

**Please bring this Newsletter with you to the ICHG AGM
Tuesday April 8th 12.30**

From the EDITOR

Once again we are in Spring – and as I write it could hardly be a more beautiful Spring day – and the Annual RCPCH Annual Spring Meeting (ASM) is almost upon us: York April 7-10th. ICHG looks forward to meeting you there at the various activities. If you can only come for one day, come for Tuesday April 8th. On the Tuesday there is the ICHG Scientific session on Tuesday April 8th 9.30-12.30 followed by the ICHG Business meeting at 12.30 AND the evening session on the RCPCH/VSO Fellowships and on other International projects, Tuesday at 8pm. This issue of ICHG News is published with the purpose of providing you with the information you need to take a full part in our activities at the ASM. The Agenda for the business meeting and a statement of the accounts are included. Likewise we have the outline scientific programme for the ICHG session on Wednesday morning. But of course the whole College programme is packed with other intellectual and social goodies – so enjoy yourselves.

On a more sombre note I write at the point when we are on the brink of war. Whatever our views on the need for war, our concerns must be for the children who will undoubtedly suffer with their families as consequence of war. Unless war results in improvements in the facilities for medical care, for nutrition, for education for all in the region, peace may not be worth achieving. Let us hope the conflict is short with minimal loss of life and that post war reconstruction is effective and sustained. Many INGOs are already planning their roles in post war reconstruction. Perhaps we as College members should be thinking what our contribution as a College – or as ICHG – could be.

Management of Severe Malnutrition

Many ICHG members will be aware over the concern that has been expressed within WHO and interested individuals at the persistent high mortality (over 20%) from severe childhood malnutrition in many hospitals across the world. These high rates are not inevitable since some institutions achieve mortality rates of less than 5% - for admissions just as severely affected. These dramatic institutional differences in mortality have been noticed for decades.

In 1999 WHO published Management of Severe Malnutrition: a manual for physicians and other senior health workers in hospitals (Geneva: WHO 1999). Other publications included Ten Steps in the Management of Malnutrition. All these documents stress the need to manage children with malnutrition in a different way from those without malnutrition. Too often these children's clinical condition is dramatically worsened by by well meaning but ignorant medical and nursing interventions.

Education of all those managing severe malnutrition, in this country as well as overseas, need to be educated in the special problems presented by these children. Various projects are working to improve understanding of management.

WHO has prepared a set of Manuals as a training course on hospital based care of severely malnourished children based on the 1999 publication. These have been used on training courses in Bangladesh, Kabul, Banjul and will shortly be used in Malawi. Other similar courses with Ann Ashworth and Claire Schofield have been held in Myanmar and South Africa. Of course learning what to do is only the beginning of management. It is

increasingly clear that many trainees may find it impossible to implement the guidelines once they return to their own country due to pressure of other work, lack of materials for managing the programme and lack of staff to implement ideal practices. But if only some of the hospitals ceased inappropriate management there could be the beginnings of improvement. Another resource is a new book by Ann Ashworth and Ann Burgess: Caring for Severely Malnourished Children published by Macmillan but available from TALC. This book written in a simple and easy to read style and layout is based on the WHO guidelines and on experience with training modules for nurses in Africa. In addition to the book there is a CD consisting of the book, a set of TALC slides and links to relevant websites. The book, or book and CD, can be ordered from TALC, PO Box 49, St Albans. AL1 5TX. UK. (info@talcuk.org). The book costs £3-15 and book and CD £4-50 – remarkably good value!

Messages on the management of severe childhood malnutrition need to be clear, simple and consistent. All the materials mentioned here are presenting the same message. We would all be wise to familiarise ourselves with appropriate methods of management in severe malnutrition since malnutrition is a problem in intensive care and oncology and other wards and is not just confined to the less affluent countries.

Elizabeth Poskitt
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RCPCH York Spring Meeting 2003

International Child Health Group

Tuesday 8th April 2003

Chairman: Dr James Bunn, Liverpool

0930-0945 Detection of severe protein-energy malnutrition by nurses in the Gambia
Clare Hamer G68

0945-1000 Reduced mortality from severe protein-energy malnutrition following introduction of WHO protocol in children in Malawi. *John Morrice G69*

1000-1015 Mislocalisation of heparan sulphate proteoglycans on enterocytes in Kwashiorkor. *Andrew Fagbemi G70*

1015-1030 Basic Neonatal Resuscitation in a resource poor setting. *Bernadette O'Hare G71*

1030-1045 Establishing Modified Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) in a disadvantaged country – the Nepalese experience. *Deepak Upadhyay G72*

1045-1115 Tea and Coffee

Chairman: Dr Rob Moy, Birmingham

11.15 -11.30 Antibodies that inhibit secondary processing of Plasmodium Falciparum merozoite surface protein-1 (MSP-1) are present in Nigerian neonates.
Olegbemi Sodeinde G73

