



Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Virtual Conference

15 May 2024



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**Our grateful thanks to
the Conference Scientific Organising Committee:**

Professor Philip Steer FRCOG (Chair)

Dr Carol J Baker

Dr Alison Bedford Russell

Ms Philippa Cox

Dr Kathryn Gutteridge

Ms Diane Jones

Dr Sonali Kochhar

Dr Edward Morris CBE

Ms Jane Plumb MBE

Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE

Welcome

On behalf of Group B Strep Support, I am thrilled to welcome you to our 2024 Group B Strep in Pregnancy & Babies Virtual Conference.

We are delighted to have such an exciting line-up, with exceptional speakers sharing their insights and expertise. My sincere thanks to everyone, particularly the conference's Scientific Advisory Panel, the Chairs, and the speakers - both clinicians and families - for giving so much time to make this event so brilliant.

This year's conference programme covers the impact of group B Strep, both in the UK and globally, the NHS' experience of testing for group B Strep carriage as part of the GBS3 Trial, and what progress has been made towards the development of a vaccine.

There's been significant progress, but many improvements can be made now, using the tools we already have. Continued attention and investment are essential to tackle the burden of group B Strep disease.

Thank you for taking part in this event, and we hope that you have an informative, engaging and inspiring day.

Jane Plumb MBE FRCOG FRSA



Chief Executive,
Group B Strep Support



Group B Strep Support

Founded in 1996, Group B Strep Support (GBSS) is the world's leading charity working to stop GBS infection in babies. The charity works in five main areas across the UK:

- Providing information and support to families affected by GBS.
- Raising awareness of GBS among new and expectant parents.
- Providing education services to health professionals so they are better able to prevent, spot and treat GBS infection in babies.
- Providing a voice for all those affected by GBS infection by lobbying politicians and other influential bodies to change NHS and Government policy around GBS.
- Supporting research into GBS, primarily through patient and public involvement.

Programme

Morning Session

- 09:00 – **Welcome: Ms Jane Plumb MBE**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Group B Strep Support
- 09:05 – **Introduction: Dr Alison Bedford Russell**, Neonatal Clinical co-Director, Liverpool Neonatal Partnership. Member of the Group B Strep Support Medical Advisory Panel.
- 09:10 – **Zac’s story, Hannah and Tim Taylor-Smith**
- 09:24 – **Group B Strep – a global issue, Jane Plumb MBE**, Co-founder and Chief Executive of Group B Strep Support
- 09:43 – **Group B Streptococcus (GBS) disease incidence, England, Dr Theresa Lamagni**, Senior Epidemiologist, Healthcare-Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance, UKHSA
- 10:04 – **Placental Streptococcus agalactiae DNA is associated with neonatal morbidity and fetal cytokine storm at term, Professor Gordon Smith**, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cambridge, UK
- 10:22 – **Antenatal testing for GBS – implications for the baby, Dr Shalini Ojha**, Professor of Neonatal Medicine, University of Nottingham, UK
- 10:46 – **Panel Discussion**, chaired by **Dr Alison Bedford Russell**, with **Hannah and Tim Taylor-Smith, Jane Plumb MBE, Dr Theresa Lamagni, Professor Gordon Smith**, and **Dr Shalini Ojha**
- **11:11 – 11:26 – BREAK**
- 11:26 – **Introduction, Dr Kathryn Gutteridge**, Honorary Associate Professor, Psychotherapist, and past President of the Royal College of Midwives
- 11:31 – **GBS3 Trial Update, Dr Kate Walker**, Professor in Obstetrics, Nottingham, UK
- 11:49 – **What do midwives need to be discussing with pregnant women and birthing people? Phern Adams**, Research Midwife, Birmingham Women’s Hospital
- 12:08 – **GBS testing through the GBS3 Trial: uptake of swabs and associated issues in a large womens’ unit, Emma Pugh**, Clinical Specialist Research Midwife, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- 12:16 – **The incidence of Group B Streptococcus Early Onset Disease reduced after implementation of optimal maternal cultures for antenatal screening, Dr Sofia Mazzotti**, Paediatric and Neonatology Resident, University Hospital of Modena
- 12:23 – **Panel Discussion**, chaired by **Dr Kathryn Gutteridge**, with **Professor Jane Daniels, Phern Adams, Emma Pugh** and **Dr Sofia Mazzotti**
- 12:48 – **Close of Morning Session: Jane Plumb MBE**
- **12:53 – 13:33 – LUNCH**

