

Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 26
January 2010

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STOP PRESS!!!

MFH take SGI by storm- see pages 1-2 for details!!



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Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group

part of the

Research School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences *in the*

School of Medicine *within the*

Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences.

www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/maternalfetalhealth

Page 1: SGI Trip- A Great Success

Sixteen people from the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, funded by a variety of grants, attended the annual Society for Gynecologic Investigation meeting in Orlando at the end of March. This is the largest international pregnancy research meeting. Several posters and oral communications were given and Michelle Desforbes, Karen Forbes and Peter Sipos each obtained prestigious awards for their presentations.



Karen Forbes won one of five Georgio Pardi Foundation Travel Awards for her abstract, "Dicer-Dependant Micro RNAs Regulate IGF-Actions in the Human Placenta" .

Page 2: SGI Trip- a great success continued

Prizes were awarded to the 10 best poster presentations by young investigators. **Michelle Desforges** was awarded one of these prizes but *unfortunately* the prize came in the form of American Express giftcard which could only be redeemed in the US, therefore she *had to* go shopping before returning to England!

Peter Sipos won the Georgio Pardi Foundation Junior Investigator Award



Some of the team working hard

Page 3: Colin's trip to Edmonton

Colin Sibley recently spent a week at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He was part of an international team reviewing the quality of research in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, of which Phil Baker is Dean ('Dean Baker' as he is known in Edmonton). Phil is very busy in a challenging but exciting job. Colin also had some excellent research discussion with old friends Jo Stanley and Sandy Davidge, as well as new friend Irene Andersson – all of whom will be working with Colin, Mark and Sue on their Programme Grant. Jo showed Colin how to do uterine artery Doppler ultrasound on mice – incredible!



Page 4: Limian Zheng Visit

Maternal and Fetal Health were visited in March by Limian Zheng, a final year Phd student, from John Mackrell's lab in Cork. Her project is looking at calcium signalling in the placenta. She used her three weeks here looking at ryanadine receptor expression in the human placenta.



Limian with Syliva

Page 5: Goodbyes

Sam Smith left Maternal and Fetal Health in March to have a baby. Sam assured us that we have not seen the last of her and she will visit when she has her baby boy.



Page 6: Successes

Postgrad success!

Well done to **Russal Mohammad** who has been awarded her MPhil.

Congratulations to **Cristina Hayward** and **Jayne Fitzsimmons** who were both awarded their PhDs!

Congratulations to **Beth Holder** who has been awarded a travel grant for £400 from The University (Postgraduate Conference Travel Fund) for attendance at the American Society for Reproductive Immunology conference in May.

Congratulations to Daniel Brison who has secured £110K funding from the Department of Health – for “Pilot scheme to improve recruitment of sperm donors in the UK”. This was also featured in a Sunday Times article January 10th 2010.

Well done to **Lynda Harris** who gave an oral presentation at the British Society for Matrix Biology meeting in Manchester in March entitled: ‘Matrix metalloproteinase-12 mediates elastolysis in remodelling human uterine spiral arteries’.

The North West Embryonic Stem Cell Centre operated a highly successful stand at the Big Bang exhibition at Manchester Central in March, including exhibitions on embryology, stem cell biology, time lapse video and interactive games.

Page 7: Successes continued

The Department of Reproductive Medicine, including site 1 of the NW Embryonic Stem Cell Centre, has re-opened in its existing site in Old St Mary's Hospital on Oxford Road. This followed extensive refurbishment of the site by CMFT during 2009 and has resulted in significantly increased capacity for patient treatment cycles.

Well done to **Daniel Brison** who has been invited to a number of lectures in the last few months including:

November 2009, ASEBIR annual meeting, Valencia, Spain. Invited plenary talk "New methods in embryo selection"

January 2010, ACE annual conference, Bristol, UK. Invited plenary talk "Embryo development: how cultured is our medium?"

February 2010, Alpha/ESHRE international consensus workshop on embryo grading. Invited participant and speaker "UK National embryo grading schemes".

March 2010, Wellcome Trust "Ethical frameworks for embryo donation: Ethics and policy workshop", London. Invited participant.

We have been awarded a grant from the Oglesby Trust for a Tissue Processor and Embedding Station (combined value £17,096). This will enable us to process and embed our own fixed tissue samples, rather than using the facility in the A V Hill Building.

Congratulations to **Alison Cooke** who has had an abstract accepted for poster presentation at the British Maternal and Fetal Medicine Society Annual Conference in June 2010, entitled, 'Exploring the older mother from different perspectives: the voices of women' with sub-title 'An exploratory study of women's views and experiences of delayed childbearing.'

Page 8: Publication Successes



Please include: **Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre, University of Manchester** when papers are submitted. You should also acknowledge that the Group is supported by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and (if appropriate for your study) the Greater Manchester Local Comprehensive Research Network.

LK Harris (2010) Trophoblast-vascular cell interactions in early pregnancy: how to remodel a vessel. *Placenta* 31, Suppl:S93-8.

