



## Training in psychosomatic obstetrics and gynaecology

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## *Training in psychosomatic obstetrics and gynaecology*

During the last twenty years, obstetrics and gynaecology have undergone marked changes. At the same time, rapid advances in the field of control of reproduction have led to changes in attitudes toward reproduction and the role and position of women in this context. More generally, the trend toward democratization has penetrated the medical world, and this has had effects on the relationship between physician and patient as well as their expectations concerning each other. These developments have steadily increased the importance assigned to psychosomatic, sexuological, and psychosocial factors in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology.

The fact that, nevertheless, too little attention is given to these aspects in the daily practice of gynaecology is largely due to the fact that little or no em-

phasis is put on them during the training of specialists. On these grounds, the formulation of an educational program for this field must be considered of eminent importance. The Netherlands branch of the International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ISPOG) has drawn up a tentative list of educational criteria, which is included in this issue. It is hoped that many or all national societies for obstetrics and gynaecology will respond by subscribing to these proposals and urging their incorporation into the curriculum for specialists in their country – or at least recognize the importance of these factors – so that future gynaecologists will be able to function more adequately and knowledgeably, and an integral approach to the gynaecological-obstetrical patient can be achieved.