Afternoon Session

- 13:33 – **Introduction: Professor Asma Khalil**, Professor of Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine at St George’s Hospital, University of London, Vice President for Academia and Strategy at Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- 13:38 – **Quinn’s story, Natalie Lockyer**
- 13:54 – **Antibiotics for GBS prophylaxis and the microbiome, and why we need a vaccine. Professor Philip Steer**, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics at Imperial College, London. Past President of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine and the section of O&G of the Royal Society of Medicine. Chair of the Group B Strep Support Medical Advisory Panel.
- 14:05 – **Progress towards a GBS vaccine in the UK, Professor Paul Heath**, Professor and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at St George’s University Hospital, London, UK.
- 14:32 – **Overview of Group B Streptococcal Vaccines, Professor Kirsty Le Doare**, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology at St George’s University Hospital, London, UK.
- 14:50 – **Developing a Maternal GBS Vaccine to Prevent Invasive GBS Disease in Infants, Dr Annaliesa Anderson**, Senior Vice President and Head, Pfizer Vaccine Research and Development
- 15:04 – **Minervax’s AlpN vaccine: overview and clinical data from the development of a novel GBS vaccine, Dr Jeannett Dimsits**, Vice President of Clinical Development, Minervax
- 15:17 – **Panel Discussion**, chaired by **Prof Asma Khalil**, with **Natalie Lockyer, Professor Philip Steer, Professor Paul Heath, Professor Kirsty Le Doare, Dr Annaliesa Anderson** and **Dr Jeannett Dimsits**.
- **15:42 – 15:57 – BREAK**
- 15:57 – **Introduction, Professor Philip Steer**
- 16:02 – **Maternal outcomes after giving birth to a child with invasive GBS disease, Dr Erzsébet Horváth-Puhó**, Associate Professor, Aarhus University
- 16:20 – **The long-term risks of mental health disorders following neonatal, invasive Group B Streptococcus disease are modified by premature birth and maternal educational level. Malene Risager Lykke**, PhD student, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University
- 16:28 – **Development of a serocorrelate of protection against invasive Group B Streptococcal disease (iGBS): A collaborative African-European project (PREPARE), Dr Kostas Karampatsas**, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant, St George’s University of London
- 16:35 – **Perinatal GBS Disease: What The Future Holds, Dr Carol J Baker**, Professor of Pediatrics at McGovern Medical School, University of Texas, USA
- 17:05 – **Panel Discussion**, chaired by **Professor Philip Steer**, with **Dr Erzsébet Horváth-Puhó, Malene Risager Lykke, Dr Kostas Karampatsas** and **Dr Carol J Baker**
- 17:30 – 17:35 – **Summary and Close, Jane Plumb MBE**

Speaker & Chair bios

We are delighted to have the following world-renowned experts speaking at our virtual conference:



Phern Adams

Research Midwife, Birmingham Women's Hospital

Talk Title: What do midwives need to be discussing with pregnant women and birthing people?

Phern will discuss how BWCH implemented the GBS3 & iGBS study within their trust, the standard care that should be adopted with regard to group B Strep, and what midwives should be discussing with pregnant women and birthing people about it.



Dr Annaliesa Anderson

Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research & Development at Pfizer

Annaliesa leads a large organisation of scientists, clinicians, and professional staff, and has over 30 years of pharmaceutical research experience. She earned her PhD in biological sciences from the University of Warwick, England, and has contributed to the research and development of a multitude of vaccines, including for human papilloma virus while at Merck, and for pneumococcal disease, meningococcal disease, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus at Pfizer. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped lead the development of an antiviral therapy for COVID-19, and currently leads the strategic development of an extensive vaccine portfolio for diseases including influenza, *C. difficile* infection, Group B Streptococcus, and many others. Dr. Anderson has an extensive publication and patent portfolio in the areas of vaccine and anti-infective R&D. In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Anderson sits on multiple committees including the American Society for Microbiology Service Awards Selection Committee, as well as Scientific Advisory Boards for ContraFect, the Florey Institute, and the Universities of Sheffield and Rochester.

