

## Newsletter from BMFMS, November 2008

We would like to keep you all up to date with what is happening in BMFMS.

### 1. Perinatal Medicine 2008

Many of you were present at the Conference in June, which was the first “**Perinatal Medicine**” meeting, held jointly with the British Association of Perinatal Medicine, The Neonatal Society and the Neonatal Nurses Society. Everyone agrees that the meeting was a great success and we hope to meet with neonatologists (and hopefully paediatric surgeons) in 2011. However, we would also like to have the opportunity to meet with other colleagues, whose work overlaps with ours.

### 2. Liverpool (18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2009)

The programme for 2009 is finalised and members will be getting the flyer for the meeting in the next few weeks. At this meeting we are especially focusing on closer engagement with midwives. Several of the topics chosen for plenary presentation are of mutual interest. Please encourage midwives from your hospital or research group to come to the meeting and also suggest that they join the Society! While we want to expand our horizons, the organisers are also mindful of not losing the special feel of BMFMS; thus we will continue to have the 4 themes of Fetal Medicine, Maternal Medicine, Labour & Delivery and Pregnancy Outcome.

### 3. Finances

The Society has a healthy bank balance at present and we are keen to award **research bursaries**, but have had few applications to date! The deadline for applications has been extended until Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> of November and we await a deluge of your ideas. We have also set aside money for 5 Medical Student Prizes for reports describing some original research or audit. Full details of these Bursaries and Prizes are to be found on the website ([www.bmfms.org.uk](http://www.bmfms.org.uk)). Encourage your students to apply. Income continues to be collected from 2 sources: membership fees and profits (if any) from the annual conference and from our various courses.

#### 4. National Reproductive Health Research Network.

Society members have been involved in national discussions at the RCOG about **Clinical Study Groups (CSGs)**. These groups aim to set the national research agenda and to critically appraise and support research projects within the study group theme. The NHRHN Board has proposed obstetric 3 CSGs (Preterm Birth [already established under chairmanship of Prof. Steve Thornton, Warwick], Maternal Medical & Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy and Fetal Medicine]. BMFMS has been asked to support some of the CSGs, effectively to cover expenses for each group to meet twice a year to design and coordinate research projects. Acknowledging our current financial position, the Executive Committee felt that it was reasonable to support 2 CSGs for a 3-year period (to a maximum of £5,000 per year). This is a way that the Society can give back to its members, since we all benefit from the results of good quality clinical studies.

#### 5. BMFMS Representation

The Executive and Organising Committee members are often overwhelmed by **requests for representation** at meetings or responses to documents circulated from RCOG, NICE or other bodies. We would value help with this work and ask that if anyone has interest or skills in a particular area, that they nominate themselves (by a letter to the office or email to [bmfms@rcog.org.uk](mailto:bmfms@rcog.org.uk), describing their previous experience and area of interest. We will shortly be advertising (via the website) for an Education and Training Lead.

#### 6. ACCEA awards

Society members applying for national **ACCEA awards** can approach BMFMS for support. Please email the office to indicate your intention to apply. BMFMS support is separate from that offered by the Royal Colleges, but as a large specialist society, carries some weight. The closing date for submitting application is Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> of November.

Don't forget to look at the Website for more Society news. Feedback, questions and suggestions from Society members are always welcome to [bmfms@rcog.org.uk](mailto:bmfms@rcog.org.uk). The person receiving these messages at present is Atia Khan, who has been covering Sabi Proctor, whilst she was on maternity leave. We want particularly to thank Atia for her hard work over the past year; she is staying at the RCOG office, but will look after the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy and British Society of Urogynaecology instead. We will welcome back Sabi in mid-December.

With best wishes to you all, especially as 2008 draws to its end.

**Stephen Robson, President**

**Margaret Ramsay, Honorary Secretary**