



From left: Sir Peter Simpson, ESA President, Dr Lars Hüter, representing the winning working group, and Helge Hussy, General Manager of Dräger Medical Deutschland GmbH.

### First Dräger award for intensive care medicine bestowed

At this year's Congress of the European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA), Euroanaesthesia 2007, in Munich, ESA presented the first Dräger Award for Intensive Care Medicine. The €10,000 endowment was donated by Dräger Medical AG & Co. KG. The award went to the working group studying 'Ventilation-associated Lung Injury' in the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena.

The annual prize honours significant research in the field of intensive care medicine published in peer-reviewed

intensive care or anaesthesiology journals in the preceding year. The prize is given to the institution that produces the article rather than any one research worker.

This year, the Scientific Programme Committee of the ESA recognised this working group for their investigation of ventilation-associated lung injury under the direction of Dr Torsten Schreiber. The related article was entitled, "Increased Susceptibility to Ventilator-associated Lung Injury Persists after Clinical Recovery from Experimental Endotoxemia".

### All change at *Infant*

After two and half years of sterling service, Professor Anne Greenough has stepped down as Medical Editor of *Infant* journal. I would personally like to thank her for commitment to the journal right from the beginning, when it was just an idea, and for playing a key part in keeping the editorial standards high. She has given us an excellent start which we intend to build upon.

I am delighted to announce that Dr Anthony Emmerson, from St Mary's Hospital Manchester, has kindly agreed to take up the medical editorship of *Infant*. He has been a very active editorial board member of *Infant* and I've no doubt will be very good for the journal. I would like to thank him for finding the time to fit *Infant*



Pauline Watkins



Anthony Emmerson

into his busy schedule.

Finally I would like to welcome Pauline Watkins as the new advertising salesperson working on *Infant*. Pauline replaces Barry Dawkins, who sadly died in January this year. Pauline's direct line is 01279 714508 or she can be contacted on pauline@infantgrapevine.co.uk.

Christine Bishop  
 Publisher/Managing Editor



### SNNG website goes live

The Scottish Neonatal Nurses Group's website – [www.snnng.org.uk](http://www.snnng.org.uk) – is now live. The SNNG is a professional interest group for all neonatal nurses and midwives. The group aims to promote best practice in neonatal nursing through the sharing of information and by updating members on developments in clinical practice.

In 2007, SNNG members can subscribe to *Infant* journal at the specially reduced rate of £25.00 a year, saving £20.00 on the normal subscription rate.

Visit the website to subscribe, read the group's publications, register on the message board to chat with colleagues and find out about forthcoming events.

### Equipment donation helps save more lives

Tommy's, the baby charity, has teamed up with Philips Electronics UK Ltd to help save babies' lives.

Philips is helping Tommy's vital research programmes with the donation of an iU22 ultrasound system, worth £80,000, to Tommy's Make Pregnancy Safer (MAPS) research project, which launched recently at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

MAPS is part of an international study investigating ways to predict and prevent the major diseases of late pregnancy. The UK MAPS study aims to develop tests that predict the likelihood of pregnant women developing three of the major pregnancy problems – spontaneous preterm birth, fetal growth restriction and pre-eclampsia.

The iU22 will be used to measure fetal growth, uterine and umbilical Dopplers and trans-vaginal cervical length.

The results of these tests act as strong indicators of the possible onset of pre-eclampsia and preterm birth, and will be added to an international biobank. The biobank will be used to research and evaluate the potential biomarkers of pregnancy diseases, aimed at developing long-term clinically useful screening tests, which can detect first time mothers at risk.



As part of the celebrations Candis Club Chairman Bob Hyatt presented Professor Richard Cooke of the Liverpool Women's Hospital with an oxygen saturation monitor, bought by BLISS with funds donated by Candis. From left are Andy Cole, BLISS Chief Executive, Professor Richard Cooke, Trish Dunmore, Directorate Manager of Liverpool Women's Hospital NICU, Bob Hyatt and Debbie Attewell, Editor of Candis.

### BLISS continues to benefit from huge donation

HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, patron of BLISS – the premature baby charity, attended an event at Liverpool Women's Hospital to thank Candis magazine for its contribution of £3 million.

The money, donated through Candis Club, has helped BLISS since the partnership began over 16 years ago. The

Duchess of Gloucester presented Candis with a commemorative plaque.

BLISS chief executive Andy Cole commented: "It is only with the incredible generosity of supporters, such as Candis, that BLISS is able to ensure that more babies survive and have the best possible quality of life."

### Pioneer honoured by Queen

Director of the NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, Professor Adrian Davis, has been awarded an OBE for services to healthcare in the Queen's Birthday honours. Professor Davis has worked in healthcare for more than 30 years and, after lobbying extensively for the introduction of newborn hearing screening, led the implementation of the programme in England. He now oversees the coordination of the programme nationally.

Speaking about the announcement, he said: "I see this honour, not as a recog-

nition of my own personal achievements in audiology but, as a reflection of the hard work and commitment of many others. The praise must really go to those who work for, and with, the NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, healthcare and support service professionals, and campaigning organisations and charities that continue to give families such essential support."



### Division of Human Communication and Deafness:

Research and Teaching Excellence



### Vaccination recommended for infants against rotavirus

Experts from two European paediatric groups have issued a framework for vaccination of babies against rotavirus, the most common cause of gastroenteritis in infants and children<sup>1</sup>.

At its annual conference, the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) joined with the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) to issue the first European evidence-based recommendations on rotavirus vaccination.

New data predicted that universal vaccination against rotavirus could reduce NHS costs by over 85 per cent from £27.4M to £4M over five years<sup>2</sup>.

The study found that rotavirus gastroenteritis was more common in younger children, with a majority of cases occurring in children under two years and 18% of cases occurring in babies less than six months old<sup>3</sup>.

Previous studies have reported that the duration of hospitalisation is longest in young infants, particularly those who are under four months of age<sup>4</sup>.

#### References

1. **Van Damme P.** Evidence based recommendations for the use of rotavirus vaccines in Europe. ESPID ESPGHAN Rotavirus Expert Working Group, ESPID Abstract.
2. **Martin A, et al.** Cost-effectiveness of infant vaccination with Rotarix™ in the UK. Abstract, ESPID annual meeting, May 2007.
3. **Forster J, et al.** Hospital-based surveillance to estimate the burden of rotavirus gastroenteritis among European children aged <5 years. Abstract, ESPID annual meeting, May 2007.
4. **Berner R, Schumacher RF, Hameister S et al.** Occurrence and impact of community acquired and nosocomial rotavirus infections – a hospital-based study over 10 years. *Acta Paediatr Suppl* 1999; **88** (426):48-52.

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