Talk Title: Developing a Maternal GBS Vaccine to Prevent Invasive GBS Disease in Infants

Invasive Group B Streptococcus (GBS) disease causes approximately 147,000 stillbirths and infant deaths globally each year. Natural history studies have correlated serotype-specific anti-capsular polysaccharide (CPS) IgG in newborns with reduced risk of GBS disease in early life. Pfizer is developing a hexavalent CPS glycoconjugate vaccine (GBS6) currently in Phase 2 trials for the protection of newborns against invasive GBS disease via maternal immunization. This presentation will discuss progress toward that goal.



Dr Carol J Baker

Professor of Pediatrics, McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas. 2019 Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal recipient. Global Vaccine Engagement Adviser, Group B Strep Support. Known as "the Godmother of Group B Strep prevention."

Carol is a professor of pediatrics at McGovern Medical School, Houston, Texas.

Her work has focused on all aspects of perinatal group B streptococcal (GBS) infections with a focus on prevention through pregnancy screening and prophylaxis and maternal immunisation. Her discovery of the link between infant GBS disease and maternal immunity paved the way for routine GBS screening among pregnant women, reducing the rates of EOGBS disease in many countries by up to 80%. She continues to dedicate herself to preventing more GBS disease through maternal immunisation, with vaccine candidates currently in clinical trials.

Carol previously was professor of pediatrics and of molecular virology and microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, until 2018. She was Head of the Section of infectious diseases in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine for 25 years. She is past chair of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (2009-2012). She is a past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and was a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases from 1997-2012.

In 1997, she was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and in 2007 of the Distinguished Physician Award, each from the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. She has been the recipient of several awards from the IDSA, the Mentor, the Society Citation for outstanding achievements in the field of Infectious Disease and in 2016 the Alexander Fleming Lifetime Achievement. In 2019, she received the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal in recognition of her phenomenal research into group B Strep and is a member of the National Academy of Science

A widely published researcher in pediatrics and infectious diseases, she has authored or co-authored more than 500 articles, reviews, and book chapters.

Talk Title: What The Future Holds



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Dr Alison Bedford Russell

Neonatal Clinical co-Director, Liverpool Neonatal Partnership. Member of the Group B Strep Support Medical Advisory Panel

Alison has been a consultant neonatologist for 29 years and has had a strong interest in neonatal infection for all her paediatric working life. She is passionate about working together within healthcare teams and with parents to deliver the highest quality of care to babies.



Prof Jane Daniels

Professor of Clinical Trials, University of Nottingham

Jane is the Chief Investigator for the GBS3 trial, a massive UK randomised trial of testing for GBS, and also led two previous clinical studies of rapid tests for GBS. She is a Professor of Clinical Trials at the University of Nottingham and has an outstanding reputation in women's health research.

Talk Title: The GBS3 trial: an update

Prof Daniels will provide an update on the progress of the GBS3 trial. This is a cluster randomised trial comparing testing (either rapid intrapartum tests or enriched culture microbiological testing in late pregnancy) with the UK risk factor based approach. She will describe the uptake of testing and the next steps towards the final analysis.

Dr Jeannett Dimsits

Vice President Clinical development, MinervaX

Jeannett has 25 years of drug development experience from various large and small pharma. Her passion is driving new treatment and prophylaxis options to unmet medical needs, with focus on late stage development, patient and site engagement.

Talk Title: MinervaX's AlpN vaccine: overview and clinical data from the development of a novel GBS vaccine

MinervaX is developing a novel GBS vaccine, called AlpN vaccine, based on the N-terminals domains of the alpha protein family present on the surface of GBS. The presentation will give an overview of the vaccine, as well as of some of the available clinical data including phase 2 results of a trial, MVX0005, performed in pregnant people living with and without HIV.

