

Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group Monthly Bulletin

Issue 13: June 2008

News

1. Clinical and Laboratory Sciences Postgraduate Showcase
2. Postgraduate research talks
3. Research Centre Director's meeting with Tommy's: the Baby Charity

Successes

4. IFPA Presentations
5. Plenary Speaker
6. Travel Grants
7. BUPA Great Manchester Run

Seminars & Meetings

9. June Research Seminars

Leavers

10. Maureen O'Hara

Clinical and Laboratory Sciences Postgraduate Showcase

11th June
Schuster building.

This all-day event is designed to give you all a chance to hear about work going on in the other research groups within the School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences (Medical Genetics, Endocrine Sciences, Tissue Injury and Repair and Cardiovascular Medicine). The Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group have been allocated two slots for platform presentations, as well as four poster spaces. Following the competition chaired by Sue Kimber on 13th May, **Jayne Fitzsimmons** and **Lizzie Hutchinson** won the competition for presentations and will represent the Research Group along with **Jemma Corcoran**, **Christina Hayward**, **Eleni Tsitiou** and **Joanna Williams** who will present posters. There will be prizes awarded for both types of presentation.

The programme for the day will be:

- 10:00 Welcome address - Tony Freemont
- 10:15 Research group overviews and student presentations
- 11:00 *Coffee break including poster judging and trade stands*
- 11:30 Research group overviews and student presentations
- 12:45 *Lunch including poster judging and trade stands*
- 13:45 Research group overviews and student presentations
- 15:00 *Coffee break including posters and trade stands*
- 15:30 Research group overviews and student presentations
- 16:00 Close of meeting and Prize giving

Postgraduate research talks

Postgraduate Tutor, John Aplin reminds all postgraduates and their supervisors that students need to deliver a research talk in the presence of their supervisors (and preferably their advisors) at some point during the first year. The appropriate form in the postgraduate programme folder should be filled in with feedback on the presentation. This is now becoming a formal milestone for progression to the next year.

The monthly bulletin is produced by Maternal and Fetal Health Research Administrator **Martyn Johnson**

martyn.johnson@manchester.ac.uk 0161 275 5460

Please contact me if you have comments or news for next month's bulletin.

Research Centre Director's meeting with Tommy's: the Baby Charity



On 07th May 2008, **Colin Sibley** – Director of the [Manchester](#) Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, Jane Norman and Andrew Calder from the [Edinburgh](#) Research Centre and Lucilla Poston from the [London](#) Research Centre all met with Jane Brewin – the Chief Executive for Tommy's: the Baby Charity to discuss the developments with the charity and develop collaborative research with the recent opening of the Edinburgh Research Centre.

- **Funding Opportunities**

Jane informed us that the charity raised about £3,500,000 in 2007/08 which was a 20% increase on the previous year; this has allowed Tommy's to steer funding into new research areas at the Edinburgh Research Centre and with these new developments and successes they have decided to rebrand the Charity with a new logo and relaunch in September. Tommy's have been given £20,000 by the Zochonis Trust to fund a publicity campaign in the North West to raise awareness of the charity and this will help their fundraising priorities focus on new business in the area with the teenager study and obesity effects will have an impact on raising funds. This is excellent news for our Placenta Clinic and the Manchester Research Centre as a whole as one of our aims for this year is to get the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre more in the local public eye so we will hopefully will be a prominent feature of media interest in coming months.

- **Collaborative Research**

The three Directors are keen to progress with a joint research strategy across the Manchester-Edinburgh-London network and Jane was interested in the "Research Grid" that was proposed. The "Research Grid" is a model with disease (PE, PTL & IUGR) along one side and risk factors (obesity, stress, teenage, nutrition) along the other which could then be filled with projects that cut across two or three of the centers. This is something that may work well for identifying potential ideas for future joint Programme Grants similar to the recent MRC Collaborative Grant from a Manchester-Edinburgh-London application which focuses on regular joint meetings and the creation of a pregnancy biobank. Rolling out of specialist clinics like the Placenta Clinic could also be a key part of joint strategy so if you would like to discuss an idea, or views please email colin.sibley@manchester.ac.uk

- **Reporting and Assessments**

 - [Impact Measures Report](#)

Tommy's will require us to submit an Impact Measures Report similar to last year, by the end of June. If you would like to see last years Report please see Martyn Johnson.

