the main avenue for her to do so. She also assists the courts in the country as an expert witness in anesthesia for which she is paid.

Liliana Correa-Pérez

Dr Correa-Pérez is medical doctor with degrees in obstetrics and gynecologist, intensive care medicine and critical care. She also has an MPH and a PhD in Bioethics. She has worked as an intensivist in both private and public intensive care units as well as Polyvalent and Obstetrics intensive care units. She has also worked as a consultant in maternal perinatal public health sector. She has experience in telemedicine for obstetrical critical care patients in low resource settings as well as in developing and delivering educational programs.

Dr Correa-Pérez works as Intensivist in a General (polyvalent) adult´s intensive care unit of Reina Sofía Clinic/Colsanitas in Bogotá, Colombia since 2014 and as obstetrics Intensivist in high dependence obstetric unit in Subrednorte Hospital de Suba, Bogotá since 2018, and in telemedicine for critical care obstetrical patients since 2021.

Ramón Escuriet

Dr. José Ramón Escuriet Peiró is a public health expert specializing in the planning, organization, and evaluation of health services, particularly in maternal and reproductive health. He has a strong background in sexual and reproductive health within the Catalan Health System, where he serves as the Director of the Affective, Sexual, and Reproductive Health Plan. With extensive experience in both academic research and healthcare system management, he has played a key role in improving perinatal care policies and optimizing health service delivery.

Dr. Escuriet is a midwife and holds a Ph.D. in Biomedicine. He is an associate lecturer at the Blanquerna School of Health Sciences, part of Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain, and is affiliated with the Salut Global, Gènere i Societat research group. His research focuses on maternal health, childbirth, and the organization and planning of health services. His contributions to the field are widely recognized, with numerous publications and citations reflecting his impact.

In addition to his academic and research work, Dr. Escuriet has played a key role in various international projects, including the QUALI-DEC project. This initiative focuses on promoting the appropriate use of caesarean sections by enhancing informed decision-making for both women and healthcare providers.

Stefania Fieni

Dr. Stefania Fieni is the Head of the Maternity Ward at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of the University Hospital of Parma. She is a highly experienced obstetrician-gynecologist with a

strong background in maternal and perinatal health and obstetric ultrasound. She holds a Ph.D. in Obstetric and Gynecological Sciences from the University of Parma, where her research focused on intrauterine growth restriction.

Dr. Fieni has held several key positions throughout her career, including serving as a consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University Hospital of Parma. Her professional experience extends internationally, having participated in humanitarian medical projects in the Ivory Coast, Algeria, India, and Paraguay.

Dr. Fieni has been actively involved in scientific research, contributing to national and international studies on maternal-fetal health, labor induction, and the physiological interpretation of cardiotocography. She has collaborated with Italian National Institute of Health, serving as a reviewer and contributor to clinical guidelines.

In addition to her clinical and research roles, Dr. Fieni is a lecturer and has been involved in postgraduate education programs in obstetrics and gynecology. Her expertise and dedication to advancing obstetric care have positioned her as a leader in maternal health research and clinical practice.

Sue Fawcus

Dr Sue Fawcus is a Senior Research Scholar and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cape Town. She is retired from 25 years as Head of Obstetric services at Mowbray Maternity Hospital. She is a member of the National Committee for Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths, with the responsibility of analyzing all deaths due to obstetric haemorrhage, and deaths related to caesarean section in South Africa. She was one of the South African investigators on the E-Motive trial on post-partum haemorrhage.

Ahmed Fawzy Galal

Dr. Ahmed Fawzy Galal is a professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Alexandria University, Egypt, and the lead consultant of Reproductive Medicine and Infertility at the university's ART center. He is the founder and director of Repro IVF Centers, one of Egypt's leading IVF clinics.

Dr. Galal completed his higher accreditation in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Alexandria University in 2002 and earned a subspecialist accreditation in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility in 2010 after completing his PhD in collaboration with the University of Minnesota. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of New Mexico and is an accredited OB/GYN ultrasound sonographer from APCA.

In recognition of his dedication to women's health, he was awarded an honorary fellowship from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RCOG), UK. Dr. Galal actively contributes to global women's health initiatives, including his leadership work with WHO on Cesarean section

rationalization and his active role in FIGO's committees. He co-authored an anti-FGM module with RCOG. He created and led AMAN program reducing maternal mortality in Egypt.

