

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

XIX FIGO
World Congress
of Gynecology
and Obstetrics



FIGO
2009

www.figo2009.org.za

Cape Town International Convention Centre
Cape Town, South Africa

4th – 9th October 2009

Organised by:



FIGO



Message from the FIGO President



I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the XIX FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics from October 4th to 9th 2009, in Cape Town, South Africa to participate in a unique celebration.

2009 is also the 30th anniversary of the Convention of Elimination of Discrimination against Women and so it is highly fitting that our Congress is to be held for the very first time on the continent of Africa. It is also my privilege and perhaps fitting, as the first woman President of FIGO, to be the Congress President in this anniversary year.

Cape Town will play host to thousands of obstetricians and gynecologists, not only from FIGO's 113 member societies but also delegates from a number of territories where a professional society of specialists has yet to become affiliated.

Quite apart from the educational and professional benefits of attending this landmark event, the Congress – which only takes place every three years – offers a tremendous opportunity to renew old acquaintances, experience the culture of a vibrant, emerging society and visit one of the favorites travel destinations on the planet.

The Congress is organized by FIGO's Congress 2009 Organizing Committee chaired by Ralph Hale from The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists and co-chaired by Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, the President of The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists in the United Kingdom. They have developed a close and important collaboration with their colleagues in South Africa, particularly with Gerhard Lindeque who is the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee appointed by The South African Society of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (SASOG). Tom Baskett from The Society of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists of Canada and the Scientific Program Committee are already well on the way to produce a scientific program of the highest quality. It will be an exciting and wide-ranging program designed to engage all delegates on topics of vital importance to women's health. The Congress program will include international experts sharing leading edge knowledge on innovation and technology, balanced by critically important insights into preventing tragedies in the lives and health of women. Beyond health professionals, we expect this conference to include leaders from partnership organizations and to be of relevance to policy makers and others in decision-making roles.

This truly international effort will deliver, I am sure, an event of outstanding importance for our profession and for our colleagues providing health care for women and newborns. I hope that you will seize this opportunity to be part of it!

Dorothy Shaw

President – FIGO



FIGO Officers

Dorothy Shaw	<i>President, Canada</i>
Shahida Zaidi	<i>Vice-President, Pakistan</i>
Ian Fraser	<i>Honorary Secretary, Australia</i>
Jerker Liljestrand	<i>Honorary Treasurer, Sweden</i>
Gamal Serour	<i>President-Elect, Egypt</i>
Arnaldo Acosta	<i>Past President, Paraguay</i>

Hamid Rushwan	<i>FIGO Chief Executive</i>
---------------	-----------------------------

FIGO 2009 Congress Organising Committee

Dorothy Shaw	<i>Congress President, Canada</i>
Ralph Hale	<i>Organising Committee Chair, USA</i>
Sabaratnam Arulkumaran	<i>Organising Committee Co-Chair, United Kingdom</i>
The Lord Patel	<i>Organising Committee Member and 2006 Congress Chair, United Kingdom</i>
Tom Baskett	<i>Scientific Programme Committee Chair, Canada</i>
Gerhard Lindeque	<i>Local Organising Committee Chair, South Africa</i>
Bryan Thomas	<i>FIGO Administrative Director, United Kingdom</i>

Local Congress Organising Committee

Gerhard Lindeque (Chair)	<i>Pretoria, South Africa</i>
Franco Guidozzi (ex officio as President of SASOG)	<i>Johannesburg, South Africa</i>
Paul Dalmeyer	<i>Port Elizabeth, South Africa</i>
Silke Dyer	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Peter de Jong	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Tobie de Villiers	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Thinus Kruger	<i>Stellenbosch, South Africa</i>
Christo la Grange	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>
Gerhard Theron	<i>Stellenbosch, South Africa</i>
Zephne van der Spuy	<i>Cape Town, South Africa</i>

Scientific Programme Committee

Thomas F. Baskett (Chair)	<i>Halifax, Canada</i>
Liliana S. Voto (Vice chair)	<i>Buenos Aires, Argentina</i>
Paul D. Blumenthal	<i>Stanford, USA</i>
Peter L. Dwyer	<i>Melbourne, Australia</i>
Alessandra Graziottin	<i>Milan, Italy</i>
Justus Hofmeyr	<i>East London, South Africa</i>
Guylaine Lefebvre	<i>Toronto, Canada</i>
Hextan Y. Ngan	<i>Hong Kong, SAR, China</i>
VP Paily	<i>Thrissor, India</i>
Herbert S. Peterson	<i>Chapel Hill, USA</i>
Robert L. Reid	<i>Kingston, Canada</i>

FIGO Officers

FIGO 2009 Congress Organising Committee

Local Congress Organising Committee

XIX FIGO World Congress of Gynecology & Obstetrics. Cape Town, South Africa



Cape Town International Convention Centre

Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) is the venue for the XIX FIGO World Congress, which will run from 4th to 9th October 2009.

Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) is located on Cape Town's northern foreshore beneath Table Mountain.

Within walking distance of the CTICC are Cape Town's leading recreational amenities, shopping areas and cultural attractions, which

include the internationally acclaimed

V&A Waterfront. On the doorstep is Table Mountain and within less than an hour's travel are South Africa's leading tourist destinations - The Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Robben Island, the Winelands, and Cape Point.