 - [Annual Report](#)

The June Impact Measures Report will be updated in October 2008 when the Annual Report is submitted, so in the future, both reports will be completed together in October. This years Annual Report will be directed to a scientific audience with lay summaries of each research area – these lay summaries are particularly important for Tommy's fundraising colleagues in selecting projects that might raise money from the Trusts so similarly to previous years you will be contacted to request your help to complete this by the end of June.

IFPA Presentation



Congratulations go to **Mark Dilworth** and **Sam Smith** who have been invited to present two of only 15 New Investigator oral presentations at the IFPA meeting in September 2008. Mark's presentation will be on "Altered maternofetal clearance and fetal accretion of calcium in placental specific Igf2 (PO) knockout mice" and Sam's will be on "Evidence for a role for immune cells in decidual spiral artery remodelling in early pregnancy."

Plenary Speaker

John Aplin has been invited to be a plenary speaker at a symposium entitled "When does implantation begin?" at the Society for Study of Reproduction meeting in Kona, Hawaii. John's talk is on "Glycoproteomics of implantation".

Travel Grants

Placenta Associations Conference 2008 in Austria (IFPA/EFG)

Mark Dilworth	\$500.00	from Loke Travel Awards – IFPA
Jayne Fitzsimmons	£150.00	from Society for Endocrinology
Karen Forbes	£250.00	from BSDB, and
	£150.00	from Society for Endocrinology
Sam Smith	\$500.00	from Loke Travel Awards – IFPA
Nita Solanky	\$500.00	from Loke Travel Awards – IFPA
Alexandra Solomon	£150.00	from Society for Endocrinology

June Research Seminars

TITLE: Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group **Tuesday Lab Meetings***
DATE: Tuesdays, 08:30 – 09:30
VENUE: Obs. & Gyn. Seminar Room, Research Floor, 1st Floor, SMH
 * please see mark.wareing@manchester.ac.uk for more information

03/06/08	Mark Wareing
10/06/08	Suzanne Moody
17/06/08	TBC
24/06/08	Andy Sharp

TITLE: Maternal and Fetal Health Research Group **Wednesday Lab Meetings***
DATE: Wednesdays, 09:00 – 10:00
VENUE: Obs. & Gyn. Seminar Room, Research Floor, 1st Floor, SMH
 *please see jean.french@manchester.ac.uk for more information

04/06/08	Nita Solanky (Alicia) / Paul Brownbill
11/06/08	Christina Hayward / Laura Kusinski
18/06/08	Mark Dilworth (Liz) / Eleni Tsitsiou
25/06/08	Tracey Mills & Lab Management Meeting

BUPA Great Manchester Run

Congratulations to everyone who took part in this year's BUPA Great Manchester Run on Sunday 16th May. This year The Three Profs ran for Tommy's: the Baby Charity. Between them John Aplin, Phil Baker and Colin Sibley raised just under £3,000.00 for the charity. If you would like to add to this impressive amount please visit <http://www.justgiving.com/the3profs>.

John came first out of the Profs with a time of 00:50:00 and **Phil** beat his 2007 time by 00:04:04 and **Colin** (who despite having to buy the first round) cheered his way to the finishing line with a time of 1:10:00. Congratulations to everyone who raised money for their various charities.



Leavers

Maureen O'Hara Laboratory Manager

This month sees the retirement of Maureen who joined the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre (then known as "Tommy's Campaign Centre") as a Research Technician/Laboratory Manager in March 2001.

Maureen has always been committed to the Centre and played a significant part in the development of the Tommy's laboratory infrastructure and in November 2001 she was upgraded to Laboratory Manager. We take this opportunity to thank Maureen who has developed the role over the 7 years that she was in post and played a key role in the supervision of both academic and technical research staff as well as providing trustworthy technical advice and support to all members of the research team. Maureen has always been regarded by the senior team as a reliable Manager who helped to establish the Research Centre and has given the team foundations to grow into what is now the biggest pregnancy research centre in Europe.



We would also like to thank Maureen for her continuous employment in the University of Manchester. She started her career in the University as a Micro-Analytical Technician in 1970 and in 1979, became a Senior Research Technician in the Department of Chemistry. With 38 years under her belt we hope that Maureen now enjoys her well earned break and although she will be retiring to a sunny and warm climate in Spain later in the year we hope that she keeps in touch and if she gets the chance - visits the team at the annual picnics!