Dr. Galal also founded the National Women's Health Promotion Society and serves on the National Committee for Cesarean Section Reduction and the Egyptian Guideline Development Group for Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Ruth Guinsburg

Dr Ruth Guinsburg, MD PhD - Graduated in Medicine from Universidade Federal de São Paulo (Unifesp) in 1982, earning a Master's (1988) and a PhD (1993) degree in Pediatrics at the same institution. A faculty member in UNIFESP postgraduate Pediatrics program since 2004, appointed Full Professor of Neonatal Pediatrics in 2007. Currently coordinates the Neonatal ICU at Hospital São Paulo, UNIFESP university hospital. Since 2008, co-chairs the Neonatal Resuscitation Program of the Brazilian Society of Pediatrics and has served as the scientific coordinator of the Brazilian Network on Neonatal Research since 2016. Chief Editor of Revista Paulista de Pediatria since 2013, overseeing its indexation in Medline/PubMed (2013) and Web of Science (2020). A member of the Neonatal Task Force of the International Liaison Committee on Neonatal Resuscitation (ILCOR) since 2005, now emeritus. Research focuses on neonatal pain, delivery room resuscitation, and neonatal mortality.

Lubna Hassan

Prof. Dr. Lubna Hassan, MBBS, MCPS, MRCOG, FRCOG, Hon. FCPS, is a pioneering consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist with over four decades of experience in clinical care, academic leadership, and health system strengthening. She is the Founder and CEO of The Woman's Hospital in Peshawar and the Founding Director of the Women's Health Intervention & Development Initiative (WHI-DI), focusing on improving women's and children's health in underserved communities.

A former Professor and Head of the Department at Hayatabad Medical Complex, Prof. Hassan has held senior leadership roles in national and regional bodies, including President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan (SOGP) and Vice President of the South Asian Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SAFOG). Internationally, she has collaborated with WHO, FIGO, and UN agencies on maternal mortality surveillance, caesarean section optimization, and reproductive health policy.

Prof. Hassan is a published researcher, curriculum developer, and committed educator, supervising and examining candidates for postgraduate qualifications in Pakistan and the UK. Her work bridges clinical excellence, advocacy, and capacity-building, making her a transformative figure in women's health in South Asia.

Justus Hofmeyr

Dr Justus Hofmeyr, MB BCH, MRCOG, DSc, is Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Botswana; and Associate Director, Effective Care Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand and Walter Sisulu University and Eastern Cape Department of Health, South Africa. His 450+ research publications (h-index 87) focus on innovations, randomized trials and systematic reviews relevant to maternal health in low-resource settings. His novel innovations include titrated oral misoprostol solution for labour induction; delayed cord clamping for preventing intraventricular haemorrhage in preterm babies; side by side foley catheter balloons for labour induction; an on-site midwife-led model for labour care; the MaternaWell Tray blood loss monitoring device; suction tube uterine tamponade for postpartum haemorrhage; and posterior axilla sling traction for shoulder dystocia. He has assisted his wife Carol with community development projects in rural Eastern Cape through the Keiskamma Trust.

Pisake Lumbiganon

Dr Pisake Lumbiganon is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Convenor of Cochrane Thailand and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Research Synthesis in Reproductive Health based at Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand. He is currently the Immediate Past President of the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has received research grants from many international organizations including IDRC, WHO, Wellcome Trust, European Commission, Thailand Research Fund.

He has published more than 200 papers in various international peerreviewed journals including many Cochrane reviews. He was a dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Khon Kaen University from 2009 to 2013 and the President of the Royal Thai College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists from 2016 to 2018. In 2019 he received Fellow *ad eundum* from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. His main areas of interest include maternal and perinatal health, evidence based practices, systematic review and meta-analysis.

