

February 2026

www.caog.org

Quarterly

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION of
OBSTETRICIANS & GYNECOLOGISTS



"Changing the Face of Women's Health"

NEWSLETTER

Message from the President...

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Special points of interest:

- Membership address changes requested
- Abstract deadline April 20, 2026
- Reserve Punta Cana meeting dates now
- Interim Board Meeting early June, 2026
- Re-billed member dues requested ASAP
- Member Application form online: Join now
- Research Network projects details online

Welcome to CAOG 2026!

With the new year well underway, I would like to share my appreciation for all the members of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. This organization has become my professional meeting "home." CAOG is beginning its 97th year. It was founded in 1929 as one of the premier national organizations established for the advancement of women's health. In the fall of 2025 CAOG held its 92nd annual meeting in Las Vegas highlighting several nationally distinguished speakers.

In preparation for the meeting, the program committee entertained eighty abstracts from members, residents and medical students relating to their research and clinical activities. Twenty-two of these were selected for oral presentations at the meeting, allowing their authors the opportunity to present at a national meeting. The rest were eligible for poster presentations highlighting their research and case reports. Since 2022 all oral and poster presentation abstracts have been published in North American Proceedings in Gynecology and Obstetrics (NAPGO). This assists members, residents and medical students in achieving publication of their work which in turn is important for their personal advancement.

The Central Association is distinctive from other national Ob/Gyn organizations in countless ways and is felt by many of its members to be the desired career-long women's health association to which one should belong. Its collegiality, unrivaled social and networking capacity, and its dedication to research into women's health are cited as prime features by many of its long-term members.

The program offered at this year's annual meeting is "cutting edge" in its attempt to meet the continuing medical education needs of their specialty and sub-specialty audience. Its welcoming posture to residents and medical students allows for ongoing renewal of its membership. Please begin early to make arrangements to attend this year's meeting for Science, Sun and Fun!



Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.

October 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2026
Melia Caribe Beach Resort
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Thomas F. Arnold, MD, President

Officers

Thomas F. Arnold, MD, President
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 Dani G. Zoorob, MD, Secretary-Treasurer
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Trustees

Shilpa Babbar, MD (2023-2026)
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 Michael R. Handler, MD (2024-2027)
 Theresa L. Robinson, MD (2024-2027)
 Angelina K. Gangestad, MD (2025-2028)
 Teresa Tam, MD (2025-2028)

Managing Director

Dennis J. Lutz, MD
Executive Director
 Rochelle Hickel
 P.O. Box 3010
 Minot, ND 58702
 (O) 701-838-8323
 (F) 701-852-8733
 rhickel@caog.org

Join us on X, formerly Twitter @TheCAOG

Questions? andrew.wagner@nm.org

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., Shreveport, LA



Membership Report:

During 2025 the CAOG elected 8 new provisional active members and 2 new adjunct members. In addition, 8 provisional members advanced to active status by attending the Annual Meeting. There were 14 requests for transfers, 4 active members to life, 1 active to emeritus, 8 life to emeritus and 1 nonresident to life. Requests by members to resign were a total of 7, to include 4 active, 1 provisional active, 1 adjunct and 1 emeritus. Dropped for persistent nonpayment of dues were 10 active, 2 provisional active and 1 adjunct for a total of 13. Finally, the CAOG office was notified of the deaths of 12 members during the year, 1 life and 11 emeritus. As of December 31, 2025 the CAOG membership roster included 126 active members, 25 provisional active members, 53 life members, 184 emeritus members, 26 adjunct members, 0 nonresident member and 4 honorary members for a total of **418**.

2026 CAOG Committees

Bylaws Committee

Tacoma A. McKnight, M.D., Chair
 Veronica T. Mallett, M.D., Vice Chair
 Robert J. Wester, M.D.
 Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.*
 David A. Billings, M.D.*
 Emily A. DeFranco, D.O., M.S.*
 Catherine L. Van Hook, M.D.*
 Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., MHA, MBA*
 Jean R. Goodman, M.D., MBA*
 Dennis J. Lutz, M.D. (COMPS)*

Program Committee

Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., MHA, MBA, Chair
 Robert A. Wild, MD, MPH, PhD, Vice Chair
 Jacques S. Abramowicz, M.D.
 Emmet Hirsch, M.D.
 David M. Haas, M.D., M.S.
 Albert L. Hsu, M.D.
 Elliot M. Levine, M.D.
 J. Ricardo Loret de Mola, M.D.
 Sarah R. Novotny, M.D.
 Rebecca C. Pierson, M.D.
 Karen M. Thies, D.O., Ph.D.
 Tiffany R. Tonismae, M.D.
 Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.*
 Catherine L. Van Hook, M.D.*
 Dennis J. Lutz, M.D. (COMPS)*

