

## Children's Transport Group

In the UK, neonatal transport has evolved in parallel with, yet distinct to, its paediatric neighbours. With a few recent exceptions, and despite the overlapping similarities, the two disciplines have been traditionally quite separate and opportunities to discuss issues and developments have been limited.

Transport professionals often struggle to connect with colleagues who work for other organisations. Shift patterns, geographical distance and a lack of avenues for communication have made it hard to build links with colleagues who are doing similar jobs around the country.

Out of this observation grew the Children's Transport Group. The aim of the group is to link together nurses, doctors, paramedics and any other health professional with an interest in neonatal and paediatric transport and retrieval. Some members work for dedicated retrieval services, others just do the occasional back-transfer, or are still in training. The philosophy of the group is that everybody has something to contribute. This small and friendly



community originated in the UK, although any healthcare professional around the world is more than welcome to join.

Group communication is facilitated through email. The mailing list can be used to share news and information; discuss policies, processes and equipment; communicate job vacancies, study days and conferences; request

advice; share links to media reports; tell a story; and anything else – as long as it is relevant to neonatal and paediatric transport and is communicated in a friendly and inclusive manner.

To sign up, go to the webpage [www.childrenstransport.com](http://www.childrenstransport.com) and follow the instructions. For more information, email the group administrator, [ian@childrenstransport.com](mailto:ian@childrenstransport.com)

## Bliss Innovation in Care Fund 2011 – entries open

**Bliss**  
for babies born too soon,  
too small, too sick

Bliss invites applications for small, cost effective projects that have the potential to improve outcomes of premature and sick babies throughout the UK.

There are two funding streams available:

- Research – This stream will prioritise the trial of small technological and practice interventions in neonatal care. Funding is available up to and in the region of £30,000 per year for a maximum of two years.
- Evidence into practice – This stream will consider proposals which draw on exist-

ing evidence to develop and implement initiatives that have the potential to be rolled out nationally and are capable of affecting change in the day-to-day delivery of neonatal care. Funding is available up to and in the region of £15,000 per year for a maximum of two years.

Proposals that demonstrate a commitment to family-centred care and the principles of the Bliss Baby Charter are actively encouraged.

Deadline – Friday 12 August.

For more information visit [www.bliss.org.uk](http://www.bliss.org.uk) or email [katie@bliss.org.uk](mailto:katie@bliss.org.uk)

## New meningococcal group B vaccine shows potential

Data released by Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, reveals a good immune response in babies, toddlers and teenagers to their new Men B vaccine candidate, Bexsero, currently submitted for licence to the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

Meningococcal group B disease is the leading cause of life-threatening meningitis and septicaemia in the UK for which there is currently no vaccine. The disease is difficult to diagnose in the early stages, with symptoms appearing similar to common flu-like illnesses. Therefore, prevention through vaccination is the best way to control these deadly diseases.

Chris Head, Chief Executive of the Meningitis Research Foundation said: "Results coming from the three clinical trials are reassuring and offer optimistic prospects for preventing Men B disease in the near future. If a safe and effective Men B vaccine does become available, it is essential that Government give it full consideration so we can continue our progress towards a UK free from meningitis and septicaemia."

## Advantage of cord blood stem cell transplantation

A survey performed by Dr Annalisa Ruggeri from Eurocord, Hôpital Saint Louis in Paris, France has confirmed the safety and efficacy of umbilical cord blood transplantation in both children and adults with a variety of malignant and non-malignant diseases.

The advantages of umbilical cord blood (UCB) transplants were first recognised in related donors. Later, Cord Blood Banks (CBB) were established for collection and cryopreservation (freezing/storing) of cord blood for unrelated use. Currently, the global network of CBB contains an estimated 500,000 UCB units, and more than 20,000 units have already been distributed to transplant centres worldwide.

## Breastfeeding rates on the increase

Early results released by the NHS Information Centre regarding the Infant Feeding Survey 2010 show that more women are starting to breastfeed in Britain and that more are getting the support they need to stop smoking while they are pregnant. Breastfeeding rates increased in all social groups, with the greatest increases among women in routine and manual work (65% in 2005 vs 74% in 2010) and among mothers who left school at 16 or younger.

Across the UK four fifths of new mothers plan to breastfeed. Data on how many continue to breastfeed will not be available until next year. Rosie Dodds, from the NCT said "Previous surveys have

shown most women find that they have to stop breastfeeding before they want to because they do not get the help they need. Every year more than 200,000 mothers stop breastfeeding in the first few days and weeks – 90% of these mothers would have liked to continue. This situation is not inevitable; in Norway, Canada and Sweden more than 90% of mothers start to breastfeed and most continue without problems."

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition has published a review of nutrition in mothers and children which recommends stronger support for breastfeeding, especially during the first few weeks after birth, recognising that how babies are fed has an impact on long-term health.

## Effect of labour induction on caesarean section rate

A new study published in the international Nordic journal *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* (AOGS) looked at the effect of inducing labour in the weeks around term, or from week 39 to week 41, on rates of caesarean section. When confounding factors such as age, parity, smoking and use of epidural analgesia and adjusting for each gestational week were taken into account, induction of labour did not convey an increased risk of caesarean section when compared with waiting for a later spontaneous or induced labour.

There has been much debate about this in recent years with a concern that induction as opposed to expectant management might lead to a higher risk for the woman to end up with emergency caesarean section, rather than to deliver normally.

Data obtained from the Danish Medical Birth Registry, were used to analyse births in 230,528 women delivering between 2004 and 2009. The study further confirmed that there is a higher caesarean rate among more obese women (higher BMI) and with older age in both nulliparous and parous women.

## Sleep position in late pregnancy could affect risk of late stillbirth

Sands welcomes research published in the *BMJ* that suggests that mums sleeping on their left side may be associated with a reduced risk of late gestation stillbirth.

Janet Scott, Sands Research Manager, comments: "Over 1200 babies a year are stillborn in the final weeks of pregnancy, and a third of stillbirths have no clear cause at all. Mums want to know what they can do to reduce the chance of this happening to their baby. A simple message which Mums could follow, which would reduce their risk of stillbirth, would be very welcome."

Mums are already encouraged to lie on their left side when attending for antenatal appointments, as this position seems to favour blood flow to the baby, so it is possible that Mums' sleeping position could play a part in the baby's wellbeing. "However," she continued, "it is too early to say if sleeping position is significant as a factor for stillbirth. The study will require further validation before any widespread public health campaign could be justified."



## Managing the opportunities

May 12th and 13th saw another successful conference in the series of annual Bristol conferences aimed at senior nurse managers. Held once again at Tortworth Court, these conferences are now well established and provide a much needed forum for managers to discuss the challenges they face. In the present economic climate this is particularly important and delegates heard some innovative presentations from an impressive list of speakers with practical suggestions as to how to maintain an effective service despite the cutbacks.

The conference was supported by a large industry exhibition and dinner on the first night gave everyone an opportunity to network with their



colleagues. Despite the challenge of navigating the maze back to their bedrooms after the wine at dinner, everyone turned up in time for the lectures the next morning.

This conference, organised by Chrissie Israel and sponsored by Inspiration Healthcare, is going from strength to strength, so make a note now to attend next year's conference on 10-11 May 2012.

More information at [www.inspiration-healthcare.co.uk](http://www.inspiration-healthcare.co.uk)