

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY: ANNUAL REPORT 2025

1. Introduction

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Sarawak General Hospital is a cornerstone of women's healthcare in the region, delivering comprehensive and high-quality services. Over the years, it has established itself as a major tertiary referral centre in Sarawak, supporting district hospitals and private medical centres with a wide range of obstetric and gynaecological cases.

The department offers extensive inpatient and outpatient care, including the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU), day care services, and the O&G Specialist Clinic, which manages referrals and follow-up treatments. Specialist services encompass Family Planning, Pre-pregnancy, and Combined Clinics, as well as subspecialties such as Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Gynaec oncology, Infertility, Urogynaecology, Paediatric Adolescence, and Endometriosis.

Through the MRCOG programme, the department plays a vital role in training specialists, ensuring a steady supply of highly qualified professionals dedicated to advancing women's health and promoting safer motherhood across Malaysia. In addition, continuous medical education for doctors and nurses ensures that patient care remains aligned with the latest evidence-based practices.

The department's academic contributions are equally significant. It serves as the core organiser of annual postgraduate MRCOG courses, with faculty members frequently invited to present at national and international conferences. Its commitment to research is reflected in the publication of numerous original papers, underscoring its role as both a clinical and academic leader in obstetrics and gynaecology.

2. Objectives

- i. To play a pivotal role in providing maternal and perinatal health care in Sarawak
- ii. To provide secondary and tertiary level care in Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- iii. To be a model for other hospitals in the state in implementing Baby – Friendly Hospital, Mother -& Father-Friendly Hospital as well as Pain-Free Hospital status
- iv. Providing a training ground to nurture paramedics, medical students, house-officers and medical officers specializing in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine
- v. Providing a suitable environment for clinical research and quality assurance studies

3. Services Provided

i. Low and high risk obstetric management

Outpatient services are provided via the Antenatal Specialist Clinic, Combined Antenatal-Medical Clinic, Antenatal Staff Clinic, Antenatal Diabetic Clinic, Obstetric Day Care & Maternal-Fetal Medicine Clinic (MFM), Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) and Prepregnancy clinics. There are also Visiting MFM Specialist Clinics and Urogynaecology Clinics to Sibul, Miri and Bintulu. Procedures for high risk pregnancies such as fetoscopic laser ablation, bipolar cord coagulation and radiofrequency ablation are available.

In-patient services are provided through 3 maternity wards (120 beds) and a 15-bedded Labour Ward

ii. Gynaecological services

Outpatient gynaecological services are provided in the General Gynaecology Clinic, Gynaecology Oncology Clinic, Reproductive Medicine Clinic, and Urogynaecology Clinic. Daycare Centre Operating Theatre is used for outpatient hysteroscopy and colposcopy/LLETZ procedures.

In 2024, three new services were introduced. Outpatient colposcopy are offered to women with low risk of cervical cancer in clinic since February 2024. In July 2024, PAG clinic was started with the goal of providing and advocating for the gynaecological and reproductive healthcare needs of young women, adolescents, and children. And IVF was added to the reproductive medicine services since Dec 2024, as part of public-private collaboration, with part of the care being provided in Sunfert.

In-patient services are delivered at level 5 of the patient tower block which houses 28 beds. This ward is designated for all gynaecological issues pertaining to the reproductive system, including complications that arise during the first trimester.

iii. Perinatal services

The department works closely with the Paediatric Department, Paediatric Surgery, Neurosurgery and Paediatric Cardiology to provide timely antenatal diagnosis and optimize resuscitation of the newborn and care for ill babies. Multidisciplinary team meetings are organized and parents are referred to paediatric surgery for further discussions to assist their understanding of possible postnatal course for the newborn. Regular perinatal mortality & morbidity discussions and audits are held, where remedial measures are recommended and carried out.

iv. Surgery

Elective Gynaecology surgeries are scheduled every Tuesdays & Thursdays in the Main Operating theatre. Pre-operative meetings are conducted every Monday afternoon, at least a week prior to the surgery to discuss the planned cases. Preoperative rounds are performed by the surgeon a day earlier. The Maternity OT, which is located adjacent to the labour ward allows obstetric surgery to be performed until 9pm on weekdays. Regular visiting clinics to Bau, Serian, Lundu and Simunjan Hospitals has recommenced and selected gynaecological procedures are performed there. Starting from May 2023, the department has expanded the use of operation theater to Pusat Jantung Hospital Umum Sarawak (PJHUS) to reduce the workload of main OT.

v. Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)

As of the year 2020 over 95% of the nurses in Maternity Units have attended the 20-Hour BFHI course and breastfeeding support groups are readily available. Breastfeeding Week was celebrated in the first week of August, albeit complying to the new normal, as we continue to raise awareness.

vi. Training

Obstetric Emergency Drills are an essential component of training, identifying areas for improvement and self-reflection and are carried out regularly. The department also leads the **Sarawak Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (SALSO)** programme catered for both midwives and doctors, who require credentialing every 3 years. **Academic** training is provided to midwives via Continuous Nursing Education (CNEs) and doctors via Department Continuous Medical Education (CMEs). **Audits** conducted at regular intervals within the department also allow the trainees appreciate the importance of risk management. **Fellowship training** is also provided for most of the subspecialties within O&G. The department is also involved in the training of **postgraduate** O&G, family medicine and emergency department candidates and **medical students** from University Malaysia Sarawak.

vii. Family Planning

Medical officers and specialists from the department are also actively involved in the activities organized by the Family Planning Association (FPA), by voluntarily attending their clinic and providing services such as contraception counseling, cervical screening, managing gynaecological conditions and general health screening. We also participate in giving talks organized by the association to the public.

