

ANZSA Connections

A voice for Australian and New Zealand perinatal health professionals, bereavement specialists and parents to work together

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“Reducing stillbirth and improving care for affected families through high quality research, clinical practice improvement and raising public awareness”

<http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au>

In this issue		A note from the Chair	
A Note from the Chair	1	 <p>Welcome to the first edition of ANZSA Connections for 2010. We hope you've had a healthy and happy start to the year.</p> <p>ANZSA is looking forward to a busy and productive year! With funding received in four states to implement the PSANZ Guidelines (including the roll out of the IMPROVE Program), research projects continuing (and beginning), and preparations well and truly underway for the ISA/ISPID Conference, it feels like ANZSA is really building momentum and will continue to do so throughout the year.</p> <p>It was great to see many familiar and new faces at the (pre-PSANZ) ANZSA and PSANZ PMG Annual Workshop in Wellington at the end of March. ANZSA is premised on the idea of building collaboration amongst like-minded people across ANZ. This workshop provided an opportunity for those interested in perinatal mortality to meet face to face and get to know one another to continue the important conversations around stillbirth and neonatal death in our region.</p> <p>Attendees were given an insight into how perinatal death is reported in New Zealand, and the new Australian perinatal mortality clinical audit form was launched for final comments. This tool is so important to improve the consistent investigation and reporting of perinatal deaths in the region.</p> <p>Much discussion was focused on antenatal fetal monitoring with presentations delving into the pathologist's role in investigating growth restriction, clinical cases of decreased fetal movements with very different outcomes, and findings concerning women's perceptions of normal fetal movements from a case control study of stillbirths. The launch of a new guideline to aid clinicians providing care to women who report decreased fetal movements seemed more than appropriate here, and its recommendation for use in practice was met with positive feedback (please see below for further information).</p> <p>Cultural diversity in bereavement care was also a highlight of the afternoon, and ANZSA, PSANZ PMG and IMPACT (www.psanzpnmsig.org/impact/) joined to define stillbirth priorities facing Australian and New Zealand researchers. This workshop really demonstrated the value of collaboration between Australian and New Zealand researchers, clinicians, bereavement specialists and parents.</p> <p>In other news, the program for the ISA/ISPID Conference is shaping up and we have received considerable interest from both international and national speakers. This is an exciting time for ANZSA and the international stillbirth and infant death community, and it certainly seems like a great opportunity to further raise awareness of stillbirth.</p> <p>We hope you enjoy this edition of ANZSA Connections, please feel free to send your comments. Until next time David Ellwood</p>	
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NEWS

Call for Abstracts is now open for ISA/ISPID Conference



If you would like to present at the ISA/ISPID joint conference in October please submit your abstracts now. For further information on submission processes please visit <http://www.isaispid2010.com/program.html#callpaper>. We'd love to see you there!

IMPROVE –ing clinical practice across A&NZ

ANZSA and PSANZ PMG are pleased to announce that funding has been secured from state health departments to roll-out the the Improving Perinatal Review Outcomes via Education (IMPROVE) Program in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia. We hope there will be funding for roll-out in other states and New Zealand throughout 2010.

ACM, RANZCOG, NZCM CPD Points Available

You can now receive CPD points for attending an ANZSA & PSANZ PMG IMPROVE Program. This Program has been accredited by the Australian College of Midwives, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist and the New Zealand College of Midwifery. RANZCOG have awarded 4 CPD points in the PR&CRM category, and ACM and NZCM have awarded 3 MidPLUS CPD points.

A way forward for the management of women with decreased fetal movements

The launch of the ANZSA and PSANZ PMG clinical practice guideline for the management of women who report decreased fetal movements in Wellington last month has provided clinicians with recommendations on how to best manage decreased fetal movements. This is a great step forward in assisting clinicians to appropriately counsel women with DFM and improving consistency of management, and in providing better information about fetal movements for women and their families. To view these guidelines please visit: <http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/guideline4.htm>.

