**This Month's Headlines**

**Newborn**
- Standard Treatment Protocols for management of sick newborn at small hospitals with limited resources
- Twenty-year trends in the prevalence of Down syndrome and other trisomies in Europe: impact of maternal age and prenatal screening (June 2012)

**Birth Defects**
- Neural tube defects: recent advances, unsolved questions, and controversies (June 2013)
- 20-year survival of children born with congenital anomalies: a population-based study (February 2010)

**Publications**

South-East Asia Regional Strategic Framework for Improving Neonatal & Child Health and Development
Newborn
Standard Treatment Protocols for management of sick newborn at small hospitals with limited resources.

STPs are based on current evidence based practices advocated by WHO HQ and experts' opinion till date (January 2013). STP's have undergone pilot testing among postgraduate medical students. The feedback suggested has been incorporated. We would welcome suggestions for further improvement. [http://www.newbornwho.cc/STP.htm]

Twenty-year trends in the prevalence of Down syndrome and other trisomies in Europe: impact of maternal age and prenatal screening (June 2012)
European Journal of Human Genetics

This study examines trends and geographical differences in total and live birth prevalence of trisomies 21, 18 and 13 with regard to increasing maternal age and prenatal diagnosis in Europe. Twenty-one population-based EUROCAT registries covering 6.1 million births between 1990 and 2009 participated. [http://www.nature.com/ejhg/journal/v21/n1/full/ejhg201294a.html]

Birth Defects

Neural tube defects: recent advances, unsolved questions, and controversies (June 2013).
Prof Andrew J Copp, Philip Stanier, Nicholas DE Greene - Neural Development Unit and Newlife Birth Defects Research Centre, UCL Institute of Child Health, UK

Neural tube defects are severe congenital malformations affecting around one in every 1000 pregnancies. An innovation in clinical management has come from the finding that closure of open spina bifida lesions in utero can diminish neurological dysfunction in children. Primary prevention with folic acid has been enhanced through introduction of mandatory food fortification. Genetic predisposition accounts for most of the risk of neural tube defects, and genes that regulate folate one-carbon metabolism and planar cell polarity have been strongly implicated. [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1474442213701108]

20-year survival of children born with congenital anomalies: a population-based study (February 2010)
Peter WG Tennant, Mark S Pearce, Mary Bythell, Dr Judith Rankin - Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University and Regional Maternity Survey Office, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Congenital anomalies are a leading cause of perinatal and infant mortality. Most studies have reported survival in individuals with either Down's syndrome, or spina bifida. We used data from the Northern Congenital Abnormality Survey (NorCAS), a population-based register of congenital anomalies within northern England, matched with local hospital and national mortality records, to estimate survival up to 20 years of age for a range of congenital anomaly groups and subtypes. [http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S014067360961922X]