

Newsletter

January 2003

www.obmed.org

Goals of the SOM: to promote and support research collaboration, communications and teaching concerning the medical care of pregnant women.

The **2003 North American Society of Obstetric Medicine Annual Meeting** will be held on **May 17, 2003** at the Chateau Laurier Hotel, **Ottawa Ontario Canada**.

A call for abstracts and registration materials are included and will also be posted on the website. **Deadline for abstracts is March 31, 2003.**

Elections for new members at large/executive will be held during the Annual Meeting, in Ottawa Canada, May 17, 2003 and nominations for these positions will be welcomed from the membership.

Tribute to Dr. Peter Garner

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Garner, co-founder of the North American Society of Obstetric Medicine this past November. His passion for excellence in the care of pregnant women was evident by his clinical expertise, academic pursuits and commitment to teaching students, residents and physicians. But much more than this, Peter was a man with a love of life who generously shared his wisdom and accolades with those around him. His genuine laugh and strength of spirit will be remembered by all of us.

A special tribute will be held at this year's annual meeting, which is in Peter's home town Ottawa, Ontario. The Peter Garner Young Investigator Award, which is a tribute to those many trainees and junior faculty he mentored, will continue to be presented to the junior investigator with the best research presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Thank you Peter for your leadership, wisdom and friendship.

Notes from the 2002 SOM Annual Meeting

The 2002 Annual Meeting was held in Toronto in conjunction with the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy. The first annual Richard V. Lee lecture was given by Gus Dekker. There were 25 abstract presentations on a wide range of topics from basic science, clinical research and medical education. The titles and presenters of abstracts from this meeting has been posted on our website. The Peter Garner Young Investigator Award was given to Joel G. Ray for his presentation *Association between Folic Acid Food Fortification and Pre-eclampsia* which has now been published this month in the Lancet.

Updates:

1. International Society of Obstetric Medicine

During the 2002 SOM Annual Meeting/ISSHP executive members from New Zealand, Australia, UK, Continental Europe and South Africa met to discuss the creation of an International Society of Obstetric Medicine (ISOM). The intent of this organization is to provide an international forum for physicians involved in the care of medical problems during pregnancy. The ISOM plans to have a meeting at least every 2 years and is meant to complement rather than replace the present national obstetric medicine societies that exist in Australasia, the UK, South Africa and North America.

The first meeting will be held at Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia, Oct 21-24, 2003. It is combined with the Annual Scientific Meetings of the Australasian Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy, the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, the Obstetric Medicine Group of Australasia, and the Foundation Meeting of the Australasian Maternal Fetal Medicine Colloquium. Information about this meeting can be found at <http://www.racp.edu.au/asshp/asm2003/index.htm>. Additional information at the present time can also be obtained by contact Barry Walters at barry.walters@health.wa.gov.au

2. Membership

The SOM currently has 171 members. Membership renewals are \$100.00 US per year and include registration for the Annual Meeting (see enclosed form). Please pass on membership information to colleagues and trainees who may be interested in joining.

3. Website

The Obstetric Medicine website at www.obmed.org will be managed in 2003 by Lucia Larson and Raymond Powrie in Providence. The decision was made at the SOM executive meeting in Toronto to invest some funds in upgrading the format of the website to allow for greater ease in updating and adding to the site so watch this year to see what evolves.

Executive Committee 2002-2003

President:	Matthew Sermer	matthew.sermer@uhn.on.ca
President Elect:	Lynda Barbour	LynnBarbour@USCHSC.edu
Vice president:	Raymond Powrie	rpowrie@wihri.org
Secretary/Treasurer:	Erin Keely	ekeely@ottawahospital.on.ca
Past President:	Karen Rosene-Montella	Karen_Rosene_Montella@brown.edu

Members at Large: Lucia Larson, Anne Kenshole, Steven Laifer, Ellen Mason, Jeffrey Pickard

Emeritus: Richard Lee, William Barron, Gerald Burrow,

Ex Officio: Robert Burrows, Michael de Swiet, William Hague