

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 16 February, 2009

ASSISTED CONCEPTION LEADS TO MORE CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

An international study has found an increased risk of cerebral palsy in children born after in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and other forms of assisted conception compared to children born after natural conception.

Most of the increased risk comes about because children conceived with assistance are more likely to be born prematurely, and because there is an increased risk of multiple births.

The study was led by Dorte Hvidtjørn of the Institute of Public Health, in Aarhus, Denmark. Dorte Hvidtjørn will present the team's findings at the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney this week (18-21 February 2009).

The study looked at more than half a million children born in Denmark between January 1995 and December 2003. It highlights the profound importance of birth and cerebral palsy registers. The Australian Cerebral Palsy Register was launched in 2007. The information gained from such registers can be crucial in leading to better prevention and treatment of cerebral palsy.

Dorte Hvidtjørn will present the findings at the Conference on Wednesday from 10.35am.

*****ENDS*****

MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

What: 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference (the largest of its kind in the world)
When: Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February 2009
Where: Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Presentation: Wednesday 18th February 2009
10.35am – 11.55am session (presentation time 11.07am)
Bayside 204B room

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MEDIA ACCREDITATION, ABSTRACTS OR TO OBTAIN A PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Liz Foy – General Manager, Service Development – 02 9479 7280 / 0419 405 181
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Facts about the Cerebral Palsy Institute

- Researching prevention and curative strategies for cerebral palsy
- Custodians of the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register to monitor trends
- Funding targeted cerebral palsy research through the Cerebral Palsy Institute Grants Program

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