

## **Pre-Conception Health SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (PCH-SIG)**

A Special Interest Group (SIG) provides opportunities for members with common interests to share knowledge and learning opportunities, facilitate collaborative research endeavours, provide advocacy and act as a reference group for the associated committees.

### **Membership Eligibility:**

- Membership is open to any health professional who conducts research or clinical practice in the area of pre-conception health.
  
- There is no restriction on total membership.

### **Terms of Reference**

The main aim of the PCH-SIG is to promote interest, evidence based practice and collaborative research endeavours between clinicians and allied health professionals in the areas of infertility, lifestyle factors that are related to infertility, obesity and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). It is anticipated that this PCH-SIG will facilitate evidence based interventions and community and multidisciplinary partnerships. The common goal of members should be that of assisting men and women to achieve optimal health prior to, and following conception. At this stage and for the purpose of this SIG, pre-conception health is restricted to patients with infertility/sub-fertility.

### **Function:**

- Identification of models of care to address and assess lifestyle factors in fertility clinics across Australia.
- Development and/or synthesis of existing pre-conception guidelines for Australian populations specific to infertility.
- To provide clinical guidance and direction to improve pre-conception health in Australia and New Zealand.
- To provide a basis for affiliation between all professional and consumer groups involved in the delivery and receipt of pre-conception care in Australia and New Zealand.
- To provide educational opportunities for members to raise awareness of pre-conception health issues and the standard of care provided to couples seeking ART.
- To assist government and other interested parties in developing strategies relating to pre-conception health in Australia and New Zealand.
- Development of a national database of projects commensurate with the PCH-SIG mission.
- To create a forum for the discussion on the problems associated with pre-conception health for both infertile and fertile individuals.
- To facilitate an interdisciplinary approach to these problems.

- The function of the PCH-SIG is to be instrumental in assisting to: Provide a forum for similarly interested society members to develop policies and strategies consistent with the vision and objectives of the PCH-SIG.
- Encourage and facilitate in-depth analysis and discussion between members of the SIG with a particular interest within the field of pre-conception health.
- Provide an informal environment where ideas can be discussed freely and confidently until they reach a stage of development where they can be shared with the wider membership or the broader community as appropriate.
- Act as a source of expertise in the area of pre-conception health.
- Define best practice in the co-ordination and education of pre-conception health services.
- Recognize areas of research and collaborate to achieve evidence-based outcomes.
- Online support to clinicians to assist research endeavours.
- Provide regular clinical updates relating to pre-conception health issues.
- Provide input to discussions about training of, and continuing education of, pre-conception health in relation to the groups sphere of interest.

#### Participation in SIG Activity:

- The PCH-SIG will operate through face-to-face meetings held annually by the Fertility Society of Australia and/or through the use of any other appropriate means (e.g.: e-mail).
- The SIG will be led by a Convenor appointed by the group.
- The SIG administrator will take minutes of SIG meeting discussions and conclusions.
- All SIG activity will be disseminated and made available through the link on the FSA website.
- All members of the FSA, willing to abide by these terms of reference are free to participate in any PCH-SIG activity and the SIG Convenor will ensure that members of the FSA receive timely information and an invitation to participate in forthcoming PCH-SIG activities.
- To participate in the PCH-SIG individuals need to offer a particular expert contribution to the area of pre-conception health. Such participants must agree to abide by these terms of reference.
- Participants do so as individuals and any contribution they make will not be interpreted as representing the views of any organisation to which they may be affiliated unless they explicitly indicate otherwise.
- Nothing will be published, beyond SIG participants, which identify an Individual's participation, views or contribution without their explicit consent.