



About the Chairs and Speakers (in order of the programme)

Neal Long is Director of SANDS, a national charity with 27 years experience in supporting parents whose baby is stillborn or dies soon after birth. Today, SANDS supports over 4,000 families every year through a national helpline, a UK network of parent-led groups, a website, plus support leaflets and publications.

Jason Gardosi is Director of the Perinatal Institute and Professor of Maternal and Perinatal Health, University of Warwick. His main interests are fetal growth, maturation and intrauterine surveillance, and his team's principal focus is quality research and audit to aid the reduction of adverse perinatal outcome.

Steve Hale's son Matthew was stillborn in 1995. Along with his wife, Steve ran Birmingham SANDS for 5 years, offering befriender and group support. He has worked with hospitals, sharing the personal impact of stillbirth and promoting best practice in caring for bereaved parents. Steve is now a SANDS Trustee.

Nancy Kohner is a well known writer on health issues. She specialises in bereavement and is the author of 'When a Baby Dies' and SANDS 'Guidelines for Professionals'. She is an Advisor to SANDS and as a trainer she facilitates workshops for professionals who care for bereaved parents.

Shona Golightly is Director of Research and Development, and **Kate Fleming** is Senior Data Analyst for the Confidential Enquiries into Maternal and Child Health. CEMACH are undertaking analyses of national rates and trends in stillbirths, using historical perinatal mortality data from their predecessor organisation CESDI.

Gordon Smith is Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cambridge. He has conducted a series of epidemiological studies using nationally collected Scottish data and record linkage, to define predictors and risk factors associated with adverse perinatal outcome.

Phillip Cox is a consultant perinatal pathologist at Birmingham Women's Hospital, and is responsible for the regional perinatal pathology service for the West Midlands. He and his team are engaged in researching the causes of death in the perinatal period, based on high quality post-mortem examinations.

Frederik Frøen is a perinatologist at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and the convenor of the International Stillbirth Alliance. He has PhDs in obstetrics and paediatrics, and has conducted studies into unexplained stillbirth, perinatal brain injury and unexplained death in infancy.

Pat McGeown is Head of Midwifery at the Perinatal Institute and co-organiser of the Institute's RAPID workshops (Reducing Avoidable Prenatal and Infant Deaths). Her team of midwives organise regular local, regional and national training on risk assessment, fetal growth surveillance and standardised record keeping.



SANDS

in association with

The Perinatal Institute

invite you to our
first national conference on:

Stillbirth

Causes and Strategies for Prevention



**Wednesday 8th June 2005
Birmingham**

About the Conference

A stillborn baby is as real and loved as a baby born alive. For the bereaved family the loss is no less important, and the grief and pain are utterly devastating.

Every day 10 babies are stillborn in the UK: 4000 families were bereaved in 2003 alone. Stillbirth is the largest contributor to perinatal loss. Its impact is immense, both on a personal level and in public health terms.

Most stillbirths are currently classified as unexplained. Despite a gradual drop in perinatal mortality rates over the last twenty years, 'unexplained' stillbirths have shown no such decrease. In fact, national statistics show a sustained increase in stillbirths in recent years, with no clear indication as to why this is the case.

However there have been a number of recent studies which throw new light on the reasons for many of these deaths, and point to the fact that 'unexplained' does not necessarily mean unavoidable.

The purpose of this conference is to bring together all those who can contribute to increasing our understanding of the causes of stillbirth, and who can play a part in working towards reducing avoidable fetal death. The aims are:

- to highlight the human consequences of stillbirth
- to discuss the most recent evidence about why they happen
- to consider the service enhancements needed for prevention.

The Stillbirth Conference is the result of a new partnership between two leading organisations in the field:

SANDS (Stillbirth And Neonatal Death Society) is a long established, UK wide charity which plays a leading role in providing bereavement support and in working in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care following a baby's death. SANDS is now taking this work one step further to focus on prevention. As a parent led organisation, its priority is to push forward an agenda for change.

The Perinatal Institute is an NHS organisation which, since its inception in 2000, has sought to sharpen the focus on understanding the causes and reducing the incidence of avoidable perinatal compromise. It is based in the West Midlands but its work is increasingly recognized in other UK health regions and abroad. It has active collaborations with academic centres, international networks and WHO.

SANDS and the Perinatal Institute are determined to raise awareness of the impact of stillbirth, and ensure that the task of reducing avoidable deaths is given the national priority it deserves.

For further information, please visit:

www.uk-sands.org
www.perinatal.nhs.uk

Programme

- 08:30 Registration and coffee/tea
- 09:30 **Co-chairs' Welcome and Introduction**
Neal Long - Director, SANDS
Prof. Jason Gardosi - Director, Perinatal Institute
- 09:50 **Dealing with loss : a family's story**
Steve Hale - SANDS Trustee and bereaved father
- 10:10 **Care after a baby dies**
Nancy Kohner - writer, trainer and SANDS Advisor
- 10:30 Coffee/tea
- 11:00 **Stillbirth rates and trends in the United Kingdom**
Shona Golightly - Director of Research and Development, CEMACH
Kate Fleming - Senior Data Analyst, CEMACH
- 11:30 **Risk factors and predictors of stillbirth**
Prof. Gordon Smith - Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cambridge
- 12:00 **The post mortem: new developments in understanding causes**
Dr. Phillip Cox - Consultant Perinatal Pathologist, Birmingham Women's Hospital
- 12:30 **Discussion**
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 **Lessons learned from unexpected intrauterine deaths**
Dr. Frederik Frøen - Perinatologist, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo
- 14:30 **Implications for modern maternity care**
Pat McGeown - Head of Midwifery, Perinatal Institute
- 15:00 **Open forum / Plenary discussion:**
What national strategies do we need for prevention?
- 15:45 **Sum up**
- 16:00 Close

Venue

The National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham is well known for its excellent conference facilities. Located on the M42 / A45 junction, near Birmingham International Airport, it is easily accessible by road, rail and air. Further details and a map will be sent with confirmation of registration.

Stillbirth Causes and Strategies for Prevention

Wednesday 8th June 2005
The National Motorcycle Museum,
Birmingham

REGISTRATION FORM

Title: _____ Last name: _____

First Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Place of Work: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

(Mobile) _____

E-mail: _____

Please tick box if you require vegetarian meals

Please list any other requirements:

Registration fee is £65 (£35 for SANDS members) and includes buffet lunch and refreshments. Please complete form, and send with cheque, made payable to 'SANDS', to:

SANDS
28 Portland Place
London, W1B 1LY

Confirmation of registration will be sent upon receipt

