



**IAGG Council of Student Organizations
Report to IAGG Executive Committee
15 August 2022**

Dear IAGG Executive Committee,

On behalf of the IAGG Council of Student Organizations (IAGG CSO), please accept an overview of recent activities and short and longer term CSO priorities. We would like to extend our appreciation to the IAGG Executive Committee for their past and ongoing support to enable us to offer student and early career researcher initiatives including those held at the IAGG European Regional Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden and IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress, Taipei. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable advice and assistance of the former IAGG CSO President, and current Asia Oceania Regional Student Representative, Dr Claudia Meyer.

CSO Executive Committee

President/Secretary/Treasurer: Dr Justine Irving (Flinders University Australia)
Vice President: Saima Rajabali (University of Alberta, Canada)
Asia Oceania Regional Student Representative: Dr Claudia Meyer

Former CSO President: Jaime Hughes (Duke University, USA) (Resigned 18 September 2019)
Former European Regional Student Representative: Deborah Morgan (inactive)
Former Latin American Regional Student Representative: Patricia Morsch (inactive)

The CSO members were elected at the IAGG 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in San Francisco.

During September 2019, Jaime Hughes resigned from the role of CSO President and Saima Rajabali commenced maternity leave.

From this time Justine Irving has been acting independently within the CSO with the support of the Asia Oceania Regional Student Representative Dr Claudia Meyer (former IAGG CSO president).

IAGG CSO Goals and Objectives

Students and early career researchers working in the field of gerontology and geriatrics are active in their pursuit of promoting health and wellbeing for older adults. The IAGG Council of Student Organizations (IAGG CSO) is committed to supporting awareness, and more active participation of students and recent graduates. Investing now in the next generation of persons focused on ageing will only help to build sustainability of the IAGG as a global organization over time. The IAGG CSO is dedicated to linking talented and enthusiastic members together in the pursuit of the IAGG mission - the promotion of highest quality research and training, and collaboration across the globe. The goals of IAGG CSO include the following:

- To support and pursue the mission and aims of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics and its regions.
- Promote the study of ageing among students and the training of highly qualified personnel in the fields of ageing.
- Foster regional and international networking between students and other members of IAGG member societies and student/early career participation.



- Advance the creation and support of student sections in association with IAGG member societies.
- Unite gerontology and geriatrics students worldwide by fostering regional and international networking, communication and exchange of information amongst students.
- Actively contribute to IAGG Regional and World Congresses and other activities and programs toward optimizing benefits for students and facilitating student participation.
- Contribute to topics of interest to IAGG, including education, training and other substantive issues.
- Represent the interests of students in IAGG member societies to the IAGG Council and the IAGG Executive Committee.

2022 IAGG CSO Activities

Organisation and planning are underway for the upcoming IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress in Japan from 12-15 June 2023. The President, Justine Irving, has been attending regular online meetings with the Regional Representative, Dr Claudia Meyer, as well as a coordinating group including representatives from the region including Ashish Goel, Harshita Umesh, Asmidawati Binti Ashari and Takeshi Nakagawa.

Proposed activities at this stage include student/early career researcher symposium/workshop, “working” lunch (such as Lunch with the Stars held at the regional congress in Taiwan), and a social event (such as group tour or breakfast/dinner). The CSO will also seek to secure a room or dedicated area for students to gather for interaction, work or presentation preparation, and light refreshments throughout the congress. As per prior congress events, the IAGG CSO will fund between 5-10 student bursaries to support attendance at the Congress.

The upcoming congress will also be an opportunity to initiate election of the future IAGG CSO Committee Members. Specific mechanisms of voting are to be finalized but it is likely the process will be undertaken virtually with nominations to be collected prior and during the congress and voting to be undertaken at, or shortly following, congress conclusion. A range of methods will be undertaken to promote this membership opportunity and broaden the source of nominations beyond those attending the Asia Oceania Regional Congress specifically.

In line with prior process, a funding proposal including budget outline will be forwarded to the IAGG Secretariat prior to the congress for consideration and approval.

22nd International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics World Congress

Despite IAGG CSO efforts, we were not able to secure time within the program for student/early career researcher activities specifically for the IAGG 22nd World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics held virtually 12-16 June 2022. The CSO was advised the program was full and could not accommodate further sessions.

However the Congress administrators very kindly disseminated an invitation and meeting link to all student registrants in the Asia Oceania region to attend an introductory and planning meeting for the upcoming regional congress in Japan that was run separate to the formal program.

2020-2021 IAGG CSO Activities

The challenges of COVID-19 notwithstanding, the IAGG CSO has continued to connect with student and early career researchers through events and interaction with other international gerontology/geriatrics student group representatives including:

- Rachel Ambagtsheer - Australian Association of Gerontology Student and Early Career Group (SECG)
- Dr Claudia Meyer and James Beckford Saunders- Australian Association of Gerontology
- Lara Vliestra- New Zealand Association of Gerontology Student and Early Career Research Group



- Dr Ashish Goel- Indian Academy of Geriatrics Student Chapter
- Harshita Umesh- Indian Academy of Geriatrics Student Chapter
- Tristan Gwee- Gerontological Society Singapore
- Dr Takeshi Nakagawa- National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology Japan
- Dr Matthew Lariviere- British Society of Gerontology

2021 IAGG World Pre-Congress- E-Conference

The IAGG CSO facilitated and hosted an online student and early career researcher forum for the 2021 IAGG World Pre-Congress- E-Conference titled “*Pause, Pivot and Proceed! Undertaking research and study in times of uncertainty*”.