NICS Portal Includes PSANZ Clinical Practice Guideline for Perinatal Mortality

The PSANZ Clinical Practice Guideline is now accessible from the NHMRC NICS portal. This new portal is a 'one stop shop' for clinicians, researchers, policy makers and consumers to access guidelines developed during the preceding five years for use in the Australian health care system. To access guidelines from this portal please visit <http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au/>.



LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY COUNT: Clinicians Autopsy Survey Closing Soon!

Baseline data into autopsy consent processes is currently being collected from Australian hospitals with over 1000 births per year in an anonymous survey. We want to hear from you. Your input is important to us!

Despite autopsy remaining the gold standard investigation for perinatal deaths, autopsy rates in many regions continue to decline. The main reason for low autopsy rates is lack of parental consent. Parents often report that communication and counselling practices about the autopsy are suboptimal, resulting in anxiety, conflict and regret over their decision to have an autopsy conducted on their baby. On the other hand, care providers have repeatedly reported feelings of inadequacy when counselling parents and are reluctant to place an additional burden on the family by seeking their consent to conduct an autopsy. This clinician survey forms part of a larger study aimed at gaining information on which to develop a uniform approach to autopsy information and consent.

If you are a clinician working in a relevant field and have not yet completed this survey already, please complete one online now (<http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/survey/autopsy>) or contact the ANZSA Secretariat at info@stillbirthalliance.org.au. The results of this survey will be posted on our website once the survey is completed. The ANZSA Secretariat welcomes your questions.

Perinatal mortality clinical audit form update

At an ANZSA, PSANZ PMG and NPSU meeting in December 2008, representatives from New Zealand and from all Australian states and territories came together to discuss the processes and documents used to perform perinatal mortality review. The purpose of the meeting was to reach consensus and make recommendations regarding national data collection and reporting of perinatal deaths in our region. The recommendations from that meeting were to develop a common user-friendly data form, and that the group should reach consensus regarding data items through continued communication.

This updated perinatal mortality clinical audit form was launched for comments at the recent annual ANZSA & PSANZ PMG workshop in Wellington last month. If you would like to view this tool and/or provide comments, please contact ANZSA Research Midwife Mrs Teresa Walsh at teresa.walsh@mater.org.au

Eleven ANZ maternity hospitals on board with ANZSA to prevent stillbirth

ANZSA would like to thank 11 Australian and New Zealand maternity hospitals for their support and commitment to preventing stillbirth. We would like to welcome the Canberra Hospital, Sydney West Area Hospital, Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, Launceston General Hospital, Southern Health (Clayton Hospital, Casey Hospital and Dandenong Hospital), Ballarat Base Hospital, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Christchurch Women's Hospital and Waikato District Health Board as member

hospitals of ANZSA. If you are interested in becoming a hospital member of ANZSA please contact the ANZSA Secretariat at info@stillbirthalliance.org.au.

ANZSA welcomes three new member organisations



Bears of Hope, Teddy Love Club and National Twin Loss Support are now member organisations of ANZSA! We would like to thank these three important organisations for their support of our alliance and recognition of our important



collaboration. To find out more about Bears of Hope, Teddy Love Club and National Twin Loss Support please visit:

<http://www.bearsofhope.org.au/>

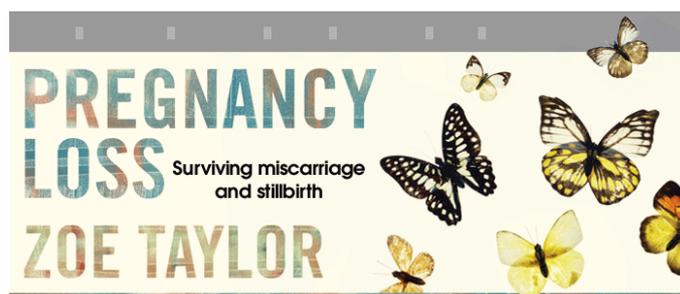
<http://www.teddyloveclub.org.au/>.

