

## Newsletter - September 2006

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to advise that the Council now has its new website available for viewing (see below). The 2004 Annual Report is near its final stages of completion and will be archived on the Council's website as soon as it becomes available. At the last meeting of Council it was considered that Annual Report for 2005 and 2006 may be amalgamated. You will be updated on this matter as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Parsons'.

Dr Simon Parsons  
Chairperson  
Council of Obstetric & Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity

### COUNCIL NEWS

Current membership in accordance with the Terms of Reference includes Dr Simon Parsons (re-elected Chair); Mr Nick Goddard; Professor Allan Carmichael; Dr Geoff Shannon; Mr David Fanning; Ms Ros Escott; Dr Peter Dargaville; & Mr Peter Askey-Doran. Professor Michael Humphrey is currently in the process of being officially invited to represent the University of Tasmania on Council. Dr Parsons has become the new representative for the Tasmanian Branch of the Paediatric Health Division of the Royal Australian College of Physicians following Dr Hallam's decision to step down from her role to enable Professor Humphrey to reside on Council.

The Council logo has received ratification by Council and will be used on all future documentation related to activities of Council.

As outlined previously, the new Council website will archive newsletters, Annual Reports and various other relevant resource information. The website address is: <http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency/partnerships/comm.php>

### CLINICAL MATTERS

1. **Clinical Practice Guidelines**- as developed by the RHH WACS Department will soon be available on intranet (location to be identified as soon as it becomes available). As a result, guidelines will not be included in future newsletter editions.
2. **Foetal growth restrictions** - The 2004 Council Report will elaborate on this matter further. The Council however, has identified that the largest preventable cause of stillbirths in Tasmania is unrecognised fetal growth restriction. As this problem relates to access to and the quality of obstetric care the Council felt it appropriate to notify interested parties of this problem immediately.



3. **Foetal viability with rupture of membranes** - Changes in management at the RHH NICU has led to very good survival of preterm infants with very early rupture of membranes (even < 20 weeks) and associated pulmonary hypoplasia. Thus we ask Obstetricians and Paediatricians to recognise that very early PROM is not necessarily indicative of a poor prognosis for the infant.
4. **LLETZ** - This procedure has been recognised to be associated with cervical incompetence and preterm delivery.
5. **Data Collection** - Following the last meeting of Council it was agreed to organise a meeting with key stakeholders to explore and discuss the development of an improved and more meaningful system. This is in line with recent discussions regarding the need to urgently develop a web-based data entry system for delivery, perinatal, maternal, and paediatric deaths.
6. **Formal process for assessing late terminations** – This is recognised as an issue and will to be discussed in the next issue of the Council newsletter.
7. **Injury Assessment Form** (see attached) – this has been modeled on the Sydney Children’s Hospital form and will be adopted by the RHH to use in the assessment of injured children presenting in the Emergency Department.
8. **Current System of Child Protection Services** – The Council has written to the Minister outlining the concerns raised by members regarding the issue of access and response by child protection services. In particular, the Council has expressed concerns to the Minister paediatric deaths have occurred in children known to and under the care of Children and Families Services, and in particular child protection services.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

Membership of the subcommittees has been established.

### **PAEDIATRIC Mortality & Morbidity**

This subcommittee continues to meet regularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every second month (unless otherwise specified). In view of Dr Hallam’s recent decision to step down from Council, Dr Simon Parsons has now undertaken the role of Chair of this Committee.

### **PERINATAL Mortality & Morbidity**

Membership will include Dr Simon Parsons (Chair), Dr James Brodribb and Dr Peter Dargaville. Classification of stillbirths has improved with the input of both Drs Parsons and Brodribb. Mr Askey -Doran has advised that he would like to participate on this subcommittee as a midwife representative.

### **MATERNAL Mortality & Morbidity**

Professor Michael Humphrey has agreed to accept the role of Chair of this subcommittee. Dr Simon Parsons, Dr James Brodribb and Mr Peter Askey-Doran will complete the membership for this Committee.



## DATA MANAGEMENT

It was agreed to discuss relevant issues directly at the level of Council. It was agreed also that this subcommittee should remain inactive for the moment in view of matters to be discussed at Council level.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Council welcomes Professor Michael Humphrey to represent University of Tasmania on Council.

Dr Parsons has become the new representative for the Tasmanian Branch of the Paediatric Health Division of the Royal Australian College of Physicians.

## MEETINGS FOR 2006

### Next Council Meetings:

- Thursday 23 November, 12.30-2.00pm, DSU Meeting Room

### Next Paediatric Mortality & Morbidity Subcommittee Meetings:

- Thursday 19 October, 1.00-2.00pm, Forensic Pathology, Level 4, RHH

*Note: All other subcommittee meetings will be advised.*

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