

**SOCIETY OF OBSTETRIC MEDICINE  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
Minutes, March 20, 2002**

**TO:** SOM Executive Committee

**FROM:** Ray Powrie, MD

**PRESENT:** Mathew Sermer, Linda Barbour, Raymond Powrie, Karen Rosene-Montella, Anne Kenshole, Erin Keely, Jeff Pickard, Ellen Mason, Steve Laifer and Peter Garner

**ABSENT:** Dick Lee

**DATE:** March 25, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Society of Obstetric Medicine Executive Meeting via Conference Call, March 20, 2002

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**1. June 2, 2002 meeting of the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine.**

The guest speaker will be Gus Dekker.

Michael deSwiet has been asked to judge for the Peter Garner prize. Robyn North has been asked to moderate an abstract session.

Dick Lee will also give an invited presentation.

Registration material has been mailed out to all members as well as to the United Kingdom McDonald Club and Australasian Society members.

Arrangements for dinner are still in progress pending tallying of the total number of registrants. Anne Kenshole offered the Royal Canadian Yacht Club as a possibility. It was agreed that she would make arrangements to reserve this for an expected number of 50 pending a final decision.

It was decided that the Garner prize should be increased in value from \$250.00 to \$500.00. Peter Garner offered to subsidize this prize but the Executive Committee declined his kind offer.

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It was agreed that the selection of abstracts should represent both our best and brightest as

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well as giving ongoing encouragement to more junior individuals. It was agreed that Mathew Sermer and Ray Powrie would make a final decision about whether or not posters will be included depending how many submissions are received. The Executive was encouraged to make submissions for presentation.

**2. Executive appointments for 2002.**

The Executive confirmed that Mathew Sermer will serve as President, Linda Barbour will serve as Vice President, Ray Powrie will serve as Secretary/Treasurer through to the 2003 annual meeting. Whether the term will be extended beyond this time frame will be decided at this years business meeting.

Executive members will continue to include: Past President, Karen Rosene-Montella, Anne Kenshole, Erin Keely, Jeff Pickard, Ellen Mason and Steve Laifer through to the 2003 annual meeting. According to the constitution, we are presently missing one additional executive member and Lucia Larson was nominated as an additional person. She would be specifically designated the responsibilities of helping to manage the Society of Obstetric Medicine website and the Society of Obstetric Medicine Journal Watch.

3. A discussion occurred as to whether or not the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine Executive should pursue an **International Society of Obstetric Medicine** organization and meeting. It was unanimously agreed that this was an excellent plan. Mathew Sermer has organized that representatives of the Australasian Society, European individuals interested in obstetric medicine, and the McDonald Club will get together for a meeting on June 1, 2002 in Toronto. Anne, Erin, Ellen, Karen, Linda, Peter and Ray all will be attending that meeting. Jeff will not be able to attend and Steve is still making final determinations about whether or not he will be able to attend. It was emphasized that the formation of the International Society of Obstetric Medicine would be done to complement and expand the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine rather than to compete or drain its resources. The example of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy and its relationship to the North American Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy was cited.
4. A discussion ensued as to the **focus and purpose of the Society of Obstetric Medicine**. It was agreed that the SOM was serving its function in terms of promoting junior clinicians and faculty interested in medical problems in pregnancy and promoting education in this area. It was felt that the Society could have an additional impact through coordination of

consensus reports, research meetings and development of teaching courses in the future. All such endeavors were endorsed by the Executive Committee. The idea was floated that the

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next meeting would have both a teaching course associated with it and a consensus conference from which a consensus report might be generated.

5. **2003 meeting location and timing was discussed.** The importance of pairing the meeting with another national meeting (to attract additional individuals) and the potential of pairing it with an educational conference sponsored by the Society of Obstetric Medicine were both discussed. The idea of having a precourse at the 2003 American College of Physicians meeting was discussed and Karen Rosene will explore this with the ACP. It was hoped that a 2003 meeting site and time would be ready for announcement at the June 2, 2002 meeting.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Membership presently includes 159 members. The SOM account presently holds \$27,864.22. (This is up from \$21,590.93 at the end of 2000). Recent expenses included purchasing Word program for Ray's secretary, SOM brochures and mailings for a total of \$628.00.
- At the present time 11 individuals are registered for the 2002 meeting.
- The SOM website continues to be updated and as source of information for members. Peter Garner asked that some method of determining number of "hits" to the site would be helpful in monitoring its usefulness. This will be implemented.
- A proposal from our 'web master' to revamp the website to aid in ease of updating information on line was discussed. This will undergo further consideration by the committee when more information is available. Lucia Larson will be helpful in her new role in determining the need for this.
- The SOM Journal Watch had its roll out over a year and one half ago. We are about to send out a request for new submissions. This is a work in progress that may lead to a formally published journal and any input or suggestions about this project would be welcomed from the executive or membership.

\* Distribution: Executive Committee members