

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a team that exemplifies the qualities of clinical leadership, requiring ideas and enthusiasm and often by doing things differently

WINNER

ANTENATAL CARE INITIATIVE

PERINATAL INSTITUTE, BIRMINGHAM



What they did: Sometimes problems conceal themselves in plain view. Stillbirth rates in the UK have been the highest in western Europe and have remained unchanged for 20 years. “Two thirds of these deaths were classified as unexplained, and many took that to mean unavoidable” says Professor Jason Gardosi, Director of the Perinatal Institute, a national not-for-profit organisation set up to improve the quality of maternity care. “People just shrugged their shoulders. It took a long time to change that and raise the profile of stillbirth.”

The Institute conducted research which identified unrecognised growth restriction in the womb as a major cause of stillbirth, and developed individualised growth charts which could be used by midwives and doctors to detect babies at risk by accurately plotting their rate of growth. “Detection is important as the only treatment we have is inducing labour at the appropriate time. These babies need to be delivered from danger, before they die.”

A pilot programme in the West Midlands saw stillbirth rates falling to their lowest-ever levels. The customised growth charts have now been rolled out nationally and in 2013 there were 500 fewer stillbirths in England compared with the average for the previous ten years. “Implementing new ways of working is not easy, and in maternity care the additional challenge is the multidisciplinary nature of the specialty. However with the help of an enthusiastic team, we found that most clinicians are keen to listen to evidence and improve the safety of their practice.”

Judges’ comments: A fully delivered programme of national and international scope saving a significant number of lives and sorrow; achieved with quiet, relentless, determined leadership across a complex network of healthcare provision.

RUNNERS UP

ADOLESCENT DIABETES TEAM
Portsmouth Hospitals Trust

BUILDING THE ED SERVICE
Surrey and Sussex Trust
@sashnhs

TIME TO HEAL TEAM
Gloucester Royal Hospital

NURSE INTRAVITREAL INJECTIONS
Moorfields Eye Hospital

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