

Foreword by the Immediate Past President of FIGO



Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Health and Social
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Hypertension in pregnancy is a major contributor to maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity. Every year 70,000 women die and there are half a million stillbirths or neonatal deaths owing to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy – the vast majority being in the developing world. Those who survive, especially those who had preterm pre-eclampsia, face the issues of hypertensive, cerebro- and cardiovascular events in the future resulting in premature deaths. The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) have responded to this important issue by commissioning *The FIGO Textbook of Pregnancy Hypertension*. It provides an evidence-based guide to monitoring, prevention and management of this common disease that affects 5–10% of pregnant women.

Our sincere gratitude to the editors Laura Magee, Peter von Dadelszen, William Stones and Matthews Mathai – as well as to the international team of authors all of whom have first-hand clinical experience of this condition; together they have produced a book that should be immensely useful to health care personnel whatever the setting they work in. The main section of the book consists of a clinical review that covers the knowledge needed to provide the best care for women. It deals with hypertension; measurement of proteinuria; classification of hypertensive disorders; epidemiology; risk factors; diet, lifestyle and care;

fluids, drugs and transfusion; timing and mode of delivery; anaesthesia; and immediate postpartum and long-term management. This is a complete review of the subject and it incorporates the important findings from the global PRE-EMPT studies. Section 2 is devoted to the appendices and provides extensive, additional information.

This monograph on pregnancy hypertension endorsed by FIGO should be available to all health care personnel caring for pregnant mothers globally. We are grateful for the kind generosity of Paula and David Bloomer, for making this useful resource available free of charge to everyone including women, health care personnel, advocates and administrators through the free web resource – *The Global Library of Women's Medicine* (www.glowm.com), which acts as the Official Educational Platform for FIGO. I am sure this book will help to reduce the maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Arulkumaran".

Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran
Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Former President of BMA, RCOG & FIGO
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FIGO

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The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) has a longstanding commitment to initiatives devoted to the improvement of maternal morbidity and mortality – fortunately in recent years there has been some improvement in their incidence but much more urgently needs to be done. The quality of care provided to pregnant women in different locations still varies markedly and far too many women's lives are still lost that might have been saved if their carers had been better informed and better trained, which explains why effective knowledge transfer of current best practice is so important.

FIGO has placed a very high priority on improving education and training in maternal medicine and that is why I am particularly pleased to welcome this new *FIGO Textbook of Pregnancy Hypertension – an evidence-based guide to monitoring, prevention and management*. It is a landmark volume that provides a definitive clinical guide to the diagnosis and management of pre-eclampsia, one of the principal, worldwide, causes of maternal mortality. Pre-eclampsia is a condition that often seems symptomless in its earliest stages but which can develop in a surprisingly rapid, complex and

life-threatening manner if not diagnosed promptly and treated appropriately.

What makes this volume particularly important is that it incorporates many of the key findings of the PRE-EMPT global studies – a major, 7-year, multicountry programme led by Professor Peter von Dadelszen to investigate pre-eclampsia and the most effective methods of managing it both in the community and in tertiary care settings. This book draws on the studies as well as on wider research plus the best practice protocols produced by a number of leading authorities to produce a guide that is clear, specific and immediately practical. I would like to thank all the editors and authors for the work that they have undertaken to produce such a valuable aid to clinical practice and I welcome its timely and well-presented publication.

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C. N. Purandare
President of FIGO
May 2016