Session Overview: COVID-19 continues to exert a profound impact on how we live, work and study. Many students undertaking primary research projects as part of post-graduate studies have found it necessary to rethink their approach to data collection and explore alternative methods to respond to their research question. Through this interactive forum we explore the challenges of undertaking student research during times of uncertainty. Facilitated by the IAGG Council of Student Organizations (CSO) and Asia-Oceania CSO Regional Representative this session will include personal stories from PhD and Masters students and conclude with some general discussion regarding ways to manage your project during times of uncertainty.

IAGG CSO funding was allocated for three student/early career researcher registrants and two CSO members for the e-congress.



Other Student Events

Representing the IAGG CSO, the President (Justine Irving) disseminated information to potential participants and attended an online undergraduate gerontology and geriatric student debate in February 2021. Hosted by The Indian Academy of Geriatrics Student Chapter, *International Debate Competition on the topic 'Euthanasia is Ethical: Why prolong painful Existence'* was run for undergraduate medical students from India, Japan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The IAGG Secretariat donated USD \$1500 in prize money for the event.

2019 IAGG CSO Activities

IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress

The IAGG CSO worked with the IAGG Asia/Oceania Regional Student Representative, Claudia Meyer to support and complement those initiatives in place for student and early career researcher registrants at the IAGG Asia Oceania Regional Congress in Taipei, Taiwan in 2019. Congress activities included:

- Liaison with Professor Norah Keating and Professor Fiona Albass to ensure the participants of the Pre-Congress Masterclass were connected to the student/early career researcher program



- An opportunity to informally meet the CSO representatives (Justine Irving and Claudia Meyer) at the Welcome Reception for student registrants (and promote attendance at the student events)
- An invited symposium on the topic of “Establishing a student section in your country” facilitated by Claudia Meyer and Justine Irving (approximately 50 attendees)
- A “Lunch with the Stars” panel event comprising Professor John Rowe (USA); Professor Siriphan Sasat (Thailand); Professor Julie Lai (Taiwan); Professor Eun Seong Hwang (Korea); Professor Norah Keating (Canada); Professor Fiona Alpass (New Zealand); Professor Julie Byles (Australia); and Professor Keith Hill (Australia). The topic of discussion was ‘How to balance your research/studies with the rest of your life’ (approximately 60 attendees).
- Six travel bursaries allocated (USD\$500) funded by the IAGG-CSO.

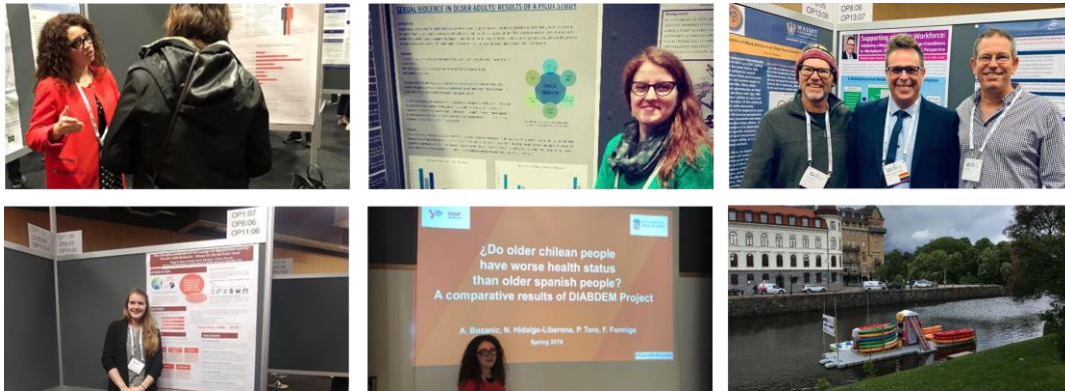


IAGG European Regional Congress

At the IAGG European Regional Congress the IAGG CSO hosted a Student Breakfast for students and early career researchers attending the Congress. The response to this event was very positive, with the event reaching capacity within hours of advertising. The final attendee numbers were 27 students. A student contact list was initiated to enable the IAGG CSO to share information about future activities, programs and other information that may be of interest to gerontology/geriatric students and early career researchers.

The IAGG CSO was able to disburse six travel bursaries for student congress registrants (lottery selection). Successful recipients provided a written summary of their experience at the European Regional Congress.

Dissemination of IAGG CSO activities was managed through the IAGG European Congress website and application, social program, and opening ceremony speech. Promotion of the two initiatives was also supported through targeted emails to all student registrants on behalf of the CSO by the European Congress Executive Committee.



Other CSO business

An ongoing major priority for the IAGG CSO is to increase awareness of the group and encourage international student and early career researcher interaction. The CSO continues to establish and strengthen relationships with student and early career researcher chapters across the World (database list developed). At present IAGG CSO can be reached via one social media channel – LinkedIn. To support further efforts to promote communication, the CSO has prepared a draft Communication and Engagement Plan. The purpose of this plan is to:

- Improve visibility of the CSO to current IAGG member organizations and societies
- Cultivate opportunities for two-way communication between CSO leadership and current IAGG student members with the goal of better understanding the needs and preferences of IAGG student members, including preferences for international education, networking, and engagement
- Reach individuals who do not currently have the opportunity to engage with a national or regional ageing society or professional group

Another key priority of the IAGG CSO is to support establishment of student chapters in selected countries/regions where they are not in place at present. This includes presentations on how to initiate and manage student chapters in different countries as well as provision of tangible resources to help establish the necessary governance and operating frameworks for these student groups.

Yours Sincerely

IAGG CSO Executive Committee

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