

## **Neonatal Society Newsletter Autumn 2005 (written January 2006)**

A very Happy New Year to all Neonatal Society Members! The Neonatal Society is now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year and continues to thrive.

### Past meetings

Since the last newsletter of April 2005, we have had two very successful meetings.

#### *Summer Meeting, Bristol*

This was a tremendous meeting in a lovely setting and congratulations to Dr Anoo Jain who was the local organiser. During the 2 day meeting there were four invited speakers.

The Tizard lecture

- Professor Marianne Thoresen: **Hypothermia: from anecdote to brain protection**

The other key note speakers were:

- Professor Mark Gardiner: **What has the human genome project done for neonatology?**
- Professor Peter Soothill: **Advances in non-invasive fetal medicine**
- Professor Dieter Wolke: **Psychological development of extremely preterm (<26 weeks) and not so preterm (27-35 weeks) children – the big picture**

Young Investigator Prize winner:

- Dr Nigel Kennea: **Human Mesenchymal stem Cells as Agents of Brain Repair**

#### *Autumn Meeting, RCOG, London*

This was a very lively meeting with a variety of research topics covered and excellent discussions. The venue was excellent. In addition to the free papers there were two invited speakers:

2<sup>nd</sup> Widdowson Lecture (sponsored by Chiesi)

- Professor Michael Symonds: **Leptin – its role in adaptation at birth and later health and disease**

Key note speaker

- Professor Lex Doyle: **Postnatal corticosteroids – where to now?**

### New president elect, secretaries and committee members

Congratulations to Professor Andrew Whitelaw who was elected “president elect” at the Autumn meeting. He will take over from Professor Andrew Wilkinson after the 2006 summer meeting. Dr Andy Lyon leaves the committee after serving as both Meetings and General secretary. We thank him for his tremendous support and hard work for the Society, in particular in developing and maintaining the Neonatal Society website. He has agreed, however, to cover the sabbatical leave of the future General Secretary (Dr Nikki Robertson) who will assume the post after the Summer meeting 2006. Dr Nikki Robertson moves on from Meetings Secretary to General Secretary and Dr Anoo Jain will take on the post of Meetings Secretary. Dr Alison Mostyn leaves the committee and Dr Alison Forhead will be the new committee member.

OBE awarded to original founder member of the Neonatal Society

Beryl Corner, an original founding member of the Neonatal Society at the first meeting on April 24th, 1959, was awarded the OBE for services to neonatology in the 2006 New Year Honours. Beryl was the first consultant paediatrician in Bristol to be appointed specifically for neonatal care and she led the neonatal unit at Southmead from 1946. Beryl is in her nineties now and still attends perinatal meetings in Bristol. In the finest tradition of the Neonatal Society, she gave a lecture on comparative physiology on Wednesday January 4th 2006 at Southmead Hospital "**Baby apes: just like us**". She drew on her experience caring for more than 6 baby apes delivered at Bristol Zoo. This included one premature chimpanzee who was nursed in an incubator at Bristol Maternity Hospital.



*Beryl Corner, OBE, founder member of the Neonatal Society, lecturing in January 2006.*

Future meetings

**2006**

This will be a unique year as the spring and summer meetings will both be one day events in London. The autumn meeting is later this year and will be a 2 day joint themed meeting in Cambridge in the winter.

Spring Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> March

Venue: Jarvis Hall, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), 66 Portland Place, London

Summer Meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> June

Venue: RIBA

Winter Meeting: 12-13<sup>th</sup> Dec

Venue: Churchill College, Cambridge

This is a joint meeting with the Nutrition Society and is a celebration to mark the Elsie Widdowson Centenary. The programme already looks tremendous with many leaders in the field contributing. Abstracts can be submitted through either the Neonatal Society or Nutritional Society and will be published in the respective journals.

**2007**

Spring Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> March

Venue: RIBA

Summer Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June

Venue: Portsmouth (host Richard Thwaites)

Autumn Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Venue: Royal Society of Medicine, large lecture theatre (RSM)

#### Future proposed summer meeting locations

<b>Year</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Organiser</b>
2008	Middlesborough	Sunil Sinha
2009	Edinburgh	Andy Lyon

#### Maintaining number and standard of abstracts

The number of abstracts submitted has been increasing steadily

Spring meeting 2005	10
Summer Meeting	14
Autumn Meeting	15

Please encourage your juniors to attend, present research and join the society.

#### Publication of abstracts

2005 Spring Meeting (17<sup>th</sup> March 2005) *Early Human Dev* 2005;81:711-720

The 2005 Summer and Autumn Meeting abstracts are in press and I will let you know of their references in the next newsletter

#### New members

The following have been elected to the Society:

Gopi Menon, Edinburgh  
Giles Kendall, London  
Geraldine Ng, London  
Alan Groves, London  
George Gavriel, London  
Christina Malamateniou, London  
Nigel Kennea, London

*Nikki Robertson*  
*Neonatal Society Meetings Secretary 2003-2005*