<http://www.nationaltwinloss.org.au/>

Launch of new book gives hope to those touched by loss

ANZSA Chair Prof David Ellwood and ANZSA Secretary A/Prof Vicki Flenady were honoured to attend the launch of Zoe Taylor's new book, 'Pregnancy Loss, Surviving Miscarriage and Stillbirth'. Prof Ellwood said of pregnancy loss and this book, 'pregnancy loss is one of the most devastating life events for a parent and their families. Zoe Taylor's new book is a remarkable combination of personal stories and important scientific information, which together produces a vital resource for all who have been touched by this tragedy. It is highly recommended as a source of information, support and comfort.' To find out more about this book, or to order a copy, please visit:

<http://www.pregnancylossbook.com/>.



A WORD FROM PARENTS

ANZSA is pleased to announce we are in the process of establishing a parent advisory committee. The parent advisory committee for ISA has been very active and passionate for the past six years since its inception. We are hoping to replicate this enthusiasm within Australia and New Zealand. We welcome nominations for committee membership. Please forward your interest to info@stillbirthalliance.org.au and Committee Facilitator Ms Liz Conway at admin@sandsqld.com.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Apply Now for 2011 Stillbirth Foundation Australia Research Grants



The Stillbirth Foundation Australia is accepting applications for grant funding in 2011. Applications that address any aspect of stillbirth are welcomed, however priority will be given to rigorously designed clinical studies that address unexplained stillbirth, are designed to provide a greater understanding to prevent stillbirth of a known cause, or to enable best practice amongst staff caring for families who experience stillbirth. If you wish to register your research project through ANZSA, please contact the ANZSA Secretariat at info@stillbirthalliance.org.au. Applications must be submitted by Friday 27th August 2010. For further information, please contact Melinda Hickin at melinda@stillbirthfoundation.org.au.

EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Biennial Conference, Breathing New Life into Maternity Care 1st – 3rd July 2010, Alice Springs Convention Centre

The theme for this joint ACM/RANZCOG and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine conference is '*working together, learning from each other*'. 'This conference is about creating new insights, better understanding and respect for our unique and complimentary knowledge, practices and abilities, whilst improving the way we care for women and families in all settings'. To register please visit:



<http://www.breathingnewlife.remark.com.au/abstracts.htm>

ISA/ISPID 2010 Conference 8th – 10th October 2010, Masonic Centre, Sydney



Preparations for this international conference are well underway, with the conference theme, '*Precious lives: global collaboration in stillbirth and infant death*' attracting interest from all over the world. With a range of domestic and international speakers, the program for this ANZSA/Sids and Kids hosted conference will be finalised shortly. To register, please go to:

<http://www.isaispid2010.com/registration.html>. For further information about this event, please visit <http://www.isaispid2010.com>.

HOT OF THE PRESS: RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Flenday V, Mahomed K, Ellwood D, *et al.* Uptake of the Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand perinatal mortality audit guideline. *ANZJOG*. 2010; **50**: 138-43.

Kennare RM, Keirse MJ, Tucker GR, Chan AC. Planned home and hospital births in South Australia, 1991-2006: differences in outcomes. *Med J Aust*. 2010; **192**: 76-80.

Maouris P, Jennings B, Ford J, *et al.* Outreach obstetrics training in Western Australia improves neonatal outcome and decreases caesarean sections. *J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2010; **30**: 6-9.

Robson SJ, Leader LR, Bennett MJ, Dear KB. Do women's perceptions of care at the time of unexplained stillbirth influence their wishes for management in subsequent pregnancy? An Internet-based empirical study. *J Obstet Gynaecol Res*. 2010; **36**: 108-14.

OTHER RECOMMENDED READINGS

Clifton VL, Engel P, Smith R, Gibson P, Brinsmead M, Giles WB. Maternal and neonatal outcomes of pregnancies complicated by asthma in an Australian population. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2009; **49(6)**: 619-626.

