In 2010 the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Annual Academic Meeting incorporated the Blair Bell Research Society Competition Meeting (BBRS).

The meeting was held at the RCOG in London on the 18th and 19th November 2010.

We were delighted to have received support from The Wellcome Trust towards supporting trainee attendance.

The meeting aimed to provide a not-to-be-missed forum for presentation of the best research conducted by trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The meeting was also a forum for keynote talks from senior Clinical and Non-clinical colleagues – topics were:

- **Challenges for non-clinical academics in O and G research.** *Professor Colin Sibley.*
- **National Reproductive Health Research Network.** *Professor Allan Templeton.*
- **Objective assessments of clinical competence.** *Mr Kevin Hayes.*
- **New Strategies in Research.** *Professor Sir Mark Walport.*
- **Medical simulation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.** *Dr Naomi Low-Beer.*
- **Clinical Academia and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.** *Professor Steve Robson.*

The Blair Bell Lecture was given by Professor Ian Jacobs.

Pleasing feedback was received from one senior colleague who wrote after the event:

“...the initiative in establishing this meeting is crucially important to the future of academic O&G in the UK.... There was real buzz and excitement among participants which was very encouraging…”

*Continued overleaf.*
Abstracts were invited from the Obstetrics and Gynaecology academic community in the UK and, following anonymisation, scored by the BBRS committee using a template giving recognition for scientific rigour and presentation.

Following ranking, sixteen were recommended for oral presentation. In the spirit of the BBRS which encourages participation from as many different academic units as possible, the oral presentations were limited to one per institution. The oral presentation with the highest score, as assessed by a panel at the meeting, was awarded a prize enabling the presenter to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI) in the USA, where, with prior agreement of the programme Chair, the BBRS prize winning abstract is included as an oral presentation.

Prizes were also awarded for poster and medical student submissions.

- There were 4 groups of poster judges, 3 judges for each group, scored out of 20.
- There were 10 oral judges, both senior scientists and clinical academics, scored out of 20.
- The best 30 abstracts will be published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Title of the winning abstracts were:

**Oral Presentation (to be presented at Annual Meeting SGI 2011)**

**David Carr:** Maternal Ad.VEGF gene therapy increases fetal growth in growth-restricted sheep fetuses.

**Poster Prize**

**Kay Vincent:** Women with dysmenorrhoea demonstrate many features of chronic pain conditions whilst maintaining a healthy psychological profile.

The meeting also comprised four parallel discussion groups:

- Undergraduate recruitment opportunities
- ACFs/CRFs - “What to achieve and when”
- ACLs – fellowship workshop
- Non-clinical career development

These break sessions were highly valued. Feedback received suggested these might be improved further if smaller and more focused

**Delegate profile**

Academic trainees and senior academics from all aspects of our specialty attended.

166 participants registered over both days.

Continued overleaf.
Unfortunately our booking system did not allow delegates to specify what ‘Other’ means. The first question on the Audience Response System provided a breakdown of the audience.

**Delegate feedback**

**How would you rate the course overall? (multiple choice)**

- **Very Poor**: 2.3%
- **Fair**: 9.1%
- **Very Good**: 45.4%
- **Poor**: 43.2%

Totals: Percent = 100%  Count = 44

**Please rate the relevance of the event to your personal educational needs (multiple choice)**

- **Very Poor**: 12.5%
- **Poor**: 27.5%
- **Fair**: 32.5%
- **Very Good**: 27.5%
- **Good**: 27.5%

Totals: Percent = 100%  Count = 40

**How did you hear about the course?**

- **Direct Mail**: 47.0%
- **Email from RCOG**: 18.2%
- **RCOG Web Site**: 6.1%
- **From a colleague**: 7.5%
- **From a colleague**: 6.1%
- **Other**: 21.2%

Totals: Percent = 100%  Count = 66

**Organisers:**

**Professor Hilary Critchley, Edinburgh**

**Dr Anna David, London**

**Professor Lucilla Poston, London**

**Professor Steve Robson, Newcastle**

Our Annual Academic Meeting this year will be held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London on 6th – 7th December 2011.