Dr Kathryn Gutteridge

Consultant Midwife, Psychotherapist, Past President of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) & Trustee of Group B Strep Support.

Kathryn is recognised for her work as one of the first consultant midwives in the UK. She was elected as President of the Royal College of Midwives 2017-21. Kathryn is widely published in both peer-review journals and books and has presented internationally.

She has a long history of clinical care and advocacy for women in the NHS and a passion for women's issues and the importance of psychological, emotional, and mental well-being during childbirth.

She has worked in diverse settings including neonatal services and community midwifery and has been an expert advisor to both the RCM and the RCOG. In 2017 she was named 'Midwife of the Year' by the British Journal of Midwifery, and in 2021 was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the RCM.

Prof Paul Heath

Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases, St George's University of London

Paul Heath is a Professor and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and St George's, University of London, where he is the Director of the Vaccine Institute. His training in paediatrics and infectious diseases was at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia; the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford; and St George's Hospital, London. His research interests are in the epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases, in clinical vaccine trials, particularly in at-risk groups and in perinatal infections. He coordinates the UK Paediatric Vaccine Group (UKPVG), is a member of the JCVI, is the NIHR Speciality Lead for Children's research for South London CRN, co-Chair of the UK Infectious Diseases Vaccine Research Forum and a member of the WHO Group B Streptococcus Technical Advisory Group.

Talk Title: Introducing a GBS vaccine in the UK

The need for an effective maternal GBS vaccine is clear. The UK has a strong history of maternal vaccination and considerable enthusiasm for introducing a GBS vaccine as soon as possible. There are a number of steps to be taken to prepare the UK for this including identifying the key stakeholders and bringing them together. The results of such a workshop will be presented.

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Dr Erzsébet Horváth-Puhó

Associate Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark

Dr Horváth-Puhó is Associate Professor at the Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University, Denmark. Her focus research area is within maternal and child health epidemiology. She has established a big pregnancy cohort based on Danish national registries, which data can be used to link different generations and thus analyze outcomes in infants and their parents. Dr Horváth-Puhó is interested in the long-term effects of newborn and infant vulnerability (e.g., congenital anomalies, infections, prematurity) on the life of the affected families. Additionally, she is dedicated to advancing research by developing novel methodologies and statistical tools. In her role as a co-investigator for the Group B Streptococcus (GBS) Collaborative Group project, she works on evaluating the impact of infants' invasive GBS disease on the long-term well-being of both children and parents.

Talk Title: Maternal outcomes after giving birth to a child with invasive GBS disease

Little is known about the long-term health consequences for the mothers of children with invasive GBS disease. The presentation will show the results of a Danish study that evaluated the association between the birth of a child with invasive GBS disease and subsequent maternal outcomes.



Dr Kostas Karampatsas

Paediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant, St George's University of London

Kostas is a Paediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant at St George's Hospital, London and an honorary lecturer at St George's, University of London. His research interests are in the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases and clinical vaccine trials, particularly in at-risk groups, pregnant women, and perinatal infections.

Talk Title: Development of a serocorrelate of protection against invasive Group B Streptococcal disease (iGBS): A collaborative African-European project (PREPARE)

The PREPARE project aims to develop a biobank of samples from at least 150 serotype III cases of iGBS in infants 0-90 days and their mothers and associated clinical information from six countries, with 3:1 serotype matched infant controls. This will allow us to determine the quantity of antibody associated with protection against iGBS.



Prof Asma Khalil

Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine, St George's Hospital, University of London

Asma Khalil is Professor of Maternal Fetal Medicine, St George's Hospital, University of London. She is also Director of the Fetal Medicine Unit at Liverpool Women's Hospital, and Vice-President for Academia and Strategy at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Asma is investigator of several studies and vaccine trials related to GBS in pregnancy, and a member of the WHO Scientific Advisory Group to provide inputs to the development of a value proposition for GBS.



Dr Theresa Lamagni

Section Head, Healthcare-Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance, UK Health Security Agency.

