Educational Activities

Last year at the ISPD conference in Miami, the Prenatal Maternal Screening Special Interest Group (SIG) organized two workshops, one on abnormal placentation, and one providing an introduction to prenatal statistics and QA. This year we organized a workshop on carrier screening. In the mean time there was a contribution of Peter Benn, Howard Cuckle and Brigitte Faas to the joint ISPD/University of Chieti course in Italy and also contributions to an ISPD day at the 11th World Congress in Fetal Medicine in Kos, Greece. A number of members of the SIG have also been heavily involved in the development of the Position Statement on Aneuploidy Screening.

The next ISPD Conference is in Brisbane, Australia. In Brisbane we may not organize a SIG preconference course, due to the arrangement of a joint ISPD/ISUOG joint preconference course. In case we do organize a course in 2014 or in future years, the following topics were proposed:

- NIPT, costs and effect, implementation of NIPT in routine screening
- A perspective on the future of serum screening – e.g. PE/fetal maternal health screening
- Contingency screening models with new ultrasound markers
- Update on preeclampsia and maternal fetal health

Webinars and other education videos will be collected and where appropriate links to these materials will be placed on the SIG website. This will be announced in the newsletter. Preconference courses could also be converted into educational material. It should be noted that good and reusable webinars or online talks require scripting and an editor. Money for this could (and has in the past) been provided by industry partners, such as PerkinElmer. PerkinElmer would like to know which topic we would like to cover and may be able to help provide these. Members are invited to contribute ideas, and this invitation will be extended to all ISPD members through the newsletter.

Leadership

In March 2013, TY Leung resigned as chair of the SIG. By count of hand Peter Benn was appointed chair and Peter Schielen and Jacqueline Siljee co-chairs of the SIG. Everyone is encouraged to look for candidates for future SIG leadership.
Position IPSG

IPSG no longer exists and its activities are now merged completely with the SIG (decision by the ISPD Board, October 2012). There are still the same opportunities to meet and communicate that existed under IPSG. We will come together once a year, and can still have ancillary meetings.

The group will maintain a separate section in the newsletter headed.

Newsletter

There is now an editorial board consisting of Jan van Lith, Peter Benn, Peter Schielen and Jacqueline Siljee, with the last three overseeing the IPSG/SIG section. The newsletter will be e-published quarterly. External funding and advertising revenue is sought. All SIG members are asked to contribute to the newsletter. Items could include short notes hinting at interesting articles in *Prenatal Diagnosis* or other journals, provocative ideas, member news and other short articles -all in an informal setting. It should be an easily accessible platform for young colleagues to work on name recognition. The newsletter should not in any way be or become a competitor of *Prenatal Diagnosis*. All with the intent to inform, create ideas and prompt discussion. A synopsis of relevant publications with links to the full length articles should be provided in the newsletter, as was provided in *Prenatal Screening Perspectives*.

Future

This SIG should be a forum for academia and industry to meet and break down the walls so we can learn from each other.

We would like to establish a listserv for the SIG, and/or will start a LinkedIn account to facilitate the exchange of ideas. The purpose would be to exchange ideas on interesting cases, methods, quality issues, etc. The topics discussed through these media of communication can be summarized and published in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 9:20 am.

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