Recent Happenings

We had the pleasure of hosting two RHP Cluster Rounds:
• On February 6th, Azar Mehrabadi, a PhD Candidate supervised by Dr. K.S Joseph, gave a wonderful presentation entitled “Does an increase in postpartum hemorrhage explain the recent rise in acute renal failure?”.
• On April 3rd, Dr. Alex Beristain presented his intriguing research on “Early placentation: Insights and limitations from human studies”.

Congratulations to the following Award recipients:
Researcher Grants
• Dr. K. S. Joseph – CIHR Applied Chairs in Reproductive, Child & Youth Health Services & Policy Research, S$925,000 for 5 years, Project: Health services research for optimizing maternal, fetal and infant health.

Trainee Awards
• Dr. Tabassum Firoz and Tatenda Makanga (Department of Geography, SFU) - Grand Challenges Canada Grant for Rising Stars in Global Health, Project: MOM (Mapping Outcomes for Mothers). Supervisors: Drs Peter von Dadelszen and Laura Magee, Dr. Nadine Schuurman (SFU)
• Sarah Munro – CIHR Doctoral Award, Project: Birth after a previous caesarean section: Health communications strategies to enhance decision making. Supervisors: Dr Patricia Janssen
• Magda Price – CIHR Doctoral Award, Project: Epigenetics of Neural Tube Defects. Supervisors: Dr Wendy Robinson
• Cindy Barha – CIHR Fellowship, Project: Periconceptional cortisol levels and stress axis ontogenesis and post-natal functioning. Supervisors: Dr Pablo Nepomnaschy

Upcoming Meetings
www.esreh.eu/annual_meeting/page.aspx/11
July 20-23, 2013 Brisbane, AU. International Conference on Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy (ISPD).
www.isphome.org/2013/
www.ssr.org/Meetings.shtml
www.fnp2013.eu/
www.ifpa2013.ca/
September 26-29, 2013 Victoria, BC. Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) Annual meeting.
www.cfas.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1239&Itemid=746
October 12-17, 2013 Boston, MA. International Federation of Fertility Societies (IFFS)/American Society for Reproductive Medicine Conference (ASRM).
www.asrm.org/IFFS-ASRM2013/
October 22-26, 2013 Boston, MA American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) Annual Meeting.
www.ashg.org/2013/meeting/
www.dohad2013.org/

Research Highlight

By Tabassum Firoz

Pre-eclampsia is a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality with 99% of these occurring in low and middle income countries. Most deaths are avoidable and can be attributed to modifiable factors such as triage, transport and treatment. Preeclampsia also increases risk of prematurity, growth restriction and survival of the baby.

CLIP (Community Level Interventions for Pre-eclampsia) is a cluster randomized trial occurring in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa that is addressing these modifiable factors by engaging and strengthening community health care systems. The study will use innovative and affordable technologies such as PIERS on the Move (a mobile phone application that can predict risk for preeclampsia based on easily identifiable symptoms and signs) and an easy to use automated blood pressure machine. In addition, the RHP trainees working on this project are: analysing qualitative data to understand local barriers and enablers to implementing the trial; designing data collection tools; and developing training programs for health care providers. The team has partnered with the SFU Department of Geography to use geo-spatial mapping to identify domestic, social and structural factors the have a positive influence on pregnancy outcomes. The team is also engaged in advocacy at the international level through collaboration with the World Health Organization and the UN Commission for Life Saving Commodities.

Tabassum Firoz, a Research fellow in the UBC Clinician Investigator Program, is undertaking research focused on surveillance of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality within the CLIP trial. She is supervised by Dr. Peter von Dadelszen, a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a Senior Clinician Scientist at the CFRI, and by Dr. Laura Magee, a Clinical Professor and a Senior Clinician Scientist at the CFRI.

More information about the CLIP Trial can be viewed at: http://pre-empt.cfri.ca/OBJECTIVES/CLIPTrial.aspx