Dr Theresa Lamagni is a Section Head Healthcare-Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance Division of the UK Health Security Agency and designated epidemiologist for the WHO Collaborating Centre for Streptococcal Diseases. Theresa has strategic responsibility for surveillance of streptococcal diseases, providing expert support to outbreak and incident response and contributing to the development of an evidence base to inform disease prevention programmes.

Talk Title: Update on GBS epidemiology in England



Natalie Lockyer

Mother of Quinn Lockyer

Natalie Lockyer's daughter Quinn developed late-onset group B Strep infection at five weeks old.

Talk Title: Quinn's story

Natalie will talk about Quinn's group B Strep infection, and her thoughts on what more could be done to raise awareness of group B Strep, and better prevent these infections.

Towards a GBS vaccine

MinervaX is committed to developing a vaccine to protect populations at risk of severe or life-threatening GBS infections. Clinical development is ongoing in pregnant women and people, and older adults (including those with specific co-morbidities).

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Prof Kirsty Le Doare

Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, St George's University of London

Kirsty Le Doare is a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow and Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology working between Makerere University John's Hopkins University in Uganda and St. George's University of London in the UK. Her research interests are age-related immune responses to infectious diseases, in particular to Group B-streptococcus (GBS). Together with colleagues, she leads the GASTON initiative to determine serocorrelates of protection against GBS.

Talk Title: Overview of Group B Streptococcal Vaccines

Prof Le Doare will provide an update on the GBS vaccine pipeline and efforts with serocorrelates of protection.



Malene Risager Lykke

PhD student, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University

Malene's Ph.D. concerns the long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes following group B Streptococcus disease and she hopes that her research can help inform clinical practice offering long-term follow-up with specialized teams and policy prioritization, and to provide guidance for children and their families living with the consequences of GBS.

Talk Title: The long-term risks of mental health disorders following neonatal, invasive Group B Streptococcus disease are modified by premature birth and maternal educational level.

Neonatal, invasive group B Streptococcus disease is associated with an increased risk of psychiatric disorders in later childhood and adolescent life.



Dr Sofia Mazzotti

Paediatric and Neonatology Resident, University Hospital of Modena

Sofia is a Paediatric and Neonatology Resident at Hospital of Modena (Italy). She is interested in neonatal infectious diseases, respiratory problems and congenital heart defects.

Talk Title: The incidence of Group B Streptococcus Early Onset Disease reduced after implementation of optimal maternal cultures for antenatal screening

Universal maternal screening using selective broth media for Group B Streptococcus implemented in 2012 reduced early-onset disease incidence significantly in term infants. Preterm infant rates remained unchanged. Selective broth media improved detection. This study highlights the impact of screening and underscores the importance of tailored interventions for preterm infants.



Prof Shalini Ojha

Professor of Neonatal Medicine, University of Nottingham

Professor Shalini Ojha is a Professor of Neonatal Medicine at the University of Nottingham and a Consultant Neonatologist at the neonatal unit in Derby. Her research is about improving outcomes of those who need care during the newborn period with a special interest in clinical trials of feeding interventions and infections.

Talk Title: The clinical implications for neonates of enhanced GBS discovery

Prof Ojha's presentation will be a discussion on how management of babies will change if routine screening for GBS in late pregnancy is implemented in the UK. She will look

at the published experience from other countries, consider how the impact may be different in the UK, and consider the implications for mothers, babies, families, and NHS resources.



Jane Plumb

Co-Founder and Chief Executive, Group B Strep Support.

Jane Plumb co-founded Group B Strep Support with her husband Robert in 1996 after their middle child died from group B Strep infection, and is its Chief Executive.

Jane is also the RCOG's Women's Voices Lead, and a member of the WHO's Extended Technical Taskforce on Defeating Meningitis By 2030, chairs the Council for the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations and is a Meningitis Research Foundation trustee.

Jane was a member of the Department of Health's priority-setting workshops for GBS research in 2015/6, and has sat on several NICE guideline committees. Jane is involved in many group B Strep research projects, co-leading PPI for the GBS3 trial. Jane was awarded an MBE in 2012 for services to child health, Fellowship of the RSA in 2020, and Fellowship Honoris Causa by the RCOG in 2021.

