

Editorial

Knowledge and science is ever expanding. There has to be enhancement and upgrading of knowledge and therapy. As health of the fetus and neonate is interlinked with health of mother, the idea of journal on 'Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal Medicine' is conceptualized. It is my proud Privilege to release inaugural issue of the journal.

The term Eclampsia is derived from a Greek word, which means 'flashes of light'. Pre-eclampsia has been called the disease of theories, that begins in placenta and ends at maternal endothelium. **Dr. Gadappa** has described Eclampsia, clinical manifestation of severe pre-eclampsia, with Symptomatology. Author has highlighted clinical implications of Eclampsia with focus on monitoring and interventions of this dreaded clinical entity. William Hunter expressed his fear:



" There are but two things that have much effect on me at labour: Haemorrhage and convulsions."

Successful motherhood is the unique achievement in a woman's life. Though it is a natural phenomena, yet the way to achieve it may endanger the life of both mother as well as fetus. Focus of obstetrical care has changed from treating maternal and fetal diseases to predicting and preventing them. In preconceptional counseling for chronic medical disorders, I explore the opportunities to treat and control medical disorders before conception. This ensures that woman enters pregnancy with an optimum state of health which would be safe for herself and fetus.

Millennium Development Goal 4 [MDG4] is unlikely to be met, partly because of slow progress towards reducing Neonatal Mortality. **Dr. Omprakash Shukla** has emphasized that neonatal infections represent an important Cause of morbidity and mortality in neonatal period. Lethargy, poor feeding, fever or hypothermia are the most commonly observed features of Neonatal infections.

The journey through the birth canal is the first, but the most hazardous journey the individual takes. It is the responsibility of the obstetrician to make the journey safe. **Dr. Jayendra Gohil** captures Birth Asphyxia as a huge global problem with fresh stillbirth, neonatal death and longterm neuro development problems as its main serious outcomes. Anticipation is the key in preventing Birth Asphyxia. It is important to identify fetuses at risk of asphyxia and to closely monitor such high risk pregnancies. Appropriate interventions and prompt resuscitation will save many lives.

Childhood coughing is a common problem that can cause anxiety in parents. There are important differences from adult cough in terms of likely causes and management protocol. **Dr. Gautam Ghosh** has compiled clues in history, in case of chronic cough. Potentially serious lung disorders with chronic coughing are highlighted.

Encephalocele is one of the commonest neural tube defects. **Dr. (Mrs) Anjali Chitale**, in her case report on Encephalocele, shares her experiences at institution in rural set up with prevalence of patients from tribal region . Both maternal Diabetes Mellitus and obesity have been associated

with increase risk of Neural Tube Defects possibly due to sustained state of Hyperglycemia and/or Hyperinsulinemia. Additional studies should be done to explore the etiological heterogeneity of encephalocele using better marker of folate status and wide range of risk factors.

We are committed to disseminate recent information in the fast progressive world of obstetrics, Fetal medicine and Neonatology. Our contributors have enabled us to accomplish this. Contribution and comments from esteem readers will help in improvisation of the Journal.

I conclude the editorial, with Swami Vivekanand's inspiring message:

"Arise, Awake, stop not until your goal is achieved".

Dr. (Mrs) Alka B. Patil

Editor -in -Chief

Professor & HOD

Obstetrics & Gynaecology,

A.C.P.M. Medical College,

Dhule - 424001, Maharashtra

E-mail: alkapatil@rediffmail.com