

ALCOHOL in the WOMB

The link to Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

CPD registered (5.5 hours) Conference for Health Professionals

Tuesday 15th November 2005

The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE

On a daily basis doctors and other professionals see anti-social behaviour, children with learning difficulties, speech problems, ADHD and other disabilities. A proportion of the symptoms they see may be Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

FASD is a spectrum of physical and mental disabilities resulting from fetal alcohol exposure. As binge drinking among young women reaches serious proportions, society is facing increasing risks of children being born with lifelong alcohol related neurodevelopmental brain damage. International studies indicate that 1 in 100 children may be affected by severe to mild alcohol related disorders.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is considered to be under diagnosed and under-recognised in Britain. More research and diagnostic tools are needed.

The Conference will bring together internationally recognised FASD experts who will present scientific evidence explaining the links between prenatal alcohol exposure and birth defects. They will explain how to begin recognising, diagnosing and managing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

THE SESSIONS PRESENTED BY WORLD FASD EXPERTS

ALCOHOL IN BRITAIN: AN OVERVIEW

Professor Moira Plant will present the history of alcohol leading to modern trends in alcohol consumption in the UK and the risks of binge drinking related to FASD.

OBSERVING HOW ALCOHOL CAN AFFECT THE FETUS IN THE WOMB

Professor Peter Hepper, author of ground breaking studies on the 'Fetal Startle Effect' will present video footage comparing the 'Fetal Startle Effect' when the fetus is exposed and unexposed to alcohol. What we observe in utero could have lifelong implications.

THE FETAL BRAIN AND ALCOHOL – DEFINING FASD

Professor Edward Riley, international FASD neurodevelopmental brain expert from the US, will present scientific evidence, brain images and studies and explain how alcohol is a highly potent teratogen in the brain.

DIAGNOSING FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Leading UK Geneticists who diagnose FAS, the sharp end of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, explain how to recognise FAS and review the diagnosis. This session will be chaired by Dr Margaret Barrow.

AFTER DIAGNOSIS – LIVING WITH FASD

FASD lasts a lifetime. Children with FASD have difficulty maturing and learning to live independently. Dr Raja Mukherjee and Professor Hans Spohr, from Berlin, will explain what the future may hold for children with FASD. People with FASD who are not supported may drop out of school, run away, become homeless, victims of abuse, get into trouble with the law and become suicidal. What do families, support services and professionals need to know?

FAMILIES AND CARERS ON THE FRONT LINES

We will meet the people who live with and care for children with FASD. Parents, siblings, therapists and others will bring to light the realities of day to day living with alcohol related brain damage.

PANEL DISCUSSION – FASD EXPERTS AND DELEGATES

The Panel will respond to delegates questions and present the results of the Conference FASD survey.

For full Programme and Registration Form call NOFAS-UK: 020 8458 5951 or go to: www.nofas-uk.org