Talk Title: Group B Strep – a global issue

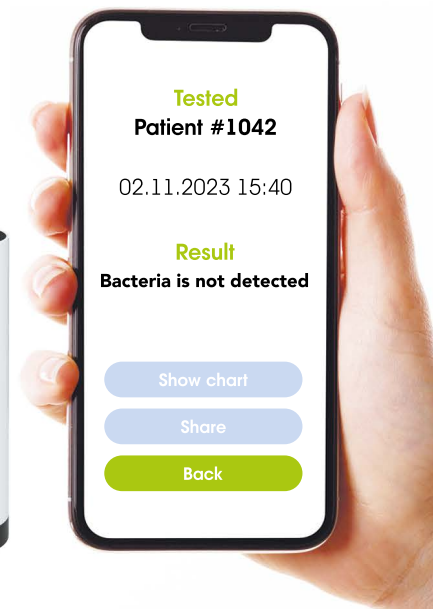
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Emma Pugh

Clinical Specialist Research Midwife, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Emma has been a Clinical Specialist Research Midwife at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board since February 2022. Her previous posts include clinical midwife in all areas of maternity care, and research psychologist posts from 2008-2013 following a degree in Psychology.

Talk Title: GBS testing through the GBS3 Trial: uptake of swabs and associated issues in a large womens' unit

The presentation will look at implementing routine GBS testing for all women in the antenatal period via the GBS3 Trial. It will discuss practical issues encountered and acceptability of testing.



Prof Gordon Smith

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cambridge

Gordon C. S. Smith is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cambridge, and a Consultant in Fetal Medicine at the Rosie Hospital, Cambridge, UK, since 2001. He has M.D., Ph.D. & D.Sc. degrees from the University of Glasgow, UK. He held Wellcome Trust research training fellowships at the University of Glasgow (1992-93) and Cornell University, USA (1996-1999). He was elected a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences in 2010. His current research is focused on predicting placentally-related complications of human pregnancy and studying the underlying mechanisms of disease. He led the POPS cohort (2008-2013) and is chief investigator of the POPS2 cohort (2020-2025) and nested randomised controlled trial (ISRCTN12181427). He has approximately £9M in current funding as chief investigator (Wellcome Trust, Wellcome Leap and MRC).

Talk Title: Placental Streptococcus agalactiae DNA is associated with neonatal morbidity and fetal cytokine storm at term

Prof Smith will relate the presence of GBS DNA in the placenta to the risk of admission of the infant for neonatal care. He will also analyse the associations by the clinical findings during the admission and cord blood levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines.



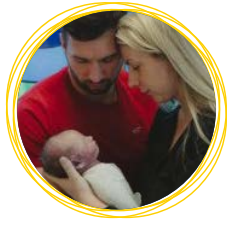
Prof Philip Steer

Emeritus Professor, Imperial College London

Professor Steer was Editor-in-Chief of BJOG from 2005-2012 and is now Editor Emeritus. He is a past President of the British Association of Perinatal Medicine and the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and currently chairs the RCOG committee tasked with updating the College's GBS guidelines.

Talk Title: Antibiotics for GBS prophylaxis and the microbiome, and why we need a vaccine.

Currently, optimum prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS disease is by giving intrapartum intravenous penicillin to the mother. However, antibiotics can disturb the establishment in the baby's gastrointestinal tract of the bacterial microbiome, which has such an important influence on subsequent health (an abnormal microbiome predisposes to obesity and immune disorders such as asthma). I will discuss how we can minimise this effect and hopefully avoid it in future by using a vaccine instead.



Hannah and Tim Taylor-Smith

Parents of Zachary Taylor-Smith

Hannah and Tim's son, Zachary Taylor-Smith was born, and died, on November 17 2022. He was infected by group B Strep and fought as hard as he could. After several missed opportunities identified in his care, Zachary's condition deteriorated and he later died.

Talk Title: Zac's story

We share our son's story "Zac" with you in the hope you can learn from his short and meaningful life.

