

DOCTORAL MIDWIFERY RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETING

11th February, 2008

Loughview Suite, University of Ulster, Jordanstown
9am-4.30pm

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MORNING SESSION

Chair- Professor Marlene Sinclair

9:00 Poster Exhibition Tea/Coffee - treats to eat

9:30 Chair's introduction

9.45 Welcome Dean Professor Hugh McKenna

PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY RESEARCH SERIES: GUEST LECTURE

10.00 Professor Cecily Begley

"The ups and downs of running randomised trials"

**Morning Coffee Sponsored by School of Nursing
Ulster 10.45-11.15am**

11.15 Dr Joan Lawler

11:45 VIP Launch "Designer Breastfeeding"

Presentation of exec summary Dr Janine Stockdale

**Lunch Sponsored by Research & Development
Office for Northern Ireland 1pm-2pm**





Afternoon Session

Chair –

Consultant Obstetrician Lecture Series

2.05 Professor Jim Dornan

2.45 Yi Hui Liao

3:15 Dr Kenda Crozier

3.45 Derry Women's Group Research presentation "Women's Voices"

4.00 Research Interest Groups

4.30 Close of the DMRS

Afternoon Tea Sponsored by the UU Institute of Nursing Research

Sponsors

I would like to thank our sponsors:

The Northern Ireland Research & Development Office
The Institute of Nursing Research, Ulster University

The School of Nursing, Ulster University
TenAlpsPublishing (publishers for Evidence Based
Midwifery)

Professor of Midwifery Research Series:

Professor Cecily Begley

“The ups and downs of running randomised trials”

11th February 2008

Randomised trials aim to compare groups of people who are similar in all major respects except for the treatment or care they receive. Consenting participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups; a control group, who receive standard care and an experimental group, who receive the new method of care. The outcomes of both groups are then compared. This format is well known to most health care professionals, especially those undertaking higher degrees. This presentation will address three issues that can arise during randomised trials, and describe how difficulties were addressed in the context of various midwifery studies.

The first issue concerns the need to identify prior to the study, the precise outcomes that are considered important by clinicians, researchers and women. This brings into focus the question of clinical significance versus statistical significance, which will be discussed using examples from practice.

The second area for discussion will focus on the lessons learned in the collaborative process of developing evidence-based, clinical practice guidelines for midwifery-led care in the first midwifery-led units in the Republic of Ireland, which are being evaluated through a randomised trial.

The third issue is the need for an *a priori* sample size estimation, based on valid, relevant data. Issues discussed will include: using the null hypothesis, effect size, probability, significance level and type I error, and power and type II error. Examples of sample size estimations with varying effect size, power and alpha levels will be given to illustrate the way in which sample sizes can be juggled to achieve the desired level of rigor.

Throughout the presentation there will be opportunity to question and discuss points as they arise, with the aim of de-mystifying quantitative, experimental research for the participants.

Biography Professor Cecily Begley

Prof. Cecily Begley is Professor of Nursing and Midwifery and Director of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin. She spent 12 years in the Coombe Women’s Hospital as a midwife, midwifery tutor and research fellow, followed by 8 years as a lecturer/senior lecturer at the Faculty of Nursing in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. In 1996, she took up her

present post in Trinity College, charged with the task of developing the new School of Nursing and Midwifery. Eleven years later, this School now runs 16 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, with 1400 students and over 100 staff.

Prof Begley was a member of the Expert Group on Midwifery and Children's Nurse Education set up to plan the two direct-entry degree programmes that commenced nation-wide in October 2006, and is a member of the International Confederation of Midwives' Research Advisory Network. She leads a number of research teams focusing mainly on physiological childbirth and women-centred care, including the care of women with disabilities. She is a reviewer and member of the editorial committee for a number of health professional journals and has published widely on nursing and midwifery clinical and education issues.

Introducing the First Consultant Obstetrician Guest Lecture Series

Biography

Professor James C Dornan MD FRCPI FRCOG

Royal-Jubilee Maternity Service

Royal Maternity Hospital and University of Ulster, Belfast

- President of the Ulster Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society
- Immediate past Senior Vice President & International Officer – RCOG
- Professor, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- Professor, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Ulster University, Northern Ireland
- Member, International Advisory Group, RCOG
- Clinical and research interest in fetal medicine, especially biophysical assessment of fetal wellbeing and fetal behaviour.
- Member of the all Ireland "Perinatal Ireland " Executive
- Fellow of Royal College of Physicians, Ireland
- Past Chairman, College Tutors Working Party
- Membership of ten College Committees

Professor James Dornan is a graduate of Queen's University of Belfast. Having been a fetal medicine trainee at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, he returned to Northern Ireland where he has until recently been Director of Fetal Medicine at the Royal Maternity Hospital. Having been the Northern Ireland Fellows' Representative on the Royal College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists Council, he is currently the Senior Vice President of that College. He has also been President of the Belfast Medical Students Union Association, something of which he is particularly proud. His research interests include assessment of fetal wellbeing, prenatal

screening and diagnosis and he has recently published a sentinel paper on '*The use of real time ultrasound in the assessment of risk in apparently normal pregnancy*'.

Abstract Professor Jim Dornan

CEMACH reveals there are 4,000 stillbirths per year in the UK, and the number is rising. The majority are associated with IUGR. 70% of IUGR is still undiagnosed antenatally. A pilot study to assess the use of biophysical assessment of fetal wellbeing in low risk pregnancy in order to identify the high risk fetus was performed in RMH. The study was carried out using basic ultrasound technology and midwifery skills.

The control group of 1,000 subjects had routine antenatal assessments. The study group of 1,000 subjects had routine antenatal assessment plus 2 ultrasonic scans to detect inappropriate placental maturity, growth restriction and decreased amniotic fluid volume. Results suggest ultrasound is a useful tool to reduce the incidence of growth restriction without increased interference.

The presentation will highlight the pilot study, propose prospective randomised multicentre study, and address the issues associated with the personnel, methods and timing associated with antenatal care.