

**Postgraduate Research Training in Reproductive Health**  
**CENTRO ROSARINO DE ESTUDIOS PERINATALES (CREP)**  
**Course Report**



organised by

Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales (CREP)  
The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)  
The UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme for Research in Human Reproduction, Department of  
Reproductive Health and Research, Family and Community Health Cluster World Health Organization (WHO/RHR)  
The International Association of Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH)

in collaboration with

The Department of Health of the Canton of Geneva  
The Faculty of Medicine, Geneva University and  
The Geneva Medical Association

## **Background**

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) has been organizing since 1991 the postgraduate course in research methodology, reproductive biology and reproductive health in Geneva, Switzerland.

The course participants come from all around the world and represent an outstanding group of professionals from the gynaecology, obstetrics and public health area.

Since 2004, this course is being held in other 6 countries: Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Italy and Rumania, with the same characteristics from the one performed in Switzerland. The Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales (CREP) has coordinated this course in Rosario, Argentina, from July to December 2004.

## **Objectives**

- To update on relevant issues and new progress in Reproductive Health.
- To train in research methodology.
- To incorporate the necessary knowledge for the critical appraisal of the scientific evidence.
- To provide tools for identifying and solving problems in the main areas of Reproductive Health.
- To write scientific works and systematic reviews in Reproductive Health.

## **Participants**

A total of 31 participants from 3 different provinces attended the Postgraduate Course in Reproductive Health held at Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales in Rosario (See [Table 1](#) – List of participants).

## **Course lay-out**

The course was structured as fortnightly meetings of 10 hours each, on Friday and Saturday.  
Total hours: 110 hs.

## **Evaluation**

In order to obtain the certificates, participants have to meet two requirements:

- a bibliographic review on a topic of their interests, under the supervision of a tutor, including a 15 minutes' oral presentation.
- a multiple choice and true or false test (165 questions)

## **Official recognition**

The certificate is issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) (Switzerland), the International Association of Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH) and Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales (CREP).

## **Lectures**

The program included the following modules:

1. Research Methodology in Reproductive Health (45 hours):
  - Methodological issues in Reproductive Health, including: Studies design, critical appraisal, ethics, screening, research synthesis, data analysis strategies
2. Reproductive Health (64 hours):
  - Basic pathophysiological principles
  - Genetics
  - Family planning
  - Gynaecological endocrinology, infertility and menopause
  - Genital and sexually transmitted infections
  - Cancer
  - Obstetrics

The lecture schedule can be seen in [Table 2](#).

The lecturer came from the National University of Rosario, especially from the School of Medicine and Biochemistry; from CEDES (Centre for the Study of State and Society); CEMIC (Centre for Medical Education and Clinical Research); Hospital Italiano of Buenos Aires; and CREP. The program involved 9 module coordinators, 48 speakers and 23 tutors. The speakers of the course can be seen in [Table 3](#). We have to mention that they were highly recognized professionals; most of them belonging to institutions which shares link to CREP and WHO.

## **Summary**

The course was taken by 31 participants, with an average of 80.5% of attendance. We have to take into account that 42% of the participants were from other cities. Regarding the final written exams, 38.71% have obtained more than 70% of the total of 165 questions. Taking into consideration that we stated that the best exam was going to count as 100%, 90.32% of the participants have passed it. In order to assess the quality of the lectures, an anonymous survey was done among the participants after each module lectures, which revealed an average score of 3.95 out of 5. The average scores of each module can be seen in [Table 4](#).

### **Work leading to next course**

In order to improve next course, the organisers are having weekly meetings at CREP. Moreover, we are holding regular meetings with the coordinators of each module in order to discuss the pros and cons of the 2004 course. Some of the issues to be established in the next course are:

1. Change of the timetable in order to allow the participants to have a higher average of attendance.
  2. Discussing the quality of the lectures in order to ameliorate the scores given by the participants to some lecturers.
  3. Trying to get more support from sponsors to increase the number of participants from hospitals of other regions of Argentina and to improve facilities and materials of the course.
  4. Deliberating the possibility of developing a six-week full time course in 2006 addressed to participants from hospitals of Latin America.
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### **Course Director**

Dr. Guillermo Carroli

### **Coordinators**

Dr. Juan M. Nardin - Est. María E. Mackey

**Table 1. List of Participants**

<b>Name and Surname</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>City</b>
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Zanuttini Edgar	zanuttini@infovia.com.ar	Rosario