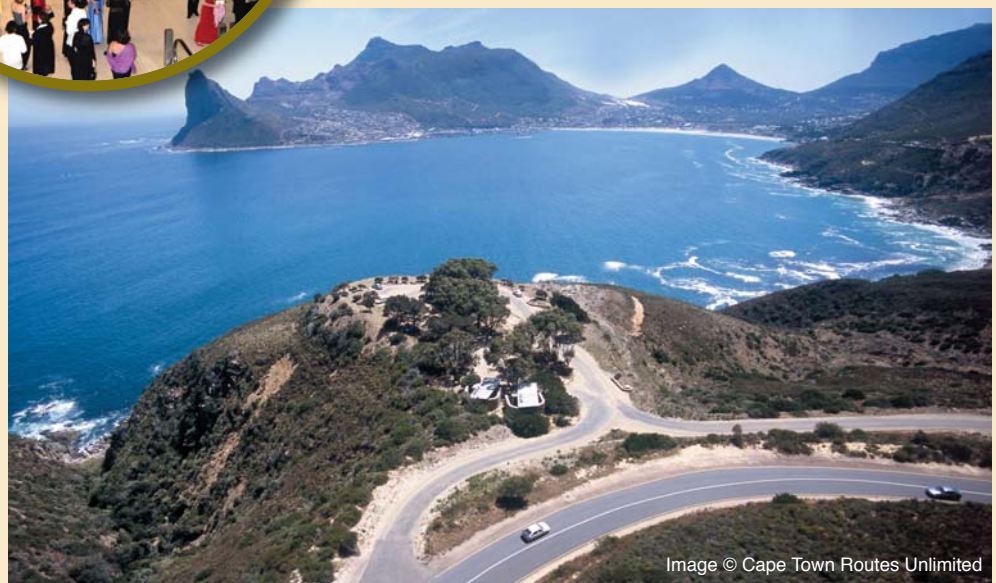


Image © Cape Town Routes Unlimited



Transport and Security

Situated in the city centre, the Convention Centre is within walking distance of many major hotels and apartments.

The CTICC is also within easy walking distance of the central railway station and is a 20-minute drive from Cape Town International Airport.

The centre has a fully integrated security system. Surveillance cameras are installed in the building and are monitored. The CTICC security team operates closely with the City Police.

Exhibition Halls

Pharmaceutical companies, medical product and systems manufacturers, publishers and educational organisations will showcase products and services throughout the Congress period.

The Cape Town International Convention Centre provides 10,000m² of dedicated, column-free exhibition and trade show space.

Internet stations will offer Congress delegates the opportunity to surf the net.





About Cape Town

Cape Town is located at the southern tip of Africa. Here, two great oceans meet, warm weather lasts most of the year, and big game roams just beyond the city lights.

Cape Town, Mother City to South Africa has much to offer the visitor to South Africa. Nestling on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, the city has golden beaches, beautiful parks and gardens, museums, theatres, excellent sports facilities and world class shopping malls.

Modern hotels are located in close proximity to the Cape Town International Convention Centre and a superb air and land infrastructure exists.

A variety of organized tours will allow visitors to view South Africa's rich and diverse cultural, historical, geographical and natural attractions. Outstanding wine estates, wildlife game reserves and scenic drives are just a few hours from the city centre.

The exciting accompanying person's programme will give delegates and their companions a taste of Africa's warmth and wonderful hospitality.





General Information

Weather

The Cape's climate is described as Mediterranean with warm, dry summers and mild, moist winters. The Cape has a mostly temperate climate.

With the onset of spring (Aug – Oct), the fast-retreating winter gives way to the sun, awakening a riot of colour of the spectacular wild flower displays and sending residents and guests back onto the Cape's world-famous coastline of perfect beaches. This time of year – exactly the time that the XIX FIGO World Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology takes place in Cape Town – is well-known for the Cape Doctor, the southeaster wind that brings delight for surfers and wind sport enthusiasts.

Visa Requirements

Please note that for entering South Africa, immigration requires that all visitors have a valid passport and at least two pages are needed to remain blank for the issuing of stamps. The passport also needs to be valid for the duration of the stay and six months after departure.

All Congress delegates are encouraged to contact their local South African consulate and/or their own government authority to confirm visa requirements.

Please contact the FIGO 2009 Congress Secretariat if you require an official invitation letter to attend the Congress.

Currency

The South African Rand (ZAR) is the official currency in South Africa.

Some financial institutions have strict guidelines regarding the use of credit/debit cards in South Africa. Before travelling please advise your credit/debit card provider that you will be attending the Congress in South Africa.

Business Hours

Most shops in the city and suburbs are open between 08h00 and 17h00. Shops at major centres like the V&A Waterfront and Canal Walk open at 09h00 and close at 21h00 or later, even on Sundays and most public holidays.

Tax and Tipping

South Africa has adopted a Value Added Tax system of 14% on purchases and services.

Tipping is an accepted practice in the Cape. Tipping in bars and restaurants is normally between 10% and 15%.

Congress Timeline:

2nd Announcement (incl. Call for Abstracts, Provisional Programme, Registration and Accommodation details)	October 2008
Abstract Submissions Open	October 2008
Registrations and Accommodation Bookings Open	October 2008
Abstract Submissions Deadline	15 January 2009
Notification of Acceptance of Abstract	15 March 2009
Registration Deadline for Authors	31 May 2009
Accommodation Bookings Deadline	1 July 2009
Congress	4-9 October 2009