4. Staffing (Summary)

Head of Department:

- Dr Rafaie Amin (Head of Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit)

Consultants:

- Dr Sim Wee Wee (Head of Gynaecology Unit)
- Dr Sukanda Jaili (Head of Urogynaecology Unit)
- Dr Christine Lee Mui Fong
- Dr Tan Tze Ling
- Dr Nurulhuda binti Samsudin

The department had 11 Specialists, 6 subspecialty trainees, 2 UNIMAS Specialist, 3 gazetted specialists, 32 Medical Officers/Registrars, 3 Family Medicine Specialist trainee. The nursing division was headed by Matron Adelyn Ann Tyon, assisted by 3 matrons and 15 nursing sisters. The contribution from 158 Staff Nurses, 100 Community Nurses and 36 “Pembantu Perawat Kesihatan” (PPK) made it possible for the department to meet the needs of our clients.

5. Workload Comparison

A. Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinic

CLINIC	WORKLOAD				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Gynaecology	5839	7776	9800	10677	11093
Gynaecology	2000	2393	2635	2863	2984
Fertility	323	716	713	881	1330
Urogynaecology	618	746	937	1030	1199
Antenatal Specialist	3635	4375	4718	4486	4582
Antenatal Combined	485	644	639	664	500
Antenatal Staff	200	198	180	108	137
Antenatal Diabetic Clinic	642	656	692	525	701
Paeds Adolescence Clinic	-	-	-	96	234
Family Planning	128	148	148	237	224
Pre Pregnancy	182	217	276	274	275
Pap Smear	2101	1376	1652	2248	2912
Outpatient colposcopy	-	-	-	-	175
TOTAL	16153	19245	22390	24089	26346

Table 1: The overall attendance in O&G clinic

B. Maternity Unit (Labour Ward And Maternity Wards)

ACTIVITIES	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Admissions	12477	11109	11734	13042	12864	13715
Deliveries	10900	9951	10105	11226	9775	9597
Unassisted vaginal deliveries	7277	6572	6050	6379	5397	5247
Caesarean Sections	2733	2643	3099	3680	3472	3530
Forceps	65	68	65	89	58	59
Vacuum	753	589	837	963	797	708
Livebirths	10924	9992	10118	11262	9828	9616
Stillbirths	71	71	70	54	43	71
Total Day Care procedures	28431	24758	28729	33529	32859	31740
Total EPAU/Daycare patients	6443	6302	6632	7233	7146	7023
Total MFM cases	MFM cases included in EPAU/Daycare data		1950	2286	2632	2814
TOTAL WORKLOAD	80079	72055	79389	89743	84871	84120

Table 2: Overall Maternity Unit Workload (Labour Ward, 3 Maternity Wards and EPAU)

C. Gynaecology Ward

ACTIVITIES	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Admission	1651	2211	2539	2672	3244
Total Operations	699	1022	864	960	1427
Major Operations	297	511	474	514	682
Minor Operations	402	511	390	446	745

Table 3: Overall Gynae Ward Work Load

D. Daycare Centre OT

OPERATING THEATRE	2024	2025
Daycare Centre OT	1127	1250
Total	1127	1250

Table 4: Number of procedures performed in the Daycare Operation Theatre

E. Cluster hospital activities

Activities	Hospital				
	Bau	Lundu	Serian	Simunjan	PJHUS
Number of visits	47	6	41	6	44
Clinic workload (no. patients)	325	92	-	69	-
Drills	-	-	-	2	-
Total Operations	105	3	87	1	83
Major operations	50	-	67	-	52
Minor operations	55	3	20	1	31

Table 5: Workload and activities during cluster hospital visits. Serian includes only cases by visiting specialist/gynae-oncologist

6. Achievements / Awards

- 1st Open Maternal Fetal Surgery to repair Fetal Lumbo-Sacral Meningomyelocele in Sarawak and Malaysia
- Trained and successfully produced 8 new O&G specialists via the parallel pathway program (MRCOG)
- Co-authors for National Handbook of Obstetric Guidelines
- Co-authors for National Maternal Immunisation Guidelines

7. Department Activities

Clinical

- Regular updates of *O&G Department Resource Point* to collate all department protocols, guidelines and directives
- Chairing and conducting internal/external inquiries into Maternal Morbidity/Mortality
- Involvement of Consultants and Specialist in Part 3 MRCOG examination in Malaysia
- Massive Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) audits
- Morbidity & Mortality Meetings
- Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality Meetings
- System for Monitoring of Common Skill-based Obstetric Procedures for MO
- Identification, risk stratification and outsourcing of obstetrics and gynaecology surgeries to reduce operative waiting time
- Breastfeeding week
- Antenatal classes
- O&G Family day 2025

