

## Developing a tool for assessing stillbirth risk

### *PhD project, supervisor A/Prof Vicki Flenady*

Stillbirth is a devastating pregnancy outcome often resulting in profound and long-lasting adverse psychosocial effects for the mother, father and family<sup>1</sup> and also for their health care providers. While improvements in maternity care resulted in a dramatic reduction in stillbirth in high income countries beginning in the 1940's, more recently, the decline has slowed or halted<sup>2</sup>.

With earlier reductions in the stillbirth rates largely due to fewer intrapartum deaths, antepartum fetal death now makes up the majority of stillbirths<sup>8</sup>. Therefore, antenatal detection and close monitoring of women at increased risk to determine appropriate timing of birth is the mainstay of management to reduce stillbirth. However, as yet a tool for accurately predicting those at increased risks remains elusive.

In this study the student will analyse routinely collected data from the Mater Mother's Hospital (MMH) from 1997 to 2013 to develop an algorithm that can assess women's risk of having a stillborn baby. Further, the student will subsequently validate the tool using different populations at the MMH.

Full ethical approval has been obtained for this study.

The student will be based at the Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Centre at Mater Research Institute-UQ (MRI-UQ) at Mater Hill. The student will have the support of a dedicated and experienced multi-disciplinary team, as well as close collaborations with medical staff at the MHS.

This position is pending successful outcome for a PhD scholarship from the University of Queensland or other funding source to support the student.

Requirements: The student would ideally be a highly motivated person with a keen interest of perinatal research and previous experience in epidemiological studies using appropriate software (this study will be using STATA).

For more information please contact A/Prof Vicki Flenady ([vicki.flenady@mater.uq.edu.au](mailto:vicki.flenady@mater.uq.edu.au)) or Dr Hanna Reinebrant ([hanna.reinebrant@mater.uq.edu.au](mailto:hanna.reinebrant@mater.uq.edu.au))