

# Women's Health

The Women's Health Committee (WHC), which is supported by the Women's Health Services Department, continues the important work of representing the Fellowship on Government committees and other organisations on women's health issues.

The WHC has been involved in the following activities and initiatives:

- Cancer Australia, national reference group for gynaecological cancers
- Workshop at the National Perinatal Statistics Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, regarding the national reporting of maternal deaths in Australia
- Avant, fetal ultrasound risk modification program workshops
- Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) Assessment of HPV – Triage for Pap smears
- Victorian Law Reform Commission - Law of Abortion
- MSAC sacral nerve stimulation
- Department of Health and Ageing – Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation
- Department of Health and Ageing – Guidelines for the Use of Ultrasound in the Management of Obstetric Conditions
- Revision of the NHMRC Alcohol Guidelines comments submitted
- Standards Australia Tampon Committee
- Consensus recommendations for the management of critical bleeding in postpartum haemorrhage (NovoSeven – recombinant factor VIIa)
- Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) and the RANZCOG (Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) Prenatal Screening Committee guideline on Prenatal screening tests for trisomy 21 (Down syndrome), trisomy 18 (Edwards syndrome) and neural tube defects was published in July 2007, refer to: [www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/statements/C-obs4.pdf](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/statements/C-obs4.pdf)
- A Fellow from the WHC is representing RANZCOG on a multidisciplinary committee convened by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. The role of this committee is to develop a consensus statement about CMV testing during pregnancy, which will be ready for publication later in 2008.

## New College statements

The College statements provide a valuable resource for the Fellowship, making available to them collective opinions on a range of subjects that are dealt with on a daily basis in their practice. In the past year, the following new statements were released:

- C-Gen 11: Perinatal Depression
- C-Gyn 20: The Use of Mesh in Gynaecological Surgery
- C-Gyn 21: The Use of Mifepristone for Medical Termination of Pregnancy
- C-Gyn 22: Filshie Clip Sterilisation
- C-Gyn 23: Uterine Artery Embolisation
- WPI 16: Clinical Training Whilst Pregnant
- WPI 17: Guidelines for the Appointment of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to Specialist Positions in Australia and New Zealand
- WPI 18: Fatigue and the Obstetrician/Gynaecologist

## New patient information pamphlets

The College has continued to review past patient pamphlets and to produce new ones. The pamphlets are widely used by doctors and hospital clinics to aid consultation and are appreciated and valued by women in the community.

New or reviewed pamphlets include:

- *Miscarriage – A Guide for Women*
- *Endoscopy of the Pelvic Organs – A Guide for Women on the Combined Use of Hysteroscopy and Laparoscopy*
- *Abnormal Pap Smear (3rd edition) – A Guide for Women*

## Indigenous women's health

The College has been active in exploring ways in which it can support Indigenous women's health activities. In November 2007, it was reported that a new O and G training position had been created at Darwin Hospital and that plans were underway to run an Indigenous women's health meeting in Darwin in August 2008.

## Nuchal Translucency – ultrasound education and monitoring program

Audit of the nuchal translucency scan in Australia is a continuing process. In September 2007, 198 sites and centres and 794 sonographers received reports on their performance of the scan for the 12-month period. During that period there were 139,500 scans performed by centres and sonographers who are participating in the audit program. It was pleasing to see that the performance of the scan has improved significantly. Education for all operators is being upgraded in line with the continually evolving Fetal Medicine Foundation software that centres use to generate a risk assessment for patients.

### Dr Ted Weaver

Chair, Women's Health Committee

### Ann Robertson

Manager, Women's Health Services

### Nola Revrenna

Administrative Officer, Women's Health Services