

CASE STUDY

DEVELOPING MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE IN INDONESIA.

Robinson Institute researchers have helped to establish a program that will see Indonesian maternal medicine trainees rotate through Adelaide in the final year of their traineeship.

In 2010, Robinson Institute affiliate member Associate Professor John Svigos secured AusAID funding that will support three Indonesian maternal fetal medicine trainees to spend eight weeks in the Women's and Children's and the Lyell McEwin Hospitals, observing consultations with outpatients, attending intervention sessions and participating in clinical and postgraduate education meetings. John will take up the role of overall coordinator of the rotation, while Institute members Dr Rosalie Grivell, Professor Gus Dekker and Professor Alastair MacLennan have assumed other key roles in the program. These include assistance with establishing the Indonesian trainee program through running training workshops for supervisors back in Indonesia and coordinating trainee placements at the respective South Australian hospitals when trainees come out in October 2011.

Trainees come from a consortium of three maternal fetal medicine divisions in Indonesian hospitals in Bali province and East Java, which members and affiliates of the Robinson Institute are currently working with. **The significance and potential of such a rotational scheme is reflected in Indonesia's current, alarming maternal mortality rate of 340 deaths per 100,000 live births and perinatal mortality rate of 50-100 deaths per 1,000 live births (compared with Australia's rates of 6 and 8, respectively).**

Currently, maternal fetal medicine trainees in this part of Indonesia have limited opportunity to gain overseas experience. The additional training will provide skills that will allow them to assist in addressing the maternal and perinatal mortality for women and their babies in Indonesia.

The Indonesia rotational scheme will enable these trainees to become far more informed about international health practice and policy. This will, in turn, raise their expectations of the Indonesian Government and health bodies, and thus help them to develop the capacity to act as informed advocates for their patients.