Massomeh Nataj Majd

Dr Massomeh Nataj Majd is a 49-year-old anesthesiologist in Tehran, Iran. As anaesthesiologist, she has been working in the area of obstetrics and gynecology since 2006. She is an associate professor at the University of Tehran. Dr Massomeh Nataj Majd completed her intensive care fellowship in 2013. She has been professionally performing painless deliveries since 2013 and has performed over 5,000 painless epidural deliveries. Dr Massomeh Nataj Majd has participated in most of the maternal mortality and morbidity committees at the Ministry of Health. She has experience in managing post-partum haemorrhage. She collaborates with the Ministry of Health on the development of national maternal care guidelines.

Detty Nurdianti

Prof. Dr. Detty Siti Nurdianti, MPH, PhD, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Subspecialist in Fetomaternal Medicine, is a prominent Indonesian obstetrician-gynecologist, public health expert, and academic dedicated to improving maternal and child health. She is a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Yogyakarta. She completed her medical and specialist training at UGM and earned an MPH and PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences from Umeå University, Sweden, focusing on reproductive health and nutrition.

As Director of Cochrane Indonesia, she promotes evidence-based medicine in medical education and clinical practice. Her research has shaped national health policies on maternal nutrition, anemia, diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, preeclampsia, postpartum hemorrhage, family planning, and post-abortion care.

Working closely with the Ministry of Health, she has led national training programs to improve antenatal care, maternal nutrition, and respectful maternity services, particularly in underserved areas. She also established Indonesia's first hospital-based support program for survivors of domestic violence, offering comprehensive medical and psychosocial services.

Prof. Nurdianti's contributions to research, education, and health system development have made a lasting impact on maternal and reproductive health in Indonesia. She continues to mentor future healthcare professionals and influence national strategies to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.

Nafussa Bique Osman

Nafissa M. R. Bique Osman, qualified as a medical doctor from Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) Maputo-Mozambique, and qualified as Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Mozambique. She obtained a PhD in International Health in the field of Obstetrics from Karolinska Institut in Sweden in 2000.

She is Associate Professor of Obstetrics/Gynaecology at UEM Faculty of Medicine, where she is also a lecturer of Reproductive Health module in the Master of Public Health course. She was head of the academic department of Obstetrics/Gynecology from 2007 to 2021, worked as senior consultant at Maputo Central Hospital where she was in charge of the Intermediate care unit and Youth Clinic of the Obstetrics and Gynecology department and, was head of same department from 2007 to 2009.

She is member of National Maternal Mortality review committee and of technical working group on Maternal Health in the Ministry of Health. Since 2019 she has been collaborating with the National Cancer program as lecturer on many cervical cancer prevention courses for doctors and midwives

in Mozambique. She was president of the Mozambican Association of Obstetricians/Gynaecologists (AMOG) from 2007-2016 and was a member of the WHO Reproductive Health and Research Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) from 2015 to 2020.

Leeanne Rose Panisi

Dr Leeanne Rose Panisi is a specialist Obstetrician and Gynecologist at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Her academic qualification includes: Masters of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Postgraduate Diploma in Health Leadership and Management and Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. In her current appointment, she is the Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands. She has been in this role since 2012.

Apart from the clinical practice, she is actively involved in the training of the interns and registrars. She is also a part time lecturer on Postgraduate Diploma of Rural Medicine at the Solomon Islands National University. She is actively involved in research and is also the lead consultant in the development of the Solomon Islands Obstetrics and Gynecology Standard Treatment Manual. She is passionate about her work and is an advocate to improving women's health in her country Solomon Islands as well as in the Pacific.

Monica Maria Siaulys

Dr Monica Maria Siaulys is an experienced Medical Director with a strong background in obstetric anesthesia and maternal health. Graduated in Medicine from the University of Sao Paulo (USP), with a Master and PhD in Anesthesia. Currently serving as the Medical Director of Grupo Santa Joana, leading medical teams and developing strategies to enhance patient care and safety.

A recognized expert in obstetric anesthesia, with multiple publications in the field, focusing on maternal mortality reduction programs. Passionate about improving perinatal outcomes through evidence-based practices and multidisciplinary collaboration. Proven leadership in implementing innovative protocols that optimize anesthesia care in obstetrics. Dedicated to advancing maternal healthcare through research, education, and clinical excellence.

