



SOGC News

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

September 2003

Collaborative Maternity Care

Kathleen McGovern, Chief, Policy, Research and Development

The SOGC has received \$50,000 from the Primary Care Transition Fund of Health Canada to develop a proposal to promote and support the development of collaborative models of maternity care in Canada. The project is being undertaken to address the shortage of maternity care workers in Canada, a trend that has been developing over the past decade. The situation is extremely serious in rural and remote areas of Canada, including Aboriginal communities. A full proposal is due by October 31, 2003 and the project activities will begin in 2004 and end by March, 2006.

The proposal is being developed in collaboration with: the College of Family Physicians of Canada; the Canadian Association of Midwives; the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, Canada; the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada; and the National Aboriginal Health Organiza-

tion. The proposed activities will contribute to increases in the availability and quality of maternity services for all Canadian women, including Aboriginal women, by promoting sustainable and cost-effective models of care. Evidence supports the benefits of obstetricians, family physicians, midwives, and nurses with obstetric experience, working in teams to provide intrapartum care for low risk women.

The activities to be undertaken include but are not limited to: an environmental scan to identify models currently in existence; development of "Best Practice Guidelines"; provision of professional support to jurisdictions interested in implementing collaborative practice models; and development of a compendium of methods for promoting collaborative approaches to maternity care within undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. For further information, please contact Kathleen McGovern at (613) 730-4192 ext. 260, or at kmcgovern@sogc.com.

Journalism Awards at 2003 ACM

Lisa Spencer, CAP & Media Relations Coordinator

This year, the SOGC and the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health partnered together to offer the first ever Journalism Award for Excellence in Women's Health Reporting. Although the winner wasn't able to be there in person, one of the runners up was.

Winner: Ms. Rhea Seymour, whose article "Bad reporting harmful to health: study" appeared in the April 2002 issue of *Chatelaine*. This story touched on the sensationalism of health reporting and counseled women not to take everything they read at face value.

Runners Up: Ms. Judith Timson's "Care Tactics" article appeared in *Chatelaine* in October 2002 and focused on one woman's struggle with breast cancer. Ms. Benita Rowley's article, "Growing Pains", also a runner up, was published in the April 2002 issue of *Chatelaine*. It focused on the story of a mother and her young daughter, both with rheumatoid arthritis, and how they cope day-to-day with this disease. Ms. Anjum Choudhry submitted a broadcast piece dealing with breast exams and cancer in multicultural women. Her piece was aired on OMNI 2 network, South Asian Newsweek section.

Also, the Contraception Awareness Project (CAP) sponsors were given a plaque of recognition for all their hard work at the ACM.

The 16th Quebec CME Programme in collaboration with the AOGQ

September 25-27, 2003 at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu La Malbaie, Quebec



IN THIS ISSUE

- Obituary 2
- News from the Industry 2
- ALARM International 3
- Members' Corner 4
- Junior Member News 5
- Canadian Foundation for Women's Health 6

Congratulations!

The SOGC President's Award, in recognition of exceptional performance and deportment regarding women's health, was presented to Dr. Robert Reid at the 2003 ACM in honour of his career-long commitment to women's health and his leadership role in medicine.

Dr. Reid is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Chair of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Queen's University, and the Deputy Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Kingston General Hospital. A Past President of the SOGC, he chairs its national Contraception Awareness Program and has been involved in the development of the sexualityandu.ca Website. He

maintains a strong commitment to the Society and has donated countless hours of his time to Society business.



