



THE PERINATAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group

Activity Report 2004/2005

Membership

- **The Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group (PNM-SIG) Steering Committee 2004/2005**

The PNM-SIG Committee members for 2003/2004 were as follows:

James King – Obstetrics (Chair), Annabelle Chan – Other Perinatal, Adrian Charles – Other Perinatal, Ross Haslam – Neonatology, Lesley McCowan – Obstetrics, Christine Roberts – Other Perinatal, David Tudehope – Neonatology, Vicki Flenady – Other Perinatal (Secretary)

- **PNM-SIG Membership 2003/2004**

There are currently 55 members of the PNM SIG with representatives from all States and Territories.

- **PNM-SIG Coordination**

The Centre for Clinical Studies (CCS), Mater Health Services provides coordination for the SIG activities. The Special Interest Group WebPages on the PSANZ Website have been maintained by the Centre for Clinical Studies. The SIG has received funding of \$5000 from PSANZ to assist the CCS to run the Secretariat.

SIG Meetings

March 2004 PSANZ Satellite Meetings

The PNM-SIG met on 13th March 2004 at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney. 20 SIG members attended. States and Territories were well represented as were SANDS Qld, SIDS and Kids, and the National Perinatal Statistics Unit. The SIG Steering Group would like to acknowledge SIDS and Kids Qld for providing funds to support the SIG Secretariat making this meeting possible. At this meeting the revisions to the classifications and the development of the guideline for perinatal mortality audit were discussed.

- **PSANZ Perinatal and Neonatal Death Classification Revision**

The classifications were discussed at length and revisions were agreed upon. The draft revised classifications will be circulated to SIG members for comment prior to finalisation.

- **PSANZ Guidelines for Perinatal Mortality Audit**

The SIG received funding from RANZCOG to develop clinical practice guidelines on perinatal mortality audit. Members discussed the approach to the development of the guidelines. A Working Party has been established and the literature search has commenced. It is hoped that the guidelines will be completed for distribution towards the end of the year.

March 2005 PSANZ Satellite Meeting of the PNM-SIG

The annual PNM-SIG meeting will be held on Sunday 13th March 2005 from 0900 hrs to 1300 hrs with the Annual General Meeting to follow. Venue: Room 202, Level 2, Samuel Way Building, Women's and Children's Hospital, 72 King William Road, Adelaide

Other Meetings

Malaysian Workshop

Prof David Tudehope and Vicki Flenady of Mater Health Services, conducted a one-day workshop on the PSANZ Classifications at the FAOPS conference in Malaysia in April 2004 in response to interest to the PSANZ classifications.

First Candle/Stillbirth Alliance - Stillbirth Research Roundtable Meeting, Baltimore, USA.

Vicki Flenady was invited by First Candle and Stillbirth Alliance to represent the PSANZ SIG at the recent Stillbirth Research Roundtable Meeting in Baltimore, USA in May 2004. The main topic of the meeting was classification of fetal death. Vicki presented the PSANZ classification system.

Revised PSANZ Perinatal and Neonatal Death Classifications

The Perinatal and Neonatal Death Classifications have been revised on the basis of comments received from users across Australia and New Zealand (ANZ). The current version of the classifications are now available on the PSANZ website under PNM-SIG.

PSANZ Clinical Practice, A Guideline for Perinatal Mortality Audit

The PNM-SIG has developed a clinical practice guideline on perinatal mortality audit for use by clinicians in Australia and New Zealand. The main objective of the guideline is to assist clinicians in the investigation and audit of perinatal deaths, including communication with the parents, to enable a systematic approach to perinatal mortality audit in Australia and New Zealand. The overall aim is to reduce the risk of perinatal death and provide appropriate assistance to parents.

The guideline is not intended to be prescriptive, but is designed to provide reliable, up-to-date information enabling integration of best evidence, clinicians' judgement and individual choice in arriving at decisions about care. Clinical practice guidelines may be considered as generally recommended practice.

This is the first edition of the PSANZ Clinical Practice Guideline for Perinatal Mortality Audit. In preparation of this document input from many stakeholders was sought. The guideline was discussed and approved by the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand; Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; Australian College of Midwives Incorporated; SIDS and Kids, SANDS (Qld) and Australian Neonatal Nursing Association. The document was placed on the PSANZ website in November 2004 as a part of the consultation process and will be reviewed and updated as required on or before January 2007.

The PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group (PNM-SIG) would like to acknowledge the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) for providing financial assistance; Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Support Group (SANDS Qld Inc) and SIDS and Kids for providing financial assistance and also for leading the development of the psychological and social aspects of perinatal bereavement component of the guideline; Australian Neonatal Nurses Association (ANNA); Australian College of Midwives Inc (ACMI) and Human Genetics Society Australasia (HGSA).

In addition to members of the Guideline Working Party, the PNM-SIG would like to thank the following individuals for providing feedback on the guideline: Suellen Allen, NSW Department of Health; Denise Thomas, SIDS & Kids ACT; Belinda Jennings, King Edward Memorial Hospital; Dawn Elder; Dr Tony Bourne, Women's and Children's Hospital SA; Dr David Watson, The Townsville Hospital Qld, Tze Kin Lau, The Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Dr Tracy Dudding, Hunter Genetics NSW; Dr Kevin Carpenter, The Children's Hospital Westmead NSW; A/Prof Matthew Edwards, Hunter Genetics, University of Newcastle NSW, Prof Frank Bowling, Mater Health Services Qld and Ann Robertson, Nuchal Translucency Quality Assurance Program, RANZCOG.

PSANZ Fetal Death Collaborative Group

The PSANZ Fetal Death Collaborative Group of the PNM-SIG was formed following the October 2003 PNM-SIG meeting. The Fetal Death Group is currently developing a priority list of collaborative research activity into unexplained fetal death in ANZ.

Studies which are now underway include:

Epidemiology of unexplained fetal death in Australia

Following a successful NHMRC Project Grant submission, the Fetal Death Collaborative Group will undertake a large population based study to determine the factors which influence fetal death risk and factors which predict women at increased risk of unexplained antepartum fetal death. This two-year project commenced in January 2005.

Femina – International study of fetal movement and stillbirth

Chief investigator Dr Frederik Froen, MD, PHD, Norway. The fetal movement intervention assessment (Femina) collaboration is an international, interdisciplinary collaborative effort related to reduced fetal movements (FM) in pregnancy. Researchers from Boston and Harvard Universities, Oslo and Queensland Australia, have already started data collection or have the intent to do so. The collaboration includes:

1. Studies of the epidemiology of maternal perception of reduced FM;
2. Outcome studies of pregnancies with reduced FM – short and long term;
3. Studies of efficiency of different clinical approaches to reduced FM;
4. Quality and patient safety improvement projects for pregnancies with reduced FM;
5. Development of new interactive tools for better understanding of reduced FM;
6. Studies of FM screening to improve perinatal outcome in total populations.

Upcoming Conferences

The First International Stillbirth Conference

The 2005 conference of the International Stillbirth Alliance and First Candle/SIDS Alliance "*SHARING THE VISION - a safer world for babies!*" will be held 15-18 September 2005 in Washington, DC. This is the first international conference dedicated to stillbirth research, prevention and support. For further information, please contact Vicki Flenady vicki.flenady@mater.org.au or Jan Carey jancarey@sidsandkids.org