We hope group B Strep awareness along with the clinical knowledge of a deteriorating newborn can be spread wide and far to all who need to know. We have learnt through our own personal experience and by sharing with others, that there is an overarching lack of awareness of group B Strep.

We hope by sharing our story, it will encourage all professionals caring for expectant families to be open about group B Strep, alongside sharing information and ensuring leaflets are given to families.

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References: **1.** Panther Fusion GBS Assay [Package Insert] AW-17997-001 Rev.003, San Diego CA: Hologic Inc., 2019. **2.** Shin JH and Pride DT. Comparison of Three Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) and Culture for Detection of Group B Streptococcus (GBS) from Enrichment Broth. *J Clin Microbiol*; 2019; JCM.01958-18.doi:10.1128/JCM.01958-18

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Prof Kate Walker

Professor in Obstetrics, University of Nottingham

Prof Kate Walker is a Clinical Professor in Obstetrics and divides her time equally between research work based in Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit, University of Nottingham and clinical work based at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust. Her research focuses on randomised controlled trials in obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatology.

Talk Title: GBS3 trial: an update

As the Clinical Chief Investigator for the GBS3 trial, in this talk she will give an update on the trial, some preliminary results from the detailed data collection, and timescales for main trials results



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July is Group B Strep Awareness Month



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Be part of a fantastic annual campaign to raise awareness of group B Strep and funds to support our work.

Find out more: gbss.org.uk/AwarenessMonth

Sponsors

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Leigh Day

Leigh Day is a claimant-only law firm known for our commitment to patient safety and women's rights in healthcare. We are proud to support Group B Strep Support, and to raise awareness of Group B Strep. Our specialist team is ranked tier 1 by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500. The solicitors in our London, Manchester and Leeds offices have over 35 years of experience and success in bringing a variety of birth injury claims. Some of our lawyers are medically trained, and we have other medically trained personnel, including former nurses and midwives working with us, as well as access to the country's leading birth injury experts. Our lawyers are consistently praised for their extensive experience in dealing with complex injuries on behalf of patients and their families. Many of our lawyers have been instrumental in the development of the law in medical negligence cases and in achieving some of the highest-value settlements for our clients. Last year, we won the award for Clinical Negligence Team of the Year at the Manchester Legal Awards, and as a firm, Leigh Day has been awarded UK Law Firm of the Year at the Chambers Europe Awards.

Contact: Emmalene Bushnell, Partner

Email: ebushnell@leighday.co.uk

Website: www.leighday.co.uk



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MinervaX is developing a group B Strep vaccine based on a family of surface proteins found on 99.7% of clinical isolates. It is highly immunogenic, resulting in long-lasting high titres of functionally active antibodies. The vaccine has been tested in more than 650 healthy adults, including around 400 pregnant women. Two recent phase II clinical trials showed an acceptable safety profile and strong immunogenicity data including in the infants of vaccinated mothers.

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GenPad by Mirai Genomics:

Introducing the GenPad® system by Mirai Genomics, a real Point-of-Care diagnostic tool, offering clinical precision, simplicity in use and compact size for easy integration into healthcare settings. With our proprietary PCR technology at the core, we bring Japanese innovation to the forefront of molecular diagnostics. Our mission is to minimize risk for patients by empowering obstetricians, midwives, and other healthcare professionals to make informed decisions swiftly and accurately. Join us on our journey of state-of-the-art healthcare delivery.

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Hologic is an innovative global medical technology company primarily focused on improving women's health and well-being and a specialist in high-volume population screening. By providing early and accurate results, our goal is to minimize doubt and maximize the confidence our customers and their patients have in their decisions and diagnoses. For more information visit www.hologic.com

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Slater and Gordon

Slater and Gordon is one of the UK's leading consumer law firms, committed to delivering exceptional, affordable legal services. With a reputation built on more than 90 years' experience, we are one of the most successful medical negligence teams in the country, who specialise in all types of medical negligence claims, particularly in birth injury claims. We are committed to pursuing the best outcomes for our clients. We are extremely proud to stand with Group B Strep Support as a trusted legal partner and to support this dynamic charity in continuing its fight for prevention and awareness.

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for providing their generous financial support**



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