Dr. Reid displays his award, surrounded by his daughter Lauren, his wife Judy, Dr. Donna Fedorkow and his daughters Emily and Jennifer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Dr. David Young IWK Grace Health Centre Halifax, NS
Past President	Dr. Donna Fedorkow McMaster University Hospital Hamilton, ON
President Elect	Dr. Gerald Stanimir Royal Victoria Hospital Montreal, QC
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	Dr. David Wilkie B.C. Women's Hospital Vancouver, BC

REGIONAL CHAIRS, ALTERNATE CHAIRS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Western Region	Dr. Michael Bow Grey Nuns Hospital Edmonton, AB
	Dr. Nicole Racette Royal Columbian Hospital New Westminster, BC and Genesis Fertility Centre Vancouver, BC
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	Dr. Mark Heywood St-Boniface General Hospital Winnipeg, MB
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	Dr. Philippe-Yves Laberge Pavillon C.H.U.L. Ste-Foy, QC
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APOG Representative	Dr. William Fraser University of Montreal Montreal, QC
Corresponding Member	Senator Lucie Pépin Senate of Canada Ottawa, ON

Obituary Past President

It is with sadness that the Society announces the passing away of one of its former presidents (1969-1970) Dr. Fred L. Johnson on July 15, 2003 in his 94th year. A medical graduate of the University of Toronto in 1936, he served as the first Chair of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University from 1968-1977 becoming Professor Emeritus in 1978. During his tenure as the Society's President, Dr. Johnson introduced the first honorarium for the Honorary Secretary, a position that had been voluntary until then. He also promoted an initial dialogue in the early turbulent times between the SOGC and the Royal College which were successfully resolved. The Society wishes to honour the achievements of Dr. Johnson and extends its condolences to his family.



Dr. Fred L. Johnson

Industry News

Femara™ Improves Survival

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. has announced that Health Canada has approved data that shows increased survival during the first two years of treatment among women taking Femara™ (letrozole) compared directly to those taking tamoxifen. Study data demonstrated that women who require hormonal treatment for advanced breast cancer will remain tumour free longer when taking Femara™.

The randomized, double-blind study of 907 postmenopausal women (453 on Femara™; 454 on tamoxifen) was designed to compare Femara™ to tamoxifen in the treatment of advanced breast cancer. Survival data at one and two years show Femara™ to have a statistically significant survival benefit compared to tamoxifen. "Now that we have this supporting data, Femara™ should become a primary treatment option for women with advanced breast cancer, requiring hormonal therapy" said Dr. Maureen Trudeau, Head of Medical Oncology and Haematology at Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre.

Femara™, an aromatase inhibitor, is an oral once a day first-line treatment for postmenopausal women with advanced breast cancer. It is available in more than 75 countries worldwide. This year, the Canadian Cancer Society estimates 21,200 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed, resulting in 5,300 deaths due to breast cancer¹.

¹ National Cancer Institute of Canada: Canadian Cancer Statistics 2003, Toronto, Canada, 2003.

New Product

Duchesnay, the pharmaceutical company that markets Diclectin, has just acquired the prescription product **Proctofoam-HC** (hydrocortisone acetate 1% and pramoxine hydrochloride 1%).

This unique metered-dose aerosol foam is particularly effective for the relief of postpartum hemorrhoids, which can affect as many as 3 out of 4 natural childbearing women. **Proctofoam-HC** is also used for men and women who suffer from anorectal disorders such as hemorrhoids, proctitis, cryptitis, fissures, postoperative pain and pruritus ani.

"Our primary concern is to provide women who have just given birth an effective relief of the inflammation, pain and pruritus caused by the delivery", stated Éric Gervais, Duchesnay's Executive Vice-President. "**Proctofoam-HC** (36 applications) provides the dual benefit of an internal and an external applicator. A simple topical application on a pad provides immediate relief, without the risk of caine-like sensitization and without staining the clothes".

ALARM International Course in Kosova 2003

Ferd Pauls, Course Director

The first ALARM International Course offered in Pristina, Kosovo, was taught by four SOGC members from June 2nd to 5th, 2003. The initial course was a challenge to the instructors and the participants alike as English was the verbal language of instruction while the course materials were translated into Albanian. This, together with a translator that facilitated the understanding of concepts in both languages, made for an interesting four days.

In March 2002, the SOGC, under contract from the Canadian Public Health Association, and the Kosovar Ob/Gyn Association signed an agreement that included the provision of the ALARM International Course. Funding by the United Nations Population Fund of Kosovo allowed for the translation and production of the course materials in Albanian, the purchase of equipment for demonstration workshops and the trip by four Canadian instructors to Kosovo.

