



The **IMPACT (Interdisciplinary Maternal Perinatal Australasian Clinical Trials) NETWORK**, within the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand, is dedicated to the improvement of maternal and perinatal health by the promotion of appropriately designed randomised controlled trials (RCTs), and dissemination and application of their results.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 2006 IMPACT Workshop, Satellite Meeting of the PSANZ Congress

Date and time: Sunday 2nd April, 0900-1700 hrs.

Venue: King Edward Memorial Hospital, Lecture Theatre

Main workshop themes: The WOMBAT Project (WOMen and Babies well being: Action through Trials) - Setting priorities for perinatal clinical trials and how WOMBAT can help with getting perinatal trials done; Planned Perinatal Clinical Trials - presentation and discussion of perinatal trials in the planning stages. Investigators are invited to present their planned trials for input and discussion.

Registration: To register, submit an abstract or to find out more details please go to the IMPACT Network website via the PSANZ website: <http://www.psanz.org.au> or contact Steve Cole *Email:* steve.cole@rwh.org.au

Abstract submission: PSANZ members are invited to submit abstracts for an oral or poster presentation on the Workshop themes. **Abstract submission deadline is Friday 20th January 2006.**

Annual General Meeting Sunday 2nd April (during the workshop)

Call for IMPACT Committee Members

Nominations for the IMPACT Committee are currently sought for the positions of: Midwifery, Obstetrics and Consumer. Elections will be held at the AGM. Please contact Steve Cole with nominations.

Cochrane Work-In: Monday 3rd April 2006, 0900-1300

Venue: King Edward Memorial Hospital. **Contact:** philippa.middleton@adelaide.edu.au

ACTIVITY UPDATE

March 2005 IMPACT Workshop Adelaide; A Satellite Meeting of the PSANZ Congress

This meeting was well attended. The main workshop themes were: Planning Perinatal Clinical Trials: What are the urgent perinatal problems to be addressed and what outcomes are important? Trials and Tribulations: lessons learnt in conducting perinatal trials; Increasing collaboration in perinatal trials: what works?; in addition investigators present their planned trials for input and discussion.

Annual General Meeting Saturday, 12th March (during workshop)

2005/2006 Committee Membership is as follows:

New Members elected at the AGM unopposed:

Carmel Collins - Neonatal Nursing	Philippa Middleton - Other Perinatal
Roger Smith - Basic Science	Carl Kuschel - Neonatologist

In addition members continuing on the Committee are:

Stephen Cole - Obstetrics	Liz Davis - Consumer
Naomi Henshall - Midwifery	Vicki Flenady - IMPACT Communications Officer.

The committee elected Steve Cole as Chair and Liz Davis as Deputy Chair.

Caroline Crowther has been invited on the IMPACT Network Committee representing WOMBAT.

Cochrane Work-In: IMPACT sponsored a Cochrane Work-In which was held on the Sunday following the IMPACT Workshop.

IMPACT Website update: IMPACT Network website has been updated. Please go to <http://www.psanz.org.au> to access the website - feedback welcome

Australian Clinical Trials Registry (ACTR) and the IMPACT Perinatal Trials Registry (PTR): The ACTR has been established at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre as a National Register for

clinical trials. All trials previously registered in the PTR will be automatically registered on the ACTR. For further information go to: www.actr.org.au or email: info@actr.org.au.

*For IMPACT Network enquiries contact: Steve Cole Email: steve.cole@rwh.org.au
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Announcing the new WOMBAT Collaboration (WOMen and Babies well being: Action through Trials)

A group of Australian perinatal researchers and practitioners has been awarded an NHMRC enabling grant to enhance the national health and medical research effort by promoting and supporting randomised clinical trials.

The specific aim of the WOMBAT Collaboration is to promote and support high quality randomised clinical trials in the perinatal area in order to improve the health and wellbeing of women and their children. It will do this through:

- identifying national priority research areas and encouraging appropriate clinical and methodological trials
- providing high level support to researchers undertaking multicentre trials at national and regional levels;
- providing education and training in trial design and conduct.

The WOMBAT investigators (Caroline Crowther, Lex Doyle, Vicki Flenady, Christine Roberts, Judith Lumley, David Henderson-Smart, Jodie Dodd, Philippa Middleton, William Tarnow-Mordi, Karen Simmer and Jeffrey Robinson) and Steve Cole as Chair of the IMPACT Network, form the WOMBAT Collaboration Steering Committee. The WOMBAT Collaboration will work in close partnership with the IMPACT Network of PSANZ.

Philippa Middleton is the national coordinator of the WOMBAT Collaboration and soon there will a part-time education officer in Melbourne, a part-time IT officer in Brisbane and five regional coordinators in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

The first meeting of the WOMBAT Collaboration Steering Committee was held in Adelaide in September 2005;

Activities for 2006 will include:

- document and track perinatal trial activity in Australia (in conjunction with the Australian Clinical Trials Registry)
- identify gaps in research evidence from systematic reviews and other sources
- develop methods for identifying and disseminating research gaps
- hold a two day basic trials workshop in Adelaide March 6-7, 2006**
- hold a half-day basic research workshop and a half-day workshop on data monitoring 1 April 2006 (in conjunction with PSANZ)**
- present the aims and objectives of the WOMBAT Collaboration at the IMPACT Network meeting in Perth in April 2006
- continue to work on standardised outcomes development
- set up the WOMBAT Collaboration website

For further information go to the WOMBAT website: <http://wombatcollaboration.net> or contact Philippa Middleton

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