On Saturday 23 July 2011 the RCOG India Liaison Group came together for the first time and welcomed a very enthusiastic audience in the fitting surrounding of the Nuffield Hall of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The agenda of the day started with Dr Rajalaxmi Walavalkar giving a brief introduction of the RCOG India Liaison Group (RILG), how the group will work, where it fits in with the work the RCOG is already doing in India and most importantly how to get involved with upcoming projects.

Dr Walavalkar continued how the idea to create a Liaison Group was first put forward during the South East Asia Day in 2009. The idea was supported by Professor Sir Arulkumaran and Dr Tahir Mahmood and further guidance was provided by Dr Tony Falconer, Dr Paul Fogarty, Mr Mani Das and Mrs Binta Patel. Several meetings and discussions later the idea was moved forward and the Liaison Group was finally established.

The RILG has set out to follow the mission of improving sexual and reproductive health of Indian women, to work towards a reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality and in those tasks to draw on the experience and expertise of its members gained working in the United Kingdom.

The group has no financial links to the RCOG and works on charitable basis.

In its activities the RILG seeks to establish links with the All India Co-ordinating Committee (AICC), establish and create contacts with the Indian Health Ministry, local government bodies, local O&G societies, obtaining funds and to support the India Education Agenda of the RCOG.

Dr Rajalaxmi Walavalkar, Chairperson and Dr Sameer Umranikar, Secretary of the RILG are confident that by combining the individual efforts a more streamlined and co-ordinated approach can be achieved.

Mr Umranikar took to the lectern next and explained in more detail the set up and functions of the Liaison Group. The group has decided to follow the AICC and set up four zones – East, West, North, South – to cover the vast size of India. Each zone will be represented by a zonal head who will act as coordinator of different projects in the relevant zone.

Member wishing to get involved in projects can choose one or multiple zones. Any project ideas should be communicated to the zonal head initially who will then pass the idea on to the core group. The core group will then decide if the project is feasible and will communicate further with the RCOG.

The core group are:

Dr Rajalaxmi Walavalkar (Chairperson)
Dr Sameer Umranikar (Secretary)
Mr Gautam Mehra (Head – North Zone)
Dr Aparna Devi Gumma (Head – South Zone)
Dr Nagrinda Das (Head – East Zone)
Mr Subramanian Narayanan (Head – West Zone)
Dr Jyotsna Pundir (Database Coordinator)
Dr Rachana Dwivedi (Treasurer)
Professor Jim Walker then talked on the College’s International Strategy and its relation to India and gave a very inspiring account on how other already established liaison groups have achieved countries to become self-sufficient in training local faculty. He urged people not to question the outcome as this may sometimes be difficult to see and measure and asked members of the India Liaison Group to closely work with the College as their local understanding and to find where there are problems is what is most needed.

Dr Paul Fogarty followed on from Professor Walker outlining different streams planned for India and the RCOG and Liaison Group’s need to be proactive rather than reactive in approaching the different projects. One of the projects Dr Fogarty focused on is the RCOG Ultrasound Accreditation Package. One of the core aims is to train local consultants/trainers to deliver Ultrasound Training and to develop a model of faculty development that is sustainable in the long-term.

The afternoon progressed with Ms Rakhi Shah presenting projects for India that are at initiation stage. Again these projects need input and support from RILG members to take them further and to identify best ways of delivering them in India.

**MRCOG Part 2 Support Package**

- Aid the MRCOG candidate through RCOG learning materials and tools
- Support candidates who may not have experienced UK working practice
- Provide training for local F&Ms and consultants as MRCOG examiners

**Clinical Skills Post-MRCOG**

- In collaboration with local societies to identify appropriate skills training
- Provide the knowledge base and learning support to support the acquisition of clinical skills
- Offer proven skills courses that are outcomes-based and delivered at a level that will lead to safe, high-quality clinical care

**PROMPT (Multi-professional obstetric emergency training)** and Ultrasound Training the Trainers Programme are planned as pilots for 2011 whereby local accredited centres are set up to deliver the practical workshops and a group of local faculties are trained to deliver the programmes.

Dr Himansu Basu concluded the talks by giving an insight into the maternal mortality reduction strategies developed by Rotary International for which he is Grants Committee Chairman.

The talks were followed by an open discussion and Q&A.

1. **What will the RCOG India Liaison Group doing?**
   
   The Liaison Group is established to support the Indian Education Agenda of the RCOG International Office and to bring different projects taking place in India under one umbrella. The RILG will have its own projects that are running separately to the projects of the College in India.
2. Why is a valid registration with the India Medical Council necessary?

The college will be running clinical as well as educational projects. Some educational projects may well have a clinical component. Hence an up to date medical council registration will become a necessity. When skills are matched to projects, it would be a shame to have to leave out an experienced member only because their registration is not valid.

Every state in India has a state medical council. It is necessary to be fully registered with their state medical council and this will register doctors with the IMC automatically (in most cases).

Please check your registration status with your local council and confirm your valid registration with registration number and how long the registration is valid for to Astrid Kollros at akollros@rcog.org.uk

To check your registration status:
http://online.mciindia.org/online//Index.aspx?qstr_level=01

If you are not registered, please click here to register online:
http://online.mciindia.org/online//index.aspx

Please click here to find a list of State Medical Councils:
http://www.mciindia.org/InformationDesk/StateMedicalCouncils.aspx

To download forms for postal application, please click here:

The relevant forms are MCI-05 and MCI-06 and MCI-04