An Instructors' Course was provided the first day to 12 participants, some of which helped teach the course during the next three days. Thirty-seven Ob/Gyns, one midwife (the President of the Kosovar Midwifery Association) and one Canadian nurse on assignment for the Canadian Nurses Association registered.



Instructor's course participants



Course participants

Dr. F. Pauls from Winnipeg and Dr. S. Hoxha, the Head of the Department in Pristina organized the course. Dr. R. Cooke from Montreal was responsible for workshops and quickly set the tone with a demonstration of shoulder dystocia. The group then proceeded to a provocative but educational discussion of gestational hypertension by Dr. A. Ezzat from Saskatoon. Dr. J. Christilaw from Vancouver captured the interest of the group with her lecture on HIV transmission, as this was not considered a major problem in practice. The interaction of the course participants increased dramatically as the days went on and the course ended with a celebration lunch, a post test and the distribution of the certificates of attendance. As you can see from the pictures, everybody was satisfied.

In the evaluation, all participants indicated that the manual would be helpful in their practice and that they would recommend the course to their colleagues. Dr. Hoxha polled some of the participants and all endorsed the course as being helpful and should be provided to others. He then asked if I was happy with the outcome and he was assured that I was more than satisfied but was more interested in what he thought. He indicated that he was very satisfied and was supportive of another course which will be provided in October 2003.



Drs. Ezzat and Christilaw lecturing



Kosovar Ob/Gyn Association and Dr. Jan Christilaw



Dr. Cooke teaching

Hydrocephalus Shunt Card

Wendy Koberstein, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Canada (SBHAC)

Over 80% of babies who are born with spina bifida develop hydrocephalus. However, hydrocephalus is not limited to people with spina bifida - it can happen to anyone. It often is the result of a trauma to the brain such as infection, head injury, meningitis, tumors or in the aging process. In addition to symptoms found in spina bifida babies, including head enlargement, vomiting, irritability seizures and high pitched crying, a child or adult who acquires hydrocephalus can experience vision problems, fever, loss of coordination and personality changes. Neurosurgeons use shunts to control hydrocephalus.

The Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Canada (SBHAC) saw the need to produce and make available a 'shunt card' to individuals living with a shunt and health professionals providing treatment. The purpose of the shunt card is to alert medical personnel to the existence of a shunt should the person be unable to speak for him or herself. The shunt card will also contain information critical to the care of the individual. The convenient card design fits easily into a wallet. Please contact SBHAC to obtain a shunt card - telephone toll free 1 800 565-9488, FAX 1 204 925-3654 or spinab@mts.net

To be used in an emergency

I have Hydrocephalus which is controlled by a

☐ VP Shunt
☐ VA Shunt

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code _____



Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Canada

PROGRAMMES

16th Quebec CME (offered in French)

Fairmont Manoir Richelieu
La Malbaie, Québec
September 25-27, 2003

22nd Ontario CME

Marriott Eaton Centre
Toronto, Ontario
December 4-6, 2003

17th International CME

Maliá Caribe Tropical, Punta Cana
Dominican Republic
March 1-5, 2004

14th West/Central CME

The Rimrock Resort Hotel
Banff, Alberta
April 1-3, 2004

60th Annual Clinical Meeting

Edmonton, Alberta
REVISED DATES: June 25-29, 2004

COURSES

SCOPE - 2003

Vancouver, B.C. - October 24-25
University of BC, Centre of
Excellence for Surgical Education

Toronto, Ont. - November 14-15
Mount Sinai Hospital
Surgical Skills Centre

ALARM - 2003

Woodstock, N.B. - September 12-13

Yellowknife, NWT - October 3-4

Ottawa, Ont. - October 24-25

Victoria, B.C. - November 21-22

Toronto, Ont. - December 7-8

SOGC News

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SOGC News

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Tel: (613) 730-4192 or
1-800-561-2416
Fax: (613) 730-4314
E-mail: lbray-levac@sogc.com

Members' Corner

Special Offer

The New England Journal of Medicine would like to make a special subscription offer to all members of the SOGC: **20% discount** on your subscription to the New England Journal of Medicine (special offer price: \$176 Cdn. per year, tax deductible). The subscription also includes unlimited on-line access to

the New England Journal of Medicine Web site, facilitating physicians' access to the site from home.