Key Areas of Expertise include: obstetric anesthesia, Maternal Mortality Reduction Programs, Medical Leadership & Healthcare Management, Clinical Research & Publications, Patient Safety & Quality Improvement

Michael Stark

Dr Michael Stark is an obstetrician and gynecologist who introduced an evidence-based Cesarean Section, modified the vaginal hysterectomy, and the natural orifice surgery.

Between 1982 and 2000 he was the director of the Misgav Ladach hospital in Jerusalem. From 2001 to 2010 the chairman of the gynecological departments of the HELIOS hospital group in Germany. Between 2011 and 2013, he was the scientific advisor of the USP hospital in Mallorca, Spain. Between 2012 and 2015, as scientific advisor of the European surgical robotic system with haptic sensation in Milan, and from 2016 to 2020 scientific consultant of the French ELSAN hospital group.

Since 2004 he is the President of the New European Surgical Academy, an organization with members in 63 countries. Since 2017, a scientist at the university hospital "Charité" in Berlin. In 2011, he was nominated the Medico Del Anno (Doctor of the Year) in Italy, and is an Honorary Member of the French, Polish, Russian, Serbian-Austrian, and Italian Gynecological Associations. He wrote over 230 scientific publications, a Cesarean section book and several book chapters. He was visiting professor in several countries, including the Universities of Toronto, Moscow, Beijing, Milan, Adana, Uppsala, and the Weill-Cornell University hospital in New York.

Apoorva Taduri

Dr. Lakshmi Apoorva Taduri is working as a Consultant Neonatologist at Fernandez Hospital, Hyderabad, India. She has joined Fernandez hospital in November 2022 and has been working as Consultant since then. She completed graduation in 2012 and Postgraduation in Pediatrics in 2016. She completed the Superspeciality in Neonatology in 2022.

Dr Taduri is a dedicated and passionate Neonatologist and has been caring for newborns since the beginning of my Superspeciality. She cares for preterms, sick newborns and have special interest in neurodevelopment follow among high risk neonates. She is working closely with obstetricians in her unit to optimize neonatal outcomes. She also guides my students during their Fellowship course and their dissertations. She also participates actively in various workshops, Continuing Medical Education (CME) related to neonatology.

Tari Turner

Professor Tari Turner is Director of the Australian Living Evidence Collaboration and a Research Professor at Cochrane Australia. She is a global leader in evidence synthesis, developing and evaluating innovative methods such as living systematic reviews and living guidelines. Her work also includes novel approaches to assess pre-clinical evidence in vaccine development and to improve the translation of research into healthcare policy and practice.

Driven by a commitment to evidence-based decision-making, especially in low-resource settings, Tari is passionate about improving outcomes for women and children. She has held multiple editorial roles, including Editor of the Cochrane Library and Cochrane Evidence Synthesis and Methods, and was previously Co-Editor in Chief of Health Research Policy and Systems.

Tari chairs the WHO's Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health, serves on advisory committees for the European CDC and Australian Red Cross Lifeblood, and holds research fellowships with the Burnet Institute and 3ie. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the Australian National Clinical Evidence Taskforce, producing rapidly updated living guidelines.

Her earlier projects with Cochrane included SEA-URCHIN, Project Transform, and CIPHER. She also served as Senior Health Advisor at World Vision Australia. Tari holds a PhD from Monash University and postgraduate qualifications in business and biostatistics.

John Varallo

Dr John Varallo is Team Lead for Women's Health at the Global Surgery Foundation. He is a board-certified Ob/Gyn, based in Washington, DC, with over 25 years of clinical and surgical experience working in diverse settings across 20+ countries on five continents, and continues working clinically in Alaska. He prioritizes working in solidarity with local stakeholders and teams to develop and test innovative, practical solutions to accelerate change and improve the quality and safety of respectful maternal and newborn health, including obstetric surgical care.

A focus of Dr Varallo's work is in promoting safe, respectful, and appropriate cesarean section (CS) - optimizing interdisciplinary surgical team performance across the perioperative continuum of care, including incorporating evidence-based technical skills updates and bundles of care, and helping translate global recommendations to the local context and into action. Dr. Varallo has been involved with the development of several WHO guidelines on reducing CS-related infections, as well as a member of the global expert consensus on first response to postpartum haemorrhage at CS. He is also a member of the newly formed Lancet Commission on Maternal and Newborn Health.