* Ex officio members

Exhibits/Industry Committee

Emily A. DeFranco, D.O., M.S., Chair
 Catherine L. Van Hook, M.D., Vice Chair
 Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., MHA, MBA*
 Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.*
 David A. Billings, M.D.*
 Dennis J. Lutz, M.D. (COMPS)*

Membership Committee

Ann K. Lal, M.D., Chair
 Robert J. Carpenter, Jr., M.D., Vice Chair
 Sara Morgan Carpenter, M.D.
 Maryann C. Chimhanda, M.D., MS
 Cordia M. Clark-White, M.D.
 Nadia N. Megahed, M.D.
 Erica E. Nelson, M.D.
 Sharon T. Phelan, M.D.
 Thomas F. Arnold, M.D.*
 Emily A. DeFranco, D.O., M.S.*
 Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., MHA, MBA*
 Dennis J. Lutz, M.D. (COMPS)*

Nominating Committee

Thomas F. Arnold, M.D., Chair
 Emily A. DeFranco, D.O., M.S.
 Jean R. Goodman, M.D., MBA
 David M. Haas, M.D., M.S.
 (plus 3 Members-at-Large to be appointed later)

FAR Research Network 2026 Request

FAR research projects under collaborative investigation.

Suggest a New Topic

Please email or better yet, call our coordinators:

Drs. Jean Goodman,
 Jonathan Muraskas or
 Tiffany Tonismae

Any ideas for collaborative investigation are urgently requested and all inquiries are welcomed !!

All Provisional Active Members

As a provisional active member, you are **encouraged to attend** at least one of the two Annual Meetings following election to enjoy full CAOG privileges. This means that anyone elected in 2025 should try to attend and those elected in 2024 or before who were not in Las Vegas **must** try to attend the Punta Cana meeting. Please reserve these dates now. Membership certificates are only awarded after attendance requirements have been met. The Central has always been a great place to network, renew friendships and enjoy science.



THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS



93RD ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 21 – 24, 2026
(WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY)

MELIA CARIBE BEACH RESORT
PUNTA CANA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION





CAOG Meeting Registration Form

**Melia Caribe Beach Resort
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
October 21 – 24, 2026**

ATTENDEE INFORMATION (Please Print or Type)

Deadline Friday, September 4, 2026

First Name:		Last Name:		
Badge Name:		ACOG #	M.D. / D.O. / R.N. (circle one)	
Address:				
City:		State:	Zip:	
Telephone:		Email:		
DATE/EVENT	TIME	Cost Per Person	# of Persons	TOTAL*
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026 Welcome Reception	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Covered in Registration Fee		***
Thursday, October 22, 2026 Partner/Guest Event	8:30 – 10:00 <u>a.m.</u>	Covered in Registration Fee		***
Friday, Oct. 23, 2026 Farewell Reception/Dinner	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Covered in Registration Fee		***
REGISTRATION FEE	CAOG Member	\$700		
	CAOG Adjunt Member	\$550		
	CAOG Life Member	\$600		
	Residents/Nurses	\$500		
	Medical Students	\$350		
	Non-Member (MD/DO)	\$800		
	Partner/Guests **	\$300		
			Grand Total	
PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR FILES (all fees in U.S. dollars)				

****Partner/Guests Registration Fee:**

The \$300 partner/guests/teenager registration fee includes Welcome Reception (Wednesday), Partner/Guest Event (Thursday), the Reception/Dinner (Friday). Registered partner/guests/teenagers will receive a CAOG name badge. Children 12 years and under are not required to pay a fee but will receive a CAOG name badge. Parents will be responsible for children at all times.

Names of Partner/Guests/Teenagers	Names of Children 12 and Under
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Payment Information

Payment must be received in full to process your registration. Payment can only be in the form of a check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. For questions regarding registration please call 701-838-8323 (Rochelle).

<input type="checkbox"/> Check (payable to CAOG)	Check #
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
Exp. Date: /	Security # (3 or 4 digits):
Credit Card #	
SIGNATURE: _____ (signature above hereby authorizes this transaction)	

Cut-Off Date:

Your registration form must be received by CAOG no later than Friday, September 4, 2026. Please call if you experience any last minute problems.

Cancellation Policy:

Written cancellation must be received prior to Friday, September 11, 2026. A \$50 administrative fee will be assessed. No refunds will be issued after the September 11, 2026 cancellation date.

Confirmation:

Registrants will receive written confirmation with final details 3 weeks prior to the meeting.

To Register by Mail Return Completed
Form with Payment to:
Rochelle Hickel
CAOG Executive Director
P.O. Box 3010
Minot, ND 58702-3010

To Register by Fax, Return Completed
Form with Payment to:
Rochelle Hickel
Executive Director
701-852-8733 (fax)

*Remember to please check with the bellman for complimentary luggage storage on the day you depart so you don't need to leave the meeting early!!