The Journal's mission is to bring physicians the best information from current medical science in a comprehensible and clinically useful format. Interested members may contact Patricia Tramley at 866-426-9722, or Deborah at 514-693-0408.

Continued Education Grants

The following grants have been designed to financially assist SOGC members with the acquisition of technical knowledge or skills in the areas of obstetrics/gynaecology or sexual and reproductive health. The amount awarded ranges from \$3,000 to \$15,000 depending on the fellowship and its duration.

Fall 2003 Application Deadlines

- Millennium Fellowships for physicians - September 30, 2003
- Millennium Fellowships for SOGC/APOG members - September 30, 2003

Further details and application forms may be obtained on our Website at www.sogc.org or by calling 1-800-561-2416.



••• *ACM 2003* •••

GOC's Run for Her Life - A Success

Hélène Soublière, National Coordinator, APOG, SCC & GOC

In the early hours of Sunday, June 29, 2003, over 60 registrants gathered to participate in the 2nd Run for Her Life event. This annual event was initiated by the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada (GOC) to raise awareness of gynaecological cancer, in particular ovarian cancer. This year's run featured participation by a large variety of members. The event took us on a 5 km trail through the waterfront of Charlottetown on a beautiful Sunday morning.

Each year, a donation is made to a cancer agency or group supporting ovarian cancer or gynaecological cancer in the jurisdiction where the annual meeting takes place. This year,

there will be a donation of \$1,455 sent to Dr. Champion in Prince Edward Island.

Next year's event is scheduled to take place in Edmonton and we look forward to more members turning out to participate in this worthy cause. The number of participants has grown each year and we expect exponential success next year. The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of Canada would like to thank GlaxoSmith-Kline for their assistance and support of this initiative.



T

22nd Ontario CME Programme

in association with OSOG

December 4-6 2003

Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre

Don't be disappointed, book your hotel today!

Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre
Tel: 1-800-905-0667
\$132 per night single/double occupancy
Deadline: November 7, 2003

For more information, please visit the SOGC Website at: www.sogc.org/conferences/ontario/index_e.shtml

Be sure to check your mail this month for the preliminary programme due to arrive any day now!

“THE WORLD WITHIN A CITY”

oronto

University of Calgary Update

Dr. Clinton Chow

The summer months bring new changes and remind us how busy the past year has been at the U of Calgary. After incorporating CanMEDs into our programme, we underwent a successful Royal College accreditation process in February. Our MFM rotation was restructured last year as most of our perinatologists moved to a new site. One major benefit to residents is the increased ultrasound experience.

Banff was the location for a very memorable annual retreat. An area that was identified as a future focus is urogynaecology. Dr. Colin Birch, who recently completed a urogynaecology fellowship in England, has returned to Calgary. We look forward to working with him as he joins Drs. Tom Mainprize and Magali Robert as part of the urogynaecology staff at the Foothills Hospital. Other retreat highlights included a hypnotist and fun games for staff and their families.

Congratulations to Sherri Gibbons who tied the knot last year as well as to Quynh Tran who is now engaged. Don Wilson welcomed baby Taven to their family while Heather Edwards is expecting.

This past year we expanded our programme to accommodate four new residents. The staff and residents were extremely happy with the number and quality of medical students applying to the CaRMS match and welcome our incoming PGY-1s: Shannon Dwinnell, Jennifer Hilton, Kendra Lamb and Greg Nelson. Interest in O&G is again strong this year as an enthusiastic group of clinical clerks attended

our third annual pool and information night. There have also been several elective students from across the country.