11.30-12.00 Community based prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV: results from the first year of a programme in Northern Malawi *Neil Kennedy G74*

11.45-12.00 Caring for children affected by HIV/AIDS in Uganda. *Bernadette O'Hare G75*

12.00-12.30 **Guest Lecture:** Caring for Children Orphaned by HIV/AIDS *Dr Geoff Foster, Director Family AIDS Caring Trust, Zimbabwe*

12.30-14.00 **Lunch**
Business Meeting

ICHG & RCPCH/VSO Fellowship Joint Session

20.00-20.05 Welcome and Introduction to VSO/RCPCH Fellowship
Professor Bhu Sandhu/ Dr Martin Brueton

Returned Fellow Presentations

20.05-20.15 Dr John Morrice

20.15-20.25 Dr Usha Rajalinghan

20.25-20.35 Dr Richard Tomlinson

20.35-20.45 Mentoring-Dr Barbara Golden and Dr Mary McGraw

20.45-20.50 Presentations to Fellows, Professor Sir David Hall

20.50-21.20 Empty arms Effect of the arms trade on the suffering and death of mothers and children.
Professor David Southall

Chairman: Professor Sir David Hall

21.20-21.25 **Education & Training Issues – RCPCH & International Child Health Introduction,**
Professor Sir David Hall

21.25-21.40 The David Baum International Foundation, Dr Peter Sullivan

21.40-21.50 The International Child Health Group, present position and future/planned developments

21.50-22.05 The Palestine Project/ The difficulties (or realities) of International work, Dr Tony Waterston

22.05-22.35 Open discussion chaired by Professor Alan Craft

**INTERNATIONAL CHILD HEALTH GROUP
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Tuesday 8th April 2003.

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies received**
- 2. Minutes of the ICHG AGM Meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2002 At York University.**
- 3. Matters arising.**
 - 3.1** A trainee Representative to be appointed to Executive Committee. Dr Claire Hamer, has been appointed. Dr Hamer is a Lecturer in Community Child Health at Bristol University.
 - 3.2** E-mail discussion group through Doctors' Net to facilitate discussion, as well as through the ICHG Newsletter.
 - 3.3** Links with the Royal College of Nursing.
Johnson and Johnson Project proposal, "*Children Affected by War and Terrorism – Guidance for Practitioners*".
 - 3.4** RCPCH/VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) Programme.
ICHG helps through the following:
 - i) Maintaining a list of Mentors.
 - ii) Funding for a Resource pack of publications. The Fellows would receive 2 sets, one to keep, and one to leave at the hospital, of the following:
 - a) "*Management of the Child with Serious Infection or Severe Malnutrition*" (WHO 2000)
 - b) "*International Child Health Care – Practical Manual for Hospitals Worldwide*" (BMJ Books 2001).
 - c) *Paediatric Neurology Book*
 - d) ICHG could also reduce subscriptions to "Annals of Topical Paediatrics", the BMJ, Current Paediatrics and other journals.
- 4. Report from the David Baum International Fellow.**
- 5. Treasurer's Report.**
- 6. Convenor's Report.**
 - a) Meetings held, the Psychological and Mental Health of Asylum Seekers and their Families – Liverpool 22nd November 2002 arranged by Dr James Bunn and Dr Rob Moy.
 - b) Meeting on 19th November 2003/Stoke on Trent/UK. Title: Acute Care of Children-International Perspective. Organised by Professor David Southall.
 - c) Links with RCN.
 - d) Possible Advocacy Project – suggested by Dr James Bunn; - the North/South Professional Drain, i.e. the recruitment of medical and other health professionals from the South to the North and its effect on Child Health in disadvantaged countries. This item would be presented by Dr James Bunn.
 - e) Support for motion for RCPCH Annual Meeting 2003 on Nestle Company, proposed by the Advocacy Committee of RCPCH.
'The College should not allow Nestle to mount a stand at future Annual Meetings. The Advocacy Committee of the College should be invited to advise if other milk formula manufacturers might be similarly excluded.'
 - f) An open discussion for the ICHG Members seeking specifically any suggestions for:
 - i) Future Scientific Meeting.
 - ii) Developments within the ICHG in order to enhance International Child Health links.
 - iii) Other
- 7. Newsletter, an update.**
- 8. Committee Issues**
 - a) Dr Claire Hamer.
 - b) Dr Matthew Ellis.
- 9. IGBM Inter-Agency Group on Breast Milk Monitoring**

ICHG Accounts
1st January to 31st December 2002

Receipts

Balance brought forward	4963.69
Subscriptions	3740.00
Profits from 2001 Birmingham mtg	422.00
Bank interest	20.86

Payments

Committee expenses	904.14
To NESMA for Auditor	50.00
Advance for 2002 Liverpool meeting	200.00
Donation (books for Iraq)	160.00
Newsletter and printing	493.25
RCPCH for database update	71.38
Total Expenditure	1878.77

Balance carried forward **7267.78**

9146.55