Cooke, A (2010) When will we change practice and stop directing pushing in labour? *British Journal of Midwifery* 18(2) 76-81

Cox H, Tilbrook H, Aplin J, Chuang LH, Hewitt C, Jayakody S, Semlyen A, SoaresMO, Torgerson D, Trehela A, Watt I, Worthy G. A pragmatic multi-centred randomised controlled trial of yoga for chronic low back pain: trial protocol. *Complement Ther Clin Pract.* 2010 May;16(2):76-80.

Ingman K, Cookson VJ, Jones CJ, Aplin JD. Characterisation of Hofbauer cells in first and second trimester placenta: incidence, phenotype, survival in vitro and motility. *Placenta.* 2010 Mar 26.

Singh H, Nardo L, Kimber SJ, Aplin JD. Early stages of implantation as revealed by an in vitro model. *Reproduction.* 2010 Feb 24.

Forbes K, Souquet B, Garside R, Aplin JD, Westwood M. Transforming growth factor- β (TGF β) receptors I/II differentially regulate TGF β 1 and IGF-binding protein-3 mitogenic effects in the human placenta. *Endocrinology.* 2010 Apr;151(4):1723-31.

Miller DL, Jones CJ, Aplin JD, Nardo LG. Altered glycosylation in peri-implantation phase endometrium in women with stages III and IV endometriosis. *Hum Reprod.* 2010 Feb;25(2):406-11.

If you have an abstract accepted for publication please email lauren.moss@manchester.ac.uk a copy of the publication for the newsletter, but also so that the information can be passed on to the Press Officer Aeron Howarth who will contact local/national press.

Page 9: Publication Successes continued



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Lye S J (1,2,4), and Dunk CE (2). Vascular-leukocyte interactions: mechanisms of human decidual spiral artery remodeling *in vitro*. Hazan AD * (1,2), Smith S D * (3), Jones RL (3), Whittle W(4)

Sharp AN, Heazell AE, Crocker IP, Mor G. Placental Apoptosis in Health and Disease. *Am J Reprod Immunol*. 2010 Mar 29. [Epub ahead of print]

Stocks, S.J., Agius, R.M., Cooley, N., Harrison, K.L., Brison, D.R., Horne, G., Gibbs, A., Povey, A.C. (2010) Alkylation of sperm DNA is associated with male factor infertility and a reduction in the proportion of oocytes fertilised during assisted reproduction. *Mutat Res*. 2010 Mar 19. [Epub ahead of print]

Camarasa MV, Kerr RW, Sneddon S, Bates N, Baxter M, Oldershaw R, McKay T, Small F, Brison DR, Kimber SJ (2010) Derivation of Man-1 and Man-2 research grade human embryonic stem cell lines *In Vitro Cell Dev Biol Anim*. 2010 Feb 23. [Epub ahead of print]

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The Protein Expression Facility situated in the Michael Smith Building, had been extremely successful within the Faculty of Life Sciences and are now expanding to Medicine and Pharmacy. They offer expression and purification of proteins from bacterial, insect or mammalian systems, and also offer a cloning service. The weblink below has more details.

www.ls.manchester.ac.uk/research/facilities/proteinexpression/

If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss a project please contact Mr Matthew David Ball, Senior Research Technician. His contact details are below

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Expression Lab: +44 (0) 161 275 7398

TC Lab: +44 (0) 161 275 5983

Page 11: Regular Meetings

Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group

Tuesday 'Work in Progress' Meetings

**Seminar Room A/B
Research Floor
5th Floor
St Mary's Hospital**

08:45 – 09:45

20/04/2010	Alexandra Solomon and Andrea Ditchfield	Sarah Lawson and James Newham
27/04/2010	Suzanne Moody and Paula Diaz	Nicky Sapsford and Christal Fisher
04/05/2010	Helen Miller and Sarah Coleman	Alison Cooke and Richard Blankley
11/05/2010	Sue Woods and Karen Forbes	Justine Nugent and Laura Kusinski
18/05/2010	Debbie Smith and Khiria Alsaghiri	Sarah Hamilton and Michelle Desforges
25/05/2010	Stephania Calabrese and Kim Hannam	Deirdre Thajam and Chloe Duval
01/06/2010	Caroline Wright and Andy Sharp	Catherine Chmiel and Paul Brownbill
08/06/2010	Chloe Duval and Laura Kusinski	Christina Hayward and Andrea Ditchfield

Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group Wednesday Lab Meetings

**Seminar Room A
Research Floor
5th Floor
St Mary's Hospital**

09:00 – 09:30

For more information email
jean.french@manchester.ac.uk

21/04/10- Sarah C and Khiria

28/04/10- No Meeting

05/05/10- Justine

12/05/10- Chloe

19/05/10- Andrea

26/05/10- No Meeting

02/06/10-Michelle

09/06/10- Melissa B

16/06/10- Deirde

23/06/10- Paul

30/06/10- No Meeting

07/07/10- Christina

14/07/10- No Meeting

21/07/10- Laura

28/07/10- No Meeting