Recent Happenings

Congratulations to Peter von Dadelszen who has been awarded an additional $17 million in funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total amount of funding to $24.4 million. The goal of this project is to find and treat pregnant women at risk of developing pre-eclampsia. This additional funding will allow for larger trials to be performed in India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Mozambique involving 130,000 expectant mothers.

We were pleased to have Beth Payne present her research at the RHP Cluster Rounds on December 5th. Her wonderful presentation on the “Development and Validation of the miniPIERS Model” outlined her tool to identify pregnant women at increased risk of hypertensive-related complications in low and middle income countries.

We look forward to our next presenter, Azar Mehrabadi, PhD Candidate (PI: Dr. KS Joseph), on February 6th.

Congratulations to the following Award recipients from the RHP Research Program:

**Researcher Grants**

- **Dr. Geoffrey Hammond** – CIHR Operating Grant, $697,885 for 5 years, Project: Sex hormone-binding globulin: beyond the plasma transport of sex steroids.
- **Dr. Peter Leung** – CIHR Operating Grant, $596,750 for 5 years, Project: Biological actions of GnRH in human trophoblast and endometrial stromal cells.

Research Highlight

Excessive blood loss after delivery (postpartum hemorrhage) is the most common cause of maternal death and illness globally. Maternal death and illness in turn have a significant effect on the health and survival of the newborn. In low and middle income countries, if women die during pregnancy or soon thereafter, only 50% of their infants will live to be 5 years old. Although maternal deaths are rare in industrialized countries, increases in postpartum hemorrhage and severe postpartum hemorrhage have been reported in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States in recent years. These increases have been driven by rising rates of the uterine atony (inability of the uterus to contract after childbirth), which is the most common cause of postpartum hemorrhage. Studies on the etiology of postpartum hemorrhage are needed to elucidate the cause of this concerning trend and in order to focus prevention efforts.

Azar Mehrabadi, a doctoral student, has been undertaking studies on postpartum hemorrhage. Her PhD supervisor, Dr. K.S. Joseph, is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a senior scientist at CFRI. Azar’s recent publications show increasing trends in atonic postpartum hemorrhage in British Columbia, where postpartum hemorrhage rates have increased from 6.3% in 2000 to 8.0% in 2009. Azar has also examined the influence of changes in maternal characteristics and obstetric intervention on temporal trends in postpartum hemorrhage (Mehrabadi et al. British J Obst & Gynae., in press). She is currently studying patterns in rates of hysterectomy for postpartum hemorrhage, and the role of postpartum hemorrhage in pregnancy-associated acute renal failure.

Upcoming Events

**RHP Cluster Rounds**: 12:30 to 1:30pm, Room 2N35 BCW

Apr 3, 2013 - “TBA” **Anyone interested is welcome to attend**

**RDS-RHP Journal Club**: 9:00am-10:00am, Room K0-155

Bi-weekly starting January 16th, 2013.

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RHP Trainee Committee Update

The first RHP-RDS sponsored workshop on Stress and Development proved a huge success. We had over 45 attendees and three guest speakers from diverse departments. The highlight of the event was talks given by Dr. Clyde Hertzman, Dr. Lisa Galea and Dr. Joanne Weinberg. Kaia Hookenson was awarded a $150 grant towards research activity for her submission to a trainee contest based on critical evaluation of a CBC Quarks and Quirks interview. Thank you to all who attended and participated! We look forward to future opportunities to engage our trainees as well as PIs in cross disciplinary learning in reproductive health.

Recent Publications of RHP Members

(Oktober - December 2012)


Harris SJ, Janssen PA, Saxell L, Carty EA, MacRae GS, Petersen KL. Effect of a collaborative interdisciplinary maternity care program on perinatal outcomes, CMAJ. 2012 Nov;184(17):1885-92.


