June 2014

2014 Prize for Best Original Research by Trainees

Introduction
The Prize for Original Research by Trainees of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine recognizes excellence in research done by doctors who are in specialist training. It is proposed that the prize be awarded annually. However, the Academy shall only award the prize if it considers the research merits such recognition and thus reserves the right not to award the prize in any given year.

Category of Prize
Three categories are proposed: Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. If a trainee submits more than one paper and obtains more than one prize, he will be awarded the higher prize only. In such an event, the candidate with the next highest score will obtain the “vacated” prize.

Eligibility
Applicants must be trainees of an Academy College at the time of application. Only the principal investigator of the research can apply. The application must be accompanied by a declaration that the applicant is the principal investigator of the research.

Conditions for Submission
1. The Academy will only accept original researches, which have been approved by an institutional ethics committee where appropriate.
2. The Panel of Judges reserves the right to reject any application on grounds that the research was unethical.
3. At the time of submission, the research must not already have been published. However, the applicant retains the right to offer it for publication in any domain subsequently.
4. The applicant should state the role he/she played in conceptualizing the research, and in the data acquisition and analysis processes.
5. Applications in abstract form shall be vetted initially. For shortlisted finalists, a full report on the research will be required. Applicants should notify the Academy if their research has been published at this juncture.
6. The abstract must not exceed 300 words and preferably be in the format of a structured abstract.

Instruction for Submission of Abstracts
Completed Abstract Form with the abstract must be submitted to the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, 10/F, HKAM Jockey Club Building, 99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong by the extended deadline, 31 July 2014 (postmark). Only abstract in English shall be considered.
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ABSTRACT FORM

Principal Investigator

Surname*: Name in Chinese:
Forename*: MCHK/DCHK no.*:

Institution*:
Department*:

Correspondence address*:

Contact tel. no.*: Contact fax no.:

Email address*:

You are a trainee of the College of (tick ✓)*:

- Anaesthesiologists
- Emergency Medicine
- Ophthalmologists
- Paediatricians
- Psychiatrists
- Community Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Pathologists
- Radiologists
- Dental Surgeons
- Obst. & Gynaecologists
- Otorhinolaryngologists
- Physicians
- Surgeons

Fields marked with * are required.

Declaration
I hereby declare that I am the principal investigator of the research submitted.

Signature : _______________________________ Date : ________________________

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Application of a Customised Birth Weight Standard in Identifying Babies with Growth Restriction among Ethnic Chinese Subjects

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The Department of Obstetric and Gynaecology, Prince of Wales Hospital, the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Objective:
The aim of this study was to compare the ability of customised birth weight standard and population-based birth weight standard in the identification of babies with growth restriction in a Chinese population.

Study design:
A regression model for customised birth weight standard was derived from a cohort of 1564 healthy Hong Kong Chinese women with ultrasound dated singleton pregnancies who delivered at term. In the model, maternal height, weight, parity, gestation at delivery and fetal sex were included as independent variables in predicting the final idealised birth weight for an individual pregnancy. From the same set of women, a population-based birth weight standard was calculated without taking into account of the individual maternal physical and pregnancy characteristics. A different set of 709 Chinese women with singleton pregnancies delivered at term were recruited. Neonatal anthropometric measurements were measured 2 days after delivery. The differences in these measurements were compared between the groups defined small for gestational age (SGA) by population-based birth weight standard and SGA by customised birth weight standard against the normal birth weight group.

Results:
Neonates classified as small by both birth weight standards had significantly lower Ponderal Indices, mid-arm circumference to head circumference ratio, triceps and sub-scapular skin fold thickness (P<0.001) when compared to the normal birth weight group. However, there were no differences in these measurements between SGA babies defined by either standard. Specifically, both standards identified 42% of neonates with abnormally low Ponderal Index.

Conclusion:
The customised birth weight standard is as effective as the population-based birth weight standard in the identification of neonates with growth restriction in ethnic Chinese subjects.