

IMPROVE Goes International

The IMPROVE Course (Improving Perinatal Mortality Review & Outcomes Via Education) went International in October, being taught in Hanoi, Vietnam at the International Stillbirth Alliance Meeting. The course has been developed and continually updated with the involvement of a large group of dedicated health professionals including members of the PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group, Australian New Zealand Stillbirth Alliance, SIDS and Kids to name a few, and is approved by a number of Colleges including RANZCOG. The aim of teaching the course in Vietnam was to determine whether it can be modified to assist developing countries in their pursuit of reducing perinatal mortality, one of the WHO millennium development goals. The course was a great success and the local staff was very positive about the potential for modification for developing countries.

The IMPROVE course is a SCORPIO style event with 6 interactive stations with content updated according to the latest evidence and based on the PSANZ Perinatal Mortality Guideline. The course is taught nationally on a regular basis in every state with 12 courses taught in 2013 with approximately 504 attendees. If you are interested in attending a course please contact Viviana Rodriguez (Viviana.rodriguez@mater.uq.edu.au) who will be able to let you know where the next course in your area is to be held.

Thank you to the local co-ordinators in Hanoi: Ms. Dang Thi Nghia, Head of Secretariat, The Institute for Reproductive and Family Health and Nguyen Thi Hoai Duc, Director, The Institute for Reproductive and Family Health, Nguyen and Quynh Luyen, Head of Administrative Unit, The Institute for Reproductive and Family Health, – and to the Australian contingent who presented the stations – A/Prof Vicki Flenady, Prof David Ellwood, Dr Glenn Gardner, Ms Belinda Jennings, Ms Diana Bond, A/Prof Alison Kent, and thank you to Susannah Leisher, and the Translators without Borders Translation Center for their fantastic organisation and translation skills which brought it all together. We look forward to working further with the team in Vietnam as well as presenting IMPROVE at the International Stillbirth Alliance meeting in Amsterdam in 2014.

A/Prof Alison Kent
Chair, Clinical Practice and Education
Committee, ANZSA
Dept of Neonatology
Canberra Hospital
Centenary Hospital for Women and Children
Canberra
ACT

A/Prof Vicki Flenady
Secretary, ANZSA
Translating Research Into Clinical
Practice Unit
Mater Medical Research Unit
Brisbane
QLD



IMPROVE Educators, Members of the Institute for Reproductive and Family Health and IMPROVE participants.



Prof David Ellwood (pictured left with a local translator) introducing the Improving Perinatal Mortality Review and Outcomes via Education Program.



IMPROVE workshop: Station 4: examination of babies who die in the perinatal period taught by A/Prof Alison Kent.
(above)



IMPROVE workshop: Station 2: Autopsy and placental examination taught by Prof David Ellwood
(Pictured above with a local translator)



IMPROVE workshop: Station 5: Audit and Classification of perinatal deaths taught by A/Prof Vicki Flenady
(Pictured above with IMPROVE participants)