Peacocks strut their stuff on the Melia Caribe grounds



Resort Tram readily available for attendees



**THE CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS**

FINAL CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS 2026
CAOG 93rd Annual Meeting
Melia Caribe Beach Resort, Punta Cana Dominican Republic
October 21 – 24, 2026

The 2026 Central Association Meeting will be held at Caribe Beach Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from October 21-24, 2026 (Wednesday through Saturday). The Program Chair is Dani G. Zoorob, M.D., from Shreveport, LA. Plans are underway for at least 20 oral presentations, multiple hot topics, and a poster session. The Annual Meeting is our primary scientific function and attracts a national audience. **New this year, you can submit a single figure or table with your abstract.**

Abstract Submission

Enhance your participation in the CAOG by submitting your original research this year. All submissions are to be electronic. **No paper submissions will be accepted.** The deadline for 2026 abstract submissions will be **Monday, April 20, 2026 at 11:59 CST.** To submit your abstract online, please use the CAOG website link :

<http://www.caog.org>

Anyone who submits an abstract that is accepted for an oral or poster presentation who is not currently a member of the CAOG will be given a one-year free adjunct membership for 2026 upon request.

Authors are cautioned that the content of your abstract should not have been presented earlier at any international, national or district meeting and that no paper arising from it will be published prior to the CAOG meeting. The length **cannot exceed 500 words**, with at least 300-400 words devoted to **methods and results**. Abstract categories have been expanded to include: Obstetrics, Gynecology, Education, and Patient Safety & Quality Improvement.

Awards — The Program Committee, pending Board approval, will select papers and posters for the following awards:

Central Prize Award — President's Certificate of Merit Award — Central Poster Awards

These awards will be given for outstanding investigative or clinical work in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Those eligible to compete are accredited physicians, faculty, researchers, and medical students whose work was done within the CAOG geographic confines. The recipient of each award will receive a Certificate of Award.

Community Hospital Award

For research in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology by CAOG area members located in a community hospital where medical education is not the primary function. The recipient of this award will receive a Certificate of Award.

Young Investigator Award

For research in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology performed by CAOG area fellows, residents, medical students and new practitioners (less than three years). The award winner will receive a Certificate of Award.

Fellows and Residents (FAR) Research Award

For research in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology performed in collaboration with another institution(s) as part of the CAOG "FAR Research Network". The award winner will receive a Certificate of Award.

For more information on the 2026 Annual Meeting, contact CAOG Executive Director Rochelle Hickel at any of the addresses shown below. Thank you in advance for your willingness to participate.

CAOG Office
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E-mail: rhickel@caog.org

CAOG Management Report

Rochelle Hickel, CAOG
P.O. Box 3010
Minot, ND 58702-3010
Call for Shipping Address

Phone: 701-838-8323
Fax: 701-852-8733
E-mail: rhickel@caog.org

As we begin our twenty-first year of management for the CAOG, everything seems to be going smoothly. Our staff remains committed to responding promptly to all inquiries and requests. The CAOG Newsletter is e-published quarterly. Please refer to it frequently. The CAOG website has been redone and is continuously updated. Also don't forget to check your e-mail regularly for priority communications.



Rochelle Hickel
Executive Director

A second dues notice has just been e-mailed to members unpaid for 2026 and a few who are still owing for 2025. The CAOG needs your membership support. Thank you in advance for your prompt payment. It helps the CAOG immensely and makes my job easier.

Women's Health Care Leaders

Please don't delay in submitting your abstracts and papers for the 2026 Annual Meeting in Punta Cana. The deadline is approaching and we need your active participation. More abstracts = a better meeting.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.CAOG.ORG



Central Association

The Interim Meeting of the CAOG Officers and Trustees will be held by early June. If you have any issues to be considered, let me know as soon as possible so they can be added to the agenda. Oral presentations, posters and awards are selected at this meeting.

Finally, I appreciate all the address and email updates. As we no longer do a Membership Directory your attention to updates is crucial. If you need Punta Cana registration forms check out the website next month. Inquiries are always welcome. Have a great spring !

IN MEMORIAM

David G. Anderson, M.D.
Ann Arbor, MI
CAOG Past President

Perry A. Henderson, M.D.
Verona, WI

James Hutchison, M.D.
Albuquerque, NM

James R. Scott, M.D.
Iowa City, IA

Please remember to promptly notify the CAOG office of any member deaths. All names will appear in the Annual Meeting program book and will be read at the Annual Business Meeting.



Melia Caribe Beach Resort
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
CAOG 93rd Annual Meeting
Oct. 21 – 24, 2026

Candidates for Membership

The deadline for membership applications this year is **July 1, 2026**. Please help identify those in your area who would be qualified for either active or adjunct membership in the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and encourage them to apply now! **Board certified adjunct members should apply for active status**. The application forms can be viewed and completed online. If you need additional application forms anytime, please contact the CAOG office at 701-838-8323.