

# British Association of Perinatal Medicine

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## NEWSLETTER – April 2001

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The BAPM office is as busy as ever dealing with enquiries from members, the press, Government agencies and parents as well as servicing the work of the Executive Committee and supporting meetings. The Committee has been strengthened by the welcome addition of several new members who will bring a fresh approach and new ideas. We are moving forwards with rapid internet communication and you can e-mail the Executive with your suggestions and ideas for improvement or items for the next Newsletter or AGM. Alison Saunders has worked very hard in the office over the last year and we will miss her when she moves over to BACCH full time – If you know of a potential new Administrator please contact her for information about the job which will be advertised soon.

### Meetings

#### BAPM CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP 9<sup>th</sup> May 2001

The Annual Meeting will take place on the 9th May, and will be held at the Britannia Hotel, Birmingham.

For more information, contact

Nadine.howard@perinat.ox.ac.uk

#### RCPCH 5th Spring Meeting 2001 University of York, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April

The BAPM session was interesting and well attended. BAPM had 5 papers accepted for plenary sessions - congratulations. These papers were

- ◆ The long-term effects of being born prematurely on blood pressure and glucose tolerance in early childhood, N. P. Wright.
- ◆ Routine Neonatal Examinations - Effectiveness of Paediatricians compared to Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioners, T. W. R. Lee.
- ◆ Evaluation of Phenobarbitone Treatment for Neonatal Seizures, G. Boylan
- ◆ Relationship of Brain Alkaline Intracellular pH measured by phosphorus magnetic resonance spectroscopy and adverse neurodevelopmental outcome after neonatal encephalopathy, N. J. Robertson.
- ◆ Group B Streptococcal Disease (GBS) in UK Infants less than 90 days of age: a national surveillance Study, P. T. Heath.

Twenty six papers were presented at the Perinatal Session and the joint session with the Pathology Group. Professor John Wyatt gave a very stimulating lecture *Hypoxic- ischaemic injury to the developing brain*.

#### BAPM AGM and Scientific Meeting, Middlesborough, 6-7<sup>th</sup> September 2001

The title for this year's founder's lecture is 'The fascination of twins', and the speaker is Professor Roger Short from Melbourne, Australia. We have an excellent programme planned for this joint meeting with the Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association, and look forward to a lively discussion on topics such as pethidine analgesia in labour, and intrauterine resuscitation.

**AGM agenda suggestions** to the Hon Sec please. Should we raise funds for visitors from overseas?

#### Neonatal Society Summer Meeting 28 - 29<sup>th</sup> June 2001 in Nottingham

Details from Professor Terence Stephenson in Nottingham – Telephone 0115 970 9255.

#### European Society For Paediatric Research Annual Meeting

5-8 August 2001, University of Helsinki, Finland

<http://www.espr2001.com/>

#### Executive Committee OFFICERS

Following elections for regional representatives, the results are as follows

Representative for the South of England: Professor Kate Costeloe

Deputy for the South of England: Dr Jag Ahluwalia

Deputy for the North of England and Wales: Dr Ben Shaw.

There are also two new deputy obstetric representatives on the Committee - Dr Rhona Hughes and Dr Donald Peebles.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered and stood for posts.

#### CSAC for Neonatal Medicine

- ◆ Additional BAPM representative on CSAC

Dr Brendan Harrington has been appointed by the RCPCH to the Neonatal CSAC. Many thanks to all those who expressed interest.

Things are hotting up for the CSAC team

- ◆ The training document is now complete and will be downloadable from the College website (library section) soon. The syllabus is being upgraded with the development of a set of key competencies to cover the three years of training as part of the Logbook, which has some continuity of themes with the consultant CPD process. This should be available in the summer. Trainees will progress with the syllabus (with or without the logbook) available at their entry to year three training.

- ◆ All units that want to train subspecialists in neonatal medicine are being asked to submit their training prospectuses by the end of May this year and then the round of accreditation for training visits will commence.

- ◆ We are waiting for news concerning national advertisement for these posts. Trainees who are in year three of training now need not worry, but those who want to enter training as a subspecialist after September will probably need to do it under the new system.
- ◆ Job prospects for Sub-Specialty Trainees - Last year things were rather flat but there are quite a few posts coming up (or at least job descriptions approved) Generally we would anticipate about 15 jobs each year at current levels, but with the NHS Plan implementation, and SpR changes, there could be substantially more over the next few years. Clearly it is difficult to predict but the field for consultant posts is currently not huge so if you are thinking of progressing to Sub-Specialty accreditation think seriously about it. Consultants can cascade this information.

