I am delighted to be writing my first official communication to you, the members of NASPAG, and grateful for your confidence in electing me as your president. I am well aware that the tasks before us in this next year are vital for the organization; they build upon the work begun by our immediate past-president, Karen Kozlowski, MD, under whose direction the NASPAG strategic plan was developed. With your Board and the Executive Director, I have already begun to implement some of the recommendations in the plan. I believe our Society is well on its way to adulthood as a mature organization with stable governance and a strong fiscal structure.

The entire strategic planning process was expertly lead by Dr. Patty Simmons who had participated in a similar process at her own institution. We also had the help of outside consultants from the Executive Services Corps, an organization of retired executives who assist not-for-profit organizations. The NASPAG Executive Board met in Philadelphia on April 19, 2002 for a full day and developed a 3-year strategic plan for NASPAG that was discussed in detail, revised, and approved by the entire Board at our Annual Clinical Meeting in Miami in June 2002.

One of our first tasks was to clarify and restate succinctly the goals of our Society so that we could keep focused and not dissipate our energies. These are our goals:

The North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology aims to:

1. Conduct medical education programs.
2. Contribute to professional training programs.
3. Serve as a forum for topical research presentation.
4. Promote communication and collaboration.

Given these goals, the Board prioritized the objectives of the Strategic Plan as follows:

1. Improve board performance.
3. Define and ensure future fulfillment of operations & management.
4. Enhance membership.
5. Increase industry funding.
6. Initiate mutually productive alliances with other related organizations.

We have already made some headway towards goals #1, 2, 3 & 5. As many of you know, Carol Hangasci has resigned as Director of Education, a great loss to the or-
ganization. Our loss is partially mitigated, however, because Carol has agreed to stay on as a consultant. We just hired a 20-hour per week assistant for the Executive Director to be based in the Philadelphia office. Her name is Cheryl Weiner and she is a student at the University of Pennsylvania. Cheryl will facilitate communication among the office, the Board, and the membership; please welcome her when you call the office. With the assistance of Kristi Mulchahey and our treasurer, Joe Russo, we have begun a rigorous budgeting process and our indomitable executive director, Alvin Goldfarb, is currently submitting a proposal for an exciting new NASPAG educational publications. Many other specific changes to address the objectives of the plan are about to begin and I will be reporting to you over the next year how we are doing and how you can help.

I welcome any feedback you wish to give—please e-mail me at coupley@aecom.yu.edu with suggestions and comments. NASPAG is a wonderful organization and with all of us working together it will grow and prosper in the future and contribute to the health of young women everywhere.

News from the Executive Director: Alvin F. Goldfarb, MD

NASPAG held its 16th Annual Clinical Meeting in Miami Beach Florida June 6-9 with an excellent attendance and an outstanding international faculty consisting of speakers from England, Finland, and a great group of our friends ALOGIA in South America. These included Dr. Molina from Chile, Dr. Ponce from Uruguay and Dr. Schiavon from Mexico. All of the presentations by these individuals were exceptional and they were very well received judging by the response of the audience. In addition, the meeting, as you can quite well imagine, offered splendid luncheon conferences and workshops.

Your Executive Board in detail and is planning for some administrative changes in the central office, which will be reported to the membership when completed. The business meeting had as its highlights the turning over of the gavel to our new President, Dr. Susan Coupey, the report of the treasurer, who indicated that we were solvent, and a standing ovation to Carol Hangacsi who is retiring as Director of Education. However, I am delighted to report that Carol will remain with us as our consultant in educational problems.

We do hope that within the next several weeks we will have developed for NASPAG a list-served mechanism for our e-mail. This will allow us to keep the membership more informed concerning the activities the organization is responsible for and what programs are being developed. If you have never sent us your e-mail address, please do so by e-mailing us at NASPAG@aol.com. In addition, if you have any changes in your addresses or phone numbers, please let us know. Many of you complaint that you don't get your journals on time, but often the reason is that your address has changed and you have never notified the central office. We would appreciate notification as rapidly as possible.

As you know, we have developed a web site and I urge and encourage more of you to look at it once every 2-3 weeks because there will be announcements on the site as well as dates of activities that are sponsored by your organization - NASPAG.

I do hope that all of you have a pleasant summer and will be well. Speak to you in the fall.
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As President of ALOGIA and one of the participants from Latin America at the 16th Annual NASPAG meeting, it has been a great pleasure to share our experience and to exchange approaches to common adolescent clinical problems from our respective regions.

This collaboration has stimulated the desire for future such endeavors among North, Central and South America in the field of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology which might lead to a comprehensive view of sexual and reproductive health in adolescents.

I would like to thank all at NASPAG for your hospitality and friendship which is so important in strengthening our human ties. I would like to propose the following points of discussion for the future:

1. Training. There is a lot of interest and demand to train in the area of PAG in the USA. In Latin America we need information such as: The names of the training centers and their directors accredited by NASPAG, as well as descriptions of the programs, requisites, training cost and financial alternatives or fellowships available.

2. What is the interest for American fellows to obtain training in a Latin American center in PAG or Sexual and Reproductive Health for Adolescents? I stress this importance as the US has a large Latin population which is increasing.

3. How can one participate in the NASPAG International Fellowship on Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (IIFEPAG) One option might be to involve teachers such as Dr. Gita Gidwani, for example, and offer help in filling in the data bank by completing question/answer surveys that indicate interest of American fellows in IIFEPAG. Another suggestion that would greatly enhance the level of training in PAG to the international community would be to develop training centers accredited by NASPAG.

4. Published Literature/Journals.

In Latin America there are journals of the specialty published in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. The Chilean journal contains a summary of the articles in English which can be accessed online at www.cemera.uchile.cl/sogia.

None of these journals are indexed on Medline, but they are on LILACS. One proposal is to receive submissions from the USA written in English and then to publish them in double columns in both Spanish and English.

Another proposal is to re-publish some of our existing articles from one of the three journals in English with permission of the authors and publishers.

These are just some ideas to ponder as we further the cooperation between NASPAG and ALOGIA.

Thanks again for the opportunity to participate at the NASPAG meeting and the warm hospitality bestowed.

Sincerely yours, Dr. Ramiro Molina Cartes

Presidente ALOGIA.