Many of our PGY-4s were fortunate to complete an out-of-town elective. Aisling Mahalingham had a rural experience in Yellowknife while Adel Abdulhafid returned home to Libya for an elective. Sue Baranowski spent an amazing elective in Uganda and shares the following:

"After working on a public health project in Uganda in 1997, I had been hoping to get back to do some clinical work. With the help of an SOGC Millennium Fellowship, I returned during the Winter of 2003 to complete a clinical elective. The context was perfect: the SOGC already has a well established partnership with the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Uganda (AOGU). As part of the FIGO Save the Mothers Initiative, they have implemented a project in the rural district of Kiboga with the aim of reducing obstetric and gynaecologic morbidity and mortality. The interventions have consisted of increasing the number of skilled attendants to provide services in the district, upgrading the health facilities, decreasing social and cultural barriers to care, and improving means of transportation for women who need emergency care. In addition, a Ugandan obstetrician-gynaecologist volunteers for two weeks each month in Kiboga to provide specialist support, supervision and education services.

My time spent in Kiboga was definitely the highlight. I was precepted by Dr. Justine Nanginga during her two week volunteer stint, then I carried out the same activities on my

own for another two to three weeks until the next volunteer specialist came. We spent long days and nights rounding, operating, providing some continuing education, making site visits and conducting clinics at the rural health units. Hats off to the doctors, midwives, nurses and nursing assistants who provide all of the medical care in Kiboga village and district. They provided me with an excellent education in handling a huge scope of clinical problems creatively with very few resources.

My visit to Uganda consisted of an urban experience as well. Under the auspices of Dr. Twaha Mutyaba, I worked at Mulago, the large public hospital in Kampala, the capital city. There were over 30 residents completing specialty training, as well as many medical students from Makerere University in the midst of their undergraduate training. The volume and acuity at Mulago provided an incomparable learning experience.

The hospitality extended to me--both personal and professional--was overwhelming. I would recommend this experience to anyone. The weekend safaris, kayaking on the Nile, and tracking mountain gorillas were just an added bonus. If anyone is interested in hearing more about the experience, feel free to contact me (suebaranowski@hotmail.com)."

Lastly, we wish the best of luck to our outgoing chief residents. Dhea Wallace-Chau will be moving on to Comox, B.C. while Sherri Gibbons will be joining staff at Calgary's Peter Lougheed Hospital.

Junior Member Update - University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Melissa Mirosh

Greetings from Saskatchewan! First of all, congratulations to our three graduating residents: Kevin, Ashraf and Rotimi, who all passed with flying colors. Things here in Saskatoon are going to be busy over the next several months as the post-graduate education programme is undergoing accreditation this fall. PAIRS has been without a contract for the last 18 months and we hope there will be a resolution soon. There have been some new

changes in our department as well.

We held a resident retreat last fall, where we discussed several issues that were important to the residents and have seen some positive changes already. A Telehealth link was established between Saskatoon and Regina for our academic half days to improve the connection between the PGY-1s and the main programme at the University. Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our four new residents. We look forward to having you join our programme.

ACM 2003



University representatives at the Junior Member Committee meeting in Charlottetown, 2003



Welcome to our new Vice-Chair Junior Member Committee, Michelle Suga, Memorial University.



CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

SUPPORTING RESEARCH FOR THE HEALTH OF WOMEN

You can make a difference in women's health research

Robyn Harris, Executive Director

Supporting the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health with your financial contributions has advanced research in women's health since 1998. Participating in the Foundation's fundraising activities and responding to the annual appeal are just two of the ways you have helped. Fortunately, there are several other ways in which you can make a difference.

Each year the United Way campaign in your community raises funds for local charities as well as other registered charitable organizations in Canada. By naming the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health on your United Way appeal card, you have ensured that your donation is directed to furthering women's health research. Please encourage your spouse or partner and family and friends who take part in the annual United Way campaign that is launched every September, to include the Foundation as a beneficiary of their donation. To those of you who are currently supporting the Foundation through your United Way donations, many thanks. Because the United Way agencies do not provide the names of those who have designated the Foundation to receive their donations, it would be greatly appreciated if you could inform the Foundation office of your pledge. Thank you once again!