Training and Academic

- Trainee for the Fetoscopic Endotracheal Occlusion (FETO) for Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia / Paediatric Myelomeningocele
- 1st Open Maternal Fetal Surgery to repair Fetal Lumbo-Sacral Meningomyelocele in Sarawak
- Trainers for the Asia & Oceania Federation of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (AOFOG) Regional Ultrasound Webinars
- 1st Women's wellness and Optimising Mothers' and Babies' health in Sarawak (WOMBS)
- Trainers for the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology (ISUOG) Webinars
- Trainers for the Intensive Course in Obstetric Emergencies (ICOE)
- Statewide training for postpartum contraception- Postpartum intrauterine device (PPIUD) insertion
- Regular and scheduled drills in obstetric emergencies
- Sarawak MRCOG Survival Course (SaMS Course)
- Tutorials & Lectures for Diploma in Advanced Midwifery
- Training for 3rd and 5th year UNIMAS Medical Students
- SALSO (Sarawak Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics)
- SAVOS (Symposium On Advanced Obstetric Ultrasound)
- Perineal trauma workshop
- Supplementary Training on Non-Breastfeeding Mothers
- Basic minimally invasive gynaecological surgery workshop course
- Basic Life support course
- State TOT for preterm birth prevention and pre pregnancy care
- Cervical awareness and Colposcopy Workshop
- Sarawak Sleep Disordered Breathing Workshop

Future plans

The department believes in providing a platform for trainees and young specialists alike to express, challenge and improve themselves through organizing courses, research, audits and providing opinions in expanding existing services. A department roadmap has been created and it is envisioned that the following areas can be developed:

- To train more Specialists in Robotic Assisted Surgery which enable more delicate and complex procedures that may be difficult or impossible with other methods be done
- Contributing to various guidelines, standard operating procedures and protocols at the national level
- Leading the way in Sarawak General Hospital to obtain accreditation by the Malaysian Society of Quality in Health
- Continue to be the national centre of excellence for postgraduate training in O&G by supporting and guiding trainees to navigate the MRCOG and Masters examination
- Becoming the centre of referral for management of complicated monochorionic pregnancies using bipolar cord coagulation, radiofrequency ablation and fetoscopic laser coagulation
- Continuing endoanal ultrasound and urodynamic investigations services within the urogynaecology unit
- Educating Medical Officers from district hospitals and health clinics so that they can manage obstetrics and gynaecology cases more efficiently.
- Increasing the quantity and quality of research and publications produced by O&G Department

Achievements and Activity of 2025

O&G day



Research course

RESEARCH FOR THE BUSY CLINICIAN:

An indispensable guide for the clinical Masters & Parallel Pathway candidate

22 FEB 2025
8AM - 5PM
BORNEO CULTURES MUSEUM KUCHING

Limited seats available

REGISTRATION FEE
BEFORE 15TH JAN 2025: RM 150
AFTER 15TH JAN 2025: RM 200

KEY SPEAKER
PROF KULENTHRAN ARUMUGAM

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
DR VOON HIAN YAN
DR ANIES ASMA'I
DR CHOONG YONG SHENG
DR NUR AFFSYA

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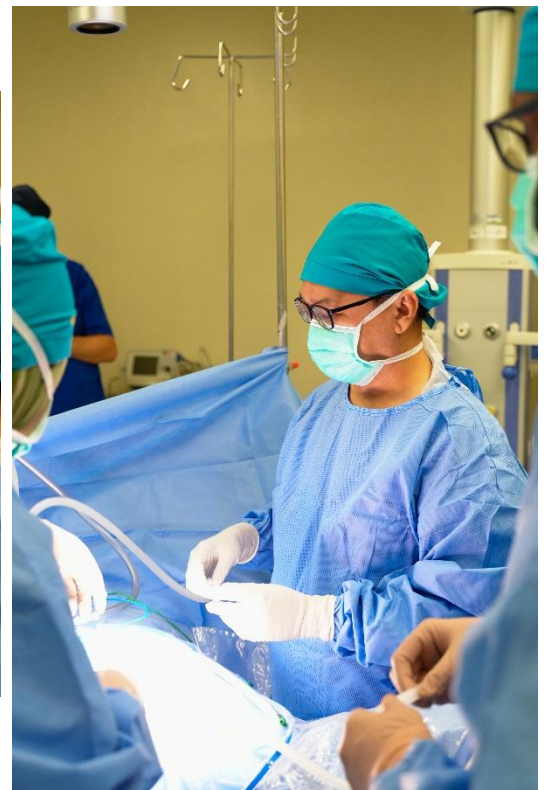
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PPOGS



1st Women's wellness and Optimising Mothers' and Babies' health in Sarawak (WOMBS)



1st Open Maternal Fetal Surgery to repair Fetal Lumbo-Sacral Meningomyelocele in Sarawak



1st International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology & Extracellular Vesicle Science (ARTEV)



Part 3 MRCOG Mock exam 2025

