**University of Cape Town**

**Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

**WHOLE DAY FETAL MONITORING COURSE PROGRAMME**

**March 2017**

**Intrapartum Care Study Day –a synopsis**

During this Intrapartum Care study day, Prof Phil Steer (Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics, Imperial College London, Academic Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London) will use his 45 years of fetal monitoring experience to help participants construct a rational approach to intrapartum surveillance, with particular emphasis on the use of continuous fetal heart rate and uterine contraction monitoring (cardiotocography, CTG). It will be aimed both at those early in their career, and those who would like to hone their existing skills.

The first session will explain why the rise of litigation has emphasised the role of CTG monitoring as a key component of intrapartum care. Participants will be reminded how fetal monitors work, failure to understand the technology is a common cause of errors in the interpretation of fetal heartrate recordings. We will review fetal pathophysiology, in particular how hypoxia, hypoxaemia, acidosis, and asphyxia are defined, and their interrelationships.

The second session will present a systematic approach to the analysis of fetal heart rate tracings, emphasising how to recognise artefact, and illustrating both the common and the more unusual abnormalities encountered. There will be a session to explain how clinical features of concern (in particular, meconium and pyrexia) influence CTG interpretation, and explain how changes in the fetal heartrate should be interpreted in the presence of these stressors.

After lunch there is session to discuss provided CTG's in small groups, followed by a feedback session to agree a consensus on their interpretation.

The final session after tea will cover other fetal monitoring techniques, notably the use of pH and lactate measurement, ECG ST segment analysis (STAN) and computerised CTG pattern interpretation (the INFANT system). The session will finish with a presentation on the dangers of excessive oxytocin use, followed by general discussion.