ARCH in 2015

Making a meaningful difference for women and babies

Australian Research Centre for Health of Women and Babies

Highlights for 2015

- Evidence Synthesis: 32 high quality new or updated systematic reviews and protocols relevant to women and babies’ health prepared and published.
- Randomised Trials: DIAMIND Trial (Postpartum reminders to test for Type 2 Diabetes) completed - high overall uptake of testing for type 2 diabetes by 6 months postpartum.
- ARCH becomes a full member of Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) as a Founding Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre.

Congratulations to our exceptional staff and students who are making a positive impact on the health of women and babies in Australia and beyond.

Caroline Crowther
Clinical Director

Philippa Middleton
Executive Director
Highlights for 2015

RANDOMISED TRIALS

Recruitment Phase

- **MAGENTA** (Magnesium sulphate at 30 to 34 weeks’ gestational age: neuroprotection trial) funded by a NHMRC project grant - Total of 886 women and 1040 babies recruited.
- **STRIDER NZAus** (A Randomised Controlled Trial of Sildenafil Therapy In Dismal Prognosis Early-Onset Intrauterine Growth Restriction) funded by a NZ HRC grant and led by Katie Groom at the Auckland City Hospital. Womens’ and Children’s Hospital has enrolled 5 of 53 recruits.
- **My Baby's Movements** (NHMRC funded trial of maternal awareness of fetal movements to prevent stillbirth). Led by Vicki Flendy with Caroline Crowther and Philippa Middleton and coordinated from The Mater Research Institute, Brisbane.

Follow-Up Phase

- **ASTEROID** (Study to evaluate dexamethasone versus betamethasone prior to preterm birth to increase survival free of neurosensory disability) - NHMRC project grant - 2 year follow-up of 1508 children is nearing completion.
- **IDEAL** (Investigation of dietary advice and lifestyle for women with borderline gestational diabetes) - NHMRC project grant - 2 year follow-up of 724 women and their children is ongoing.
- **PROGRESS** (Progesterone after previous preterm birth for the prevention of neonatal respiratory distress syndrome) - 2 year follow-up of 799 children is nearing completion.
- **BAC** (Birth After Caesarean: Planned vaginal birth or elective repeat caesarean for women at term with a previous caesarean) - Follow-up of women and children at 6 to 8 years of age is completed and data are being analysed.

TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH PROJECTS

- **WISH Project** (Working to Improve Survival and Health for babies born very preterm), funded by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance - aimed to monitor the uptake of the antenatal magnesium sulphate guidelines for neuroprotection. Recruitment at four sites (Auckland City Hospital, Mater Mothers’ Hospital, Royal North Shore Hospital and Women’s and Children’s Hospital) was completed in November 2014. The follow-up of these infants at 1 and 2 years’ corrected age is ongoing.
- **WISH Follow Up Study** - funded by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (2014-2019) - will continue to monitor the uptake of the antenatal magnesium sulphate cerebral palsy guidelines for neuroprotection. Longer-term follow-up of the children recruited into WISH at 3 to 5 years’ corrected age commenced. The WISH cohort of children will be linked with the Cerebral Palsy Registers in Australia and New Zealand.

RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

- **Australian and New Zealand Satellite of the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group** - Authors contributed to 11 new protocols, 9 new reviews and 12 updated reviews.

Funding

NEW GRANTS

- Cerebral Palsy Alliance funding to conduct an overview of reviews on antenatal and neonatal interventions to prevent cerebral palsy.
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance funding to conduct a systematic review of neonatal and infant adverse effects of magnesium sulphate for improving outcomes for mothers and babies.

NHMRC EVIDENCE PANEL FUNDING

- Funding for evidence on the effectiveness of interventions for caregiving practices and behaviours for optimal social and emotional development of infants.
Awards, Grants and Completions

AWARDS

- Philippa Middleton - NHMRC Early Career Fellowship 2015-18 on ‘Preventing preterm birth, and preventing diabetes in and beyond pregnancy - influence of maternal diets,’ mentored by Maria Makrides, SAHMRI.

TRAVEL GRANTS

- Emily Bain - Robinson Research Institute and School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health.
- Emer Van Ryswyk - Healthy Development Adelaide.

STUDENT COMPLETIONS

- Philippa Middleton - PhD - ‘Maternal and perinatal research coordinated in Australia: Generation, synthesis, translation, implementation and impact’. Supervisors: Caroline Crowther and Sally Green.
- Emer Van Ryswyk - PhD - ‘Improving postpartum healthcare and health outcomes of women with a history of gestational diabetes mellitus.’ Supervisors: Caroline Crowther, Philippa Middleton and Bill Hague.
- Zohra Lassi - PhD - ‘Health care seeking for maternal and newborn health.’ Supervisors: Caroline Crowther, Philippa Middleton and Zulfiqar Bhutta.

Event and Conference Participation

- Caroline Crowther: ‘What should be the evidence-based recommendations on the use of single course of antenatal corticosteroids for women at risk of preterm birth be?’ PSANZ, Melbourne 2015.
- Van Ryswyk EM, Middleton PF, Hague WM, Crowther C: ‘Postpartum SMS reminders to women who have experienced gestational diabetes mellitus to test for type 2 diabetes: the DIAMIND randomised controlled trial.’ PSANZ, Melbourne 2015.
- Caroline Crowther: ‘Glycaemic targets for women with gestational diabetes - The TARGET Trial.’ IMPACT Workshop, Melbourne 2015.
- WHO Corticosteroid Meeting, Panel Member, Geneva, Switzerland (Caroline Crowther).
- Translating Research into Practice Symposium, Brisbane (Philippa Middleton).
- Cochrane Contributors Meeting, Melbourne (Emily Bain, Philippa Middleton).
- Introduction to Cochrane systematic reviews workshop, Adelaide (Emily Bain, Philippa Middleton).
- Australasian Cochrane Centre Symposium - editors' and trainers' meeting (Emily Bain, Philippa Middleton).
- New Zealand Ministry of Health Guideline Implementation Meeting, Wellington, New Zealand (Caroline Crowther).
- IMPACT Workshop, Melbourne (Caroline Crowther, Emily Bain, Philippa Middleton, Pat Ashwood).
- Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group Editors’ Meeting, Liverpool, UK (Caroline Crowther, Philippa Middleton, Emily Bain).
Publications 2015


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