Garland SM, Ault KA, Gall SA, Paavonen J, Sings HL, Ciprero KL, Saah A, Marino D, Ryan D, Radley D, Zhou H, Haupt RM, Garner EI; Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Phase III Investigators. Pregnancy and infant outcomes in the clinical trials of a human papillomavirus type 6/11/16/18 vaccine: a combined analysis of five randomized controlled trials. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2009; **114(6)**: 1179-88.

Howard J, Hall B, Brennan L, Arbuckle S, Craig M, Graf N, Rawlinson W. Utility of newborn screening cards for detecting CMV infection in cases of stillbirth. *Journal of Clinical Virology*. 2009; **44**: 215-18.

Phillips JB, Billson VR, Forbes AB. Autopsy standards for fetal lengths and organ weights of an Australian perinatal population. *Pathology*. 2009; **41(6)**: 515-26.

Rawlinson WD, Hall B, Jones CA, Jeffery HE, Arbuckle SM, Graf N, Howard J, Morris JM. Viruses and other infections in stillbirth: what is the evidence and what should we be doing? *Pathology*. 2008; **40(2)**: 149-60.

Robson SJ, Leader LR, Dear KB, Bennett MJ. Women's expectations of management in their next pregnancy after an unexplained stillbirth: an Internet-based empirical study. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2009; **49**: 642-6.

Sayers SM. Indigenous newborn care. *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 2009; **56(6)**: 1243-61.



INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth has recently published a series of articles from a global report on Preterm Birth and Stillbirth. To access articles please see: 8

Froen JF, Gordijn SJ, Abdel-Aleem H, *et al.* Making stillbirths count, making numbers talk - issues in data collection for stillbirths. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2009; **9**: 58.

Lawn JE, Gravett MG, Nunes TM, Rubens CE, Stanton C, GAPPS Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (1 of 7): definitions, description of the burden and opportunities to improve data. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S1**: 1-22.

Gravett MG, Rubens CE, Nunes TM, GAPPS Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (2 of 7): discovery science. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S2**: 1-16.

Barros FC, Bhutta ZA, Batra M, *et al.* Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (3 of 7): evidence for effectiveness of interventions. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S3**: 1-36.

Victora CG, Rubens CE, GAPPS Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (4 of 7): delivery of interventions. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S 4**: 1-19.

Sather M, Fajon AV, Zaentz R, Rubens CE, GAPPS Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (5 of 7): advocacy barriers and opportunities. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S5**: 1-10.

Kelley M, Rubens CE, GAPPS Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (6 of 7): ethical considerations. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S6**: 1-19.

Rubens CE, Gravett MG, Victora CG, Nunes TM, GAPPs Review Group. Global report on preterm birth and stillbirth (7 of 7): mobilizing resources to accelerate innovative solutions (Global Action Agenda). *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2010; **10(Suppl 1): S7**: 1-17.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you have any questions you would like to ask our expert team of researchers or clinicians please forward them to the ANZSA Secretariat at info@stillbirthalliance.org.au

ANZSA POSITION STATEMENTS

ANZSA released a position statement on home fetal heart monitoring. To view this please visit [http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/doc/ANZSA Statement.pdf](http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/doc/ANZSA_Statement.pdf)



HELP US TODAY

There are a number of ways you can help us or become involved with ANZSA

Donate or become an Individual Supporter

Donate to us today - our resources are limited and there's lots of work to do! Every little bit helps. We'll be very grateful for any contribution you can make. To donate please visit the ANZSA website at <http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/help1.htm>. To become an individual supporter visit:

<http://www.stillbirthalliance.org.au/membership.htm>

Join a committee

We have three established committees – the Clinical Practice and Education Committee, the Research Committee, and the Public Awareness and Health Promotion Committee. A fourth committee is planned, the ANZSA parent advisory committee. If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact the ANZSA Secretariat at info@stillbirthalliance.org.au



Did you find this edition of ANZSA Connections informative, helpful and valuable? Please send us your thoughts and feedback to info@stillbirthalliance.org.au. Look out for the next edition of ANZSA Connections in June 2010. Please contact us if you would like to hear

more about a particular topic.

Acknowledgements

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