Leaving a living legacy is yet another way you can make a difference in the lives of those who follow. By including the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health in your life insurance policy or will, you can do just that. Every day, the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health strives to improve the lives of women through medical research. Financial assistance is essential to support this work. By making even a small gift in your will or through life insurance, the Foundation can continue to fund necessary research in Canada. And there are tax benefits to these gifts. Leaving a legacy provides a unique opportunity for you to support the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health. For further information please contact the Foundation at 1-800-561-2416 or if you have a professional advisor, then please speak with him or her about making a gift.

A gift is also a wonderful way to recognize someone who has made a difference in your life. This kind of memorial gift can be arranged. You just need to make it clear that the gift is given in memory of a particular person.

With the holiday season fast approaching you may want to consider making a donation

to the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health in honour of those on your list. You can say goodbye to crowded shopping malls while knowing you are contributing to women's health. With your donation you will receive a letter and tax receipt and those you honour receive a card in the mail informing them that you have made a donation in their name. In the past, individuals have made these donations not only to wish someone a Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah, but also to send birthday greetings and just to say "thank you".

Another and very artful way to provide your support would be through the purchase of the Foundation's greeting cards. These five generously-sized greeting cards have the original paintings of five of Canada's prominent female artists. Give them as a gift package or send them to family or friends for special occasions. A package of five assorted cards and envelopes is only \$25.



Please consider helping the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health today. For further information, you may contact the Foundation by telephone at 1-800-561-2416 or (613) 730-4192 ext. 238, by e-mail at rharris@sogc.com, on the web at www.cfwh.org, or at 780 Echo Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7.

Continuing to support up and coming researchers

During the Foundation's June Board of Directors meeting in Charlottetown, P.E.I., it was decided to increase the Annual Resident Researcher Award from \$200 to \$500 starting in the Fall of 2003. This prize is given to the resident researcher with the best research project in women's health. There are 16 recipients in all, one from each of the 16 university teaching hospitals. These recipients are chosen by each of the Ob/Gyn departments. Please be sure that your department submits the name of the lucky recipient from your university.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Changing Management of Cervical Dysplasia and Early Endometrial Cancer: Achieving a Consensus

The Old Mill
Toronto, Ont. - September 26, 2003
Tel: (416) 978-2719
Fax: (416) 971-2200
Toll-free: (888) 512-8173
E-mail: ce.med@utoronto.ca
Web Site: www.cme.utoronto.ca

Cervical Neoplasia: Evolving Concepts in Diagnosis and Management

Ramada Hotel & Convention Centre
Regina, SK - September 26-27, 2003
Info: (306) 766-4016
E-mail: sherry.roberts@rqhealth.ca

Canadian Association of Midwives - 3rd Annual Meeting & Convention

Montreal, QC - October 1-3, 2003
E-mail: admin@canadianmidwives.org
Web Site: www.canadianmidwives.org

AWHONN 14th National Conference Building Brighter Futures

Delta Meadowvale
Mississauga, Ont. - October 16-18, 2003
Info: 905-521-2100 x 75969;
dore@hhsc.ca
Registration: 519-685-8500 x 52142;
nancy.watts@hsc.on.ca

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society 49th Annual Meeting

Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria, BC
November 5-8, 2003
Info: (514) 524-9009
Fax: (514) 524-2163
E-mail: info@cfas.ca
Web site: www.cfas.ca

MIRU Conference - Pregnancy and Birth: What Is Best for Mothers and Babies?

Centre for Research in Women's Health,
Toronto, Ont. - November 28, 2003
Info: Judy Cardwell, 416-323-6501,
ext.3781
E-mail: miru@sw.ca.
Web site: www.utoronto.ca/miru

Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology XXXIV Congress

Helsinki, Finland - June 12-15, 2004
Info: www.nfog2004.com
Congress office:
Tel.: + 358 9 5840 9344
Fax: + 358 9 5840 9555
E-mail: nfog2004@congreszon.fi

6

September

2003