

FREDERIC GLICENSTEIN, FRANCE

Attending the JSOG Congress held in Japan from May 14th to 16th, 2026 was both a scientific and cultural privilege, and I would like to sincerely thank the European board for inviting me to this exceptional event. The congress was remarkably well organized, with an impressive sense of precision and timing throughout the entire meeting. Scientifically, the level of research presented was outstanding; I was particularly impressed by discussions with colleagues from many different countries, including a neighboring poster presentation describing fetal catheter placement in a sheep fetus within an artificial placenta model. I was moved by the fact that several Japanese colleagues reached out to me after my talk to discuss and test the ultrasound smartphone simulator I presented.

Beyond the scientific content, the congress offered a unique and deeply human experience. The opening ceremony featured renowned pianist Takuma Ishii, whose performance created a memorable atmosphere from the very beginning. Japanese hospitality was extraordinary: the warmth of the welcome, the numerous thoughtful gifts, and the eagerness to share Japanese culture, food, and beverages made every participant feel truly valued. I especially enjoyed discovering local traditions through the izakaya evenings, the tasting of nabe, and the lively karaoke night, where even the congress president sang several. Another remarkable aspect was the family-friendly organization of the congress, with dedicated spaces for families and children, including facilities thoughtfully integrated even within the hotel reception area.

The visit to the University Maternity Hospital of Sapporo was also particularly enriching. I was equally impressed by the elegance of the Japanese participants, the beauty of the landscapes, and the many talented physicians who were also remarkable musicians and singers. There was indeed a concert from a big orchestra composed with obgyn. We had a great talk with roundtable composed by colleagues from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, US, and UK to speak about prenatal diagnosis, surgery teaching and AI in Obgyn. We saw different aspect from each region (about birthrate, about IA, about ethics). Finally, one of the most meaningful moments was seeing participants from many nations united despite their differences, all sharing the same commitment to women's health and scientific progress. This spirit of unity was beautifully illustrated when everyone sang "We Are the World" together, creating a truly unforgettable moment of international fellowship.

RAFAL ZADYKOWICZ, POLAND

I had the great privilege of attending JSOG Congress 2026 in Sapporo, representing the European obstetrics and gynaecology community and contributing to the international exchange between EBCOG, ENTOG and our Japanese colleagues.

One of the most valuable parts of the congress was the opportunity to participate in workshops and discussions on the global future of obstetrics and gynaecology. Together with representatives of major international and national societies, including RCOG, ACOG, EBCOG, JSOG, and the Korean and Taiwanese obstetrics and gynaecology societies, we discussed key challenges facing our specialty worldwide.

The discussions covered several important areas, including the future of prenatal diagnosis, the role of artificial intelligence in women's health, and the challenges of training the next generations of residents. The workshops were particularly valuable because they allowed participants to compare different national perspectives and learn from concrete examples presented by colleagues from Europe, Japan, the United States, Korea and Taiwan. This created a rich and practical exchange on how our specialty can adapt to technological, demographic and educational changes while maintaining high standards of care.

The congress also offered an inspiring example of Japanese hospitality. The additional cultural programme, including a visit to the charming town of Otaru, a classical music concert, and the congress banquet, created a warm and memorable atmosphere for international networking. A particularly moving moment was the joint performance of "We Are the World" during the banquet, performed by an orchestra and musicians who are themselves JSOG members — obstetricians and gynaecologists. It was a symbolic reminder that, in today's world, improving standards in women's health and protecting women's rights requires solidarity across borders and a united global medical community.

From an EBCOG perspective, participation in JSOG Congress 2026 was both professionally valuable and strategically important. It strengthened international relationships, opened space for future cooperation, and showed how much European experience in training, accreditation and standards of care can contribute to global conversations — while also allowing us to learn from the experience of colleagues from other regions.

Overall, JSOG Congress 2026 was an excellent opportunity to deepen collaboration between European and Asian obstetrics and gynaecology communities. I would strongly support continuing and further developing this international exchange pathway, as it brings meaningful educational, scientific and human value to all involved.

This visit reminded me that the future of obstetrics and gynaecology will not be shaped by one country or one society alone, but by our ability to listen to each other, learn from each other, and act together for women's health globally.

SOFIA TSIAPAKIDOU, GREECE

Participating in the JSOG Congress 2026 in Sapporo was an extraordinary professional and personal experience, highlighting the true value of international collaboration in obstetrics and gynaecology. One of the most inspiring aspects of the meeting was the International Workshop for Junior Fellows programme, which created meaningful interaction between colleagues representing EBCOG, RCOG, ACOG, JSOG and several Asian societies. Through open discussions on topics of common interest — including prenatal diagnosis, artificial intelligence, ethics, education and future training pathways — participants were able to exchange perspectives and learn from the diverse realities of healthcare systems across Europe, Asia and the United States. A lovely reception party followed exploring the local gastronomy and hospitality

Beyond the scientific programme, the congress demonstrated exceptional hospitality from our Japanese colleagues. Their warmth, generosity and genuinely polite attitude created an atmosphere where every participant felt welcomed and valued. The cultural events, social activities and opportunities for informal discussions greatly strengthened the bonds between international participants and reflected the remarkable talent and kindness of the hosting teams.

Importantly, this type of international exchange represents a unique opportunity for trainees and young specialists to broaden both their professional vision and personal mindset. Exposure to different educational models, cultural perspectives and approaches to women's healthcare helps young doctors develop openness, adaptability and a truly global understanding of our specialty. Such experiences are essential for shaping the future generation of leaders in obstetrics and gynaecology.

On behalf of EBCOG ENTOG JSOG Ambassadors and ENTOG, I would like to sincerely thank **EBCOG** for its generosity, support and commitment to inclusion by making participation in this programme possible. Providing trainees and young specialists with opportunities to engage in international collaboration is invaluable for fostering future partnerships, friendship and continued progress in women's healthcare worldwide.