#### **BAPM Website**

As many BAPM members have found, we are experiencing problems with our website, which we hope will be rectified soon. BAPM is in contact with a new web designer. We are sorry that the members area is not yet up and running. When it is available, the login name and password will be obtainable from the office to members only. We hope that the problems will be solved in the near future.

#### **Second Edition of Standards for Hospitals Providing Neonatal Intensive and High Dependency Care**

This document is available for comments from the website. It can be accessed via a link from the homepage. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download the document. A large number of comments have been received and are being considered before the next draft.

#### **Silastic Long Lines**

BAPM has no policy on these, although we have received a number of requests following from the Manchester inquests. BAPM is co-operating with the Department of Health investigation and Dr Unni Wariyar who is involved in producing a report. Important questions which have been raised include the position of the tip, monitoring placement, and the number of procedures required in order to maintain skills.

The Department of Health has issued the following statement:

*"Media attention has been given to sudden death of newborn babies from cardiac tamponade complicating long line feeding. This has generated debate about placement of the catheter tip. Practice and guidance varies but all who elect to place the tip in the right heart or where this could result from migration should be prepared to consider tamponade if a baby 's condition deteriorates whilst on long line feeding"*

Please send comments to [bapm@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:bapm@rcpch.ac.uk)

#### **BAPM Database Pilot Study**

After the enthusiasm shown by members at the AGM in Bristol, September 2000, the President has secured funding from the South East Regional office. We will report to members at the Middlesbrough AGM. Further details from [andrew.wilkinson@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.wilkinson@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk), or [LyonA@Telemedicine.clh.ed.ac.uk](mailto:LyonA@Telemedicine.clh.ed.ac.uk)

#### **Report from CESDI**

Project 27/28 has completed its first phase, collection of denominator data for babies born between 27<sup>+0</sup> and 28<sup>+6</sup> weeks gestation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the period 1998 to 2000.

The survival rate to day 28 of these babies was 88.1% (95% CI: 87.0 - 89.2). An in-depth description of the survival figures will be published in CESDI's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Report in September 2001.

The second phase involves Enquiries being held on all neonatal deaths (417) and an equivalent number of survivors. They have been held on 80% and are due for completion in April 2001. Results will be published in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Report in 2002.

The next programme for CESDI will be looking at diabetic pregnancies.

[www.cesdi.org.uk](http://www.cesdi.org.uk)

#### **Neonatal Research**

Ed Hey and Ian Chalmers are keen to hear of practical examples where perinatal research is being inhibited by the current adverse climate. Please send comments to [bapm@rcpch.ac.uk](mailto:bapm@rcpch.ac.uk) with 'Research comments' in the subject line. They will be forwarded.

#### **Important Notice: Electronic Communication**

Because of escalating production and mailing costs, most communication in future with members will be via e-mail. Documents, particularly when in draft form for discussion, will be posted on the webpage and this brought to members attention by e-mail. Please send your e-mail address to the administrator.

#### **From the Treasurer**

Although BAPM switched to payment of the Annual Subscription by Direct Debit over 2 years ago, many members continue to also pay the previous standing order of £30 in addition to their direct debit payment of £50. Please note that BAPM is unable to cancel your standing order for you. If you do not wish to pay an extra £30 to BAPM, write to your Bank and cancel the standing order, ensuring of course that your Direct Debit still remains.

#### **BAPM Administrator**

Alison Saunders joined us as BAPM Administrator about a year ago. She has coped admirably with the workload and been a tower of strength in the office. Alison leaves soon to take up the post of full time administrator for BACCH. BAPM will shortly be advertising for a 0.6 WTE administrator post, to be based in the BAPM office at the RCPCH.

**MEMBERSHIP – now at 549 members**

We continue to grow by about 50 new members each year - don't forget that nominations for full membership by a current BAPM member can be made at any time during the year.

***Please encourage your colleagues to join:  
Obstetricians, Neonatal Neonatal Nurses,  
Midwives, all others involved in perinatal care!***

*Nomination forms and further details from*

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