

## **Lecture Abstract**

**Event:** Preterm Birth: The Threat in Threatened Preterm Labour

**Date:** September 22, 2022

**Time:** 17:00 – 18:30 (HKT)

**Format:** Zoom Webinar

**Moderators:** Dr. SIN Angela (Associate Consultant, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Prince of Wales Hospital) and Dr. LAM Michelle (Clinical Tutor (Honorary), Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Preterm birth remains one of the most significant challenges in obstetrics, representing a leading cause of neonatal morbidity and mortality worldwide. This FOCUS webinar addresses the critical intersection of prediction, prevention, and outcomes in the management of threatened preterm labour, bringing together a multidisciplinary panel of experts in maternal-fetal medicine, gynaecological surgery, and paediatrics. Designed for obstetricians, gynaecologists, paediatricians, midwives, nurses, and allied healthcare professionals, this session aims to enhance clinical understanding of the comprehensive care pathway for pregnancies at risk of preterm delivery.

The program is structured around three core pillars of preterm birth management, each delivered by a recognized expert in the field, followed by moderated discussion and Q&A.

### **Moderators:**

**Dr. SIN Angela** and **Dr. LAM Michelle** will co-moderate the session, guiding the discussion and facilitating interactive engagement between speakers and attendees.

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### **Agenda Item 1: Preventive Measures in Preterm Birth – Abdominal and Laparoscopic Cerclage**

#### **Dr. HUI Annie**

Consultant, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong

Dr. Hui will open the session with an in-depth exploration of cervical cerclage as a preventive strategy for preterm birth. This presentation will focus on the indications, techniques, and outcomes of both abdominal and laparoscopic cerclage approaches. Attendees will gain insights into patient selection criteria, surgical considerations, and the comparative effectiveness of these procedures in preventing recurrent preterm birth in women with cervical insufficiency or prior failed vaginal cerclage. The session will also address the role of cerclage in the context of multiple pregnancies and other complex clinical scenarios.

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### **Agenda Item 2: Accuracy in Prediction of Preterm Birth Using Fetal Fibronectin**

#### **Dr. WATSON Helena**

PhD, Women's Health Academic Division

King's College London and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, National Health Service, UK

Dr. Watson will deliver an international perspective on the role of fetal fibronectin (fFN) in predicting preterm birth. This presentation will critically evaluate the evidence base for fFN testing, exploring its sensitivity, specificity, and predictive value in both symptomatic and asymptomatic populations. Attendees will gain a nuanced understanding of how to interpret fFN results in the context of clinical presentation, the utility of the test in guiding management decisions such as admission, corticosteroid administration, and tocolysis, and the potential for over-reliance on biomarkers in clinical practice.

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### **Agenda Item 3: Paediatric Outcome in Premature Babies**

#### **Dr. FUNG Genevieve**

Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatrics

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dr. Fung will conclude the presentations with a focus on the short- and long-term outcomes of premature infants. This session will explore the spectrum of neonatal morbidities associated with preterm birth, including respiratory distress syndrome, intraventricular hemorrhage, necrotizing enterocolitis, and neurodevelopmental

impairment. The presentation will also address the evolving understanding of outcomes across gestational age strata, the importance of family-centered care in the neonatal intensive care unit, and the implications of preterm birth for long-term health and developmental follow-up.