

COINN Newsletter – February 2007

One of the exciting aspects of being involved with COINN is learning and sharing information about some of the great work that is being done around the world. It is my pleasure to introduce you to a collaborative project between Australia and South East Asia that has been running for the past two years which demonstrates what can be achieved. The program started with doctors and has now extended to include the nurses, this has been very successful. I have had the opportunity to meet many of the individuals involved and their enthusiasm and commitment are fantastic. I would recommend that you seek further information from the website where the contact details are listed.

Kaye Spence
COINN Newsletter Editor



SEA-ORCHID: Optimising Reproductive and Child Health Outcomes in Developing Countries

Investigators: David Henderson-Smart, Lumbiganon P,¹ Crowther C,² Festin M,³ Green S,⁴ Ho J,⁵ Hakimi M.⁶

¹ Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand, ² Adelaide University, Adelaide, South Australia, ³ Philippines General Hospital, Manila, Philippines, ⁴ Australasian Cochrane Centre, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, ⁵ Perak University, Ipoh, Malaysia, ⁶ Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Project Overview

Summary

Each year there are over half a million maternal deaths world-wide and 98% of these occur in the developing world. This represents a tragic and striking health risk differential between the developed and developing world. For women in Asia the lifetime risk of a maternal death is one in 65 compared with one in 1,800 for women in developed countries (Reference)

By establishing a network of researchers and teachers of evidence-based health care across four South East Asian countries, supported from Australia, this collaborative project aims to improve the clinical practice of treating pregnancy and childbirth related disorders and so enhance the health outcomes of mothers and infants in SE Asia.

Aims and objectives

The SEA-ORCHID project aims to address the following broad scientific question: Can the health of mothers and babies in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia be improved by increasing capacity for research synthesis, implementation of effective interventions, and identification of gaps in knowledge needing further research?

The objectives of the SEA-ORCHID project are to answer the following questions as components of the broad question:

- What is the current teaching and practice related to pregnancy and childbirth in SE Asia?
- What are the local barriers to the use of research evidence in SE Asia and how can they be overcome?
- Will a targeted intervention to build capacity for the generation, evaluation and implementation of relevant evidence lead to improved research output, research implementation and health outcomes?

Rationale

Providing access to reliable health information for workers in developing countries is potentially the single most cost effective and achievable strategy for sustainable improvement in health care. Information provision alone however is not enough; we need to ensure that clinical practice changes in response to that information. Based on research evidence we know that changing behaviour of health workers is a complex process requiring access to information, the skills to appraise and interpret that information and a sense of having contributed to the process.

The Cochrane Collaboration has had success in the developed world in involving clinicians in the process of generating and using evidence. The intervention used in this project will draw on the experience of the Cochrane Collaboration in terms of infrastructure provision, training, support and methodological development, and involve local researchers to ensure it is regionally appropriate and result in increased capacity within SE Asia.

Design and methods

The project is an interrupted time series, which will both extend and benefit from existing networks. The project comprises five phases (pre-study, pre-intervention, intervention, outcome assessment and reporting/ dissemination) over five years. It will be conducted across seven centres; four in SE Asian and three in Australia. At each SE Asian centre a study node will be established. These will be based within existing departments and form both the study co-ordination centre and the focus for evidence-based practice activities within the region.

Project phases

1. Pre-study phase (2004)
2. Pre-intervention phase (2005)
3. Intervention phase (2006-mid 2007)
4. Outcome assessment phase (mid 2007-mid 2008)
5. Reporting phase (mid 2008-end 2008)

Participating Centres

Thailand: [Khon Kaen University](#)
Philippines: [University of the Philippines](#)
Malaysia: [Royal College of Medicine Perak](#)

Universiti Sains Malaysia
Indonesia: Gadjah Mada University
Australia: University of Sydney
University of Adelaide
Monash University

Funding

SEA-ORCHID is jointly funded by an International Collaborative Research Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (No. 307703) and Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom (071672/Z/03/Z).

References

Global Health Council.

- [Making Childbirth Safer Through Promoting Evidence-Based Care](#)

Visit the web-site for more information on the project - <http://www.seaorchid.org/>

Project administrator – Melissa Thomas, Clinical Educator – Jacki Short