**Table 2. The lecture schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hs</b>	<b>Conference</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Module</b>
30/7/2004	14	Introduction		
	15	The gap between evidence and practice in reproductive health	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	16	Justification for the performance of a RCT	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	17:30	Eligibility criteria of participants	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	18:30	Randomization	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	19:30	Interventions. Placebos. Prognostic variables. Outcome measures.	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
31/7/2004	9	Sample size	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	10	Compliance. Adherence. Protocol deviations.	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	11	Strategies for data analysis	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
	12	Critical appraisal of a RCT.	G. Carroli	Research Methodology
13/8/2004	14	Research design	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	15	Bias	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	16	Confounders and effect-modifiers.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	17:30	Cross over studies. Cross sectional studies.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	18:30	Cohort studies	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	19:30	Analysis and interpretation of cohort studies	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
14/8/2004	9	Methodological issues in the measurement of maternal mortality and morbidity	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	10	Cochrane Collaboration	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	11	The WHO Reproductive Health Library	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	12	Question definition. Search and selection of the articles.	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
27/8/2004	14	Social Research Methodology.	S. Ramos	Gender issues
	15	Social Research Methodology.	S. Ramos	Gender issues
	16	Gender and health	M. Romero	Gender issues
	17:30	Gender and health	M. Romero	Gender issues
	18:30	Case-control studies	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	19:30	Analysis and interpretation of case-control studies	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
28/8/2004	9	Ecological studies. Epidemiological surveillance.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	10	Epidemiological studies in Reproductive Health. Infertility.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	11	Epidemiological studies in Systematic Reviews. Spontaneous abortion. Congenital diseases.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
	12	Outcomes analysis of continuous variables.	M. E. Mackey	Research Methodology
28/8/2004	14	Bioethics. History, definition, different approaches. Internacional documents.	R. Pineda	Ethics
	15	Ethics of the scientific research, from Nurenberg to Helsinski 5.	M. Sustercic	Ethics
	16	Ethics at the beginning of life. Human embryo: lights and shadows.	R. Pineda	Ethics
	17:30	Bioethics in special situations: genetics and human genome.	R. Pineda	Ethics
	18:30	Systematic reviews. Quality assessment of the includes trials.	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	19:30	Systematic reviews. Outcomes analysis.	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
24/9/2004	9	Systematic reviews	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	10	Diagnosis tests.	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	11	Screening	E. Abalos	Research Methodology
	12	Screening for obstetric events and during delivery	E. Abalos	Research Methodology

24/9/2004	14	Gametogenesis / Fertilization	A.Caille/ MJ.Munuce	Basic pathophysiological principles
	15	Implantation	M. Cabada	Basic pathophysiological principles
	16	Hypothalamo – pituitary – gonadal axis	R. Tozzini	Basic pathophysiological principles
	17:30	The menstrual cycle	C. L. Berta	Basic pathophysiological principles
	18:30	Puberty	H. Girard	Basic pathophysiological principles
	19:30	Endometriosis	E. González Fabbrizzi	Basic pathophysiological principles
25/9/2004	9	Steroid hormones/receptor interaction: mechanism of action Interacción hormonas esteroideas/receptor: mecanismo de acción	S. Ghersevich	Basic pathophysiological principles
	10	Oral contraceptives and the hypothalamo – pituitary – gonadal axis	G. Botti	Basic pathophysiological principles
	11	Polycystic ovary.	R. Tozzini	Basic pathophysiological principles
	12	Diabetes and reproduction.	A. Rodríguez Pécora	Basic pathophysiological principles
8/10/2004	14	Genetic counselling.	E. Gadow	Genetics
	15	Principles of molecular biology.		Genetics
	16	Congenital malformations.	Lic. Poletta	Genetics
	17:30	Cytogenetics.		Genetics
	18:30	Reproductive pathologies	F. Petracchi	Genetics
	19:30	Prenatal diagnosis		Genetics
9/10/2004	9	Contraceptive methods	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	10	Maternal and Child Health and fertility regulation.	E. Elizalde	Family Planning
	11	WHO Eligibility criteria	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	12	Combined oral contraception	C, Berta	Family Planning
22/10/2004	14	Slow release hormonal contraceptives: Implants, rings, hormonal IUDs.	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	15	Natural contraceptive methods	R. Pineda	Family Planning
	16	Intrauterine device (IUD)	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	17:30	Male and female barrier methods.	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	18:30	Surgical methods.	W. Barbato	Family Planning
	19:30	Emergency contraception	W. Barbato	Family Planning
23/10/2004	9	Levels and trends in contraceptive use.	J. Fontana	Family Planning
	10	Immunocontraception.	S. Mirkin	Family Planning
	11	ETS / Vaginitis / Acute endocervicitis / Definition / Diagnosis.	R. Tozzini, R. Pineda	Infections and Cancer
	12	ETS / Vaginitis / Acute endocervicitis / Therapeutic management.	R. Tozzini, R. Pineda	Infections and Cancer
23/10/2004	14	HIV and pregnancy	S. Luppó	Infections and Cancer

	15	Dual Protection	Di Monaco	Infections and Cancer
	16	HPV / Pathogenesis of the cervical cancer / Intraepithelial lesions.	S. Tatti	Infections and Cancer
	17:30	Colposcopy.	L. Paleari	Infections and Cancer
	18:30	Treatment.	S. Tatti	Infections and Cancer
	19:30	Preventive aspects of the breast and ovary cancer.	R. Tozzini	Infections and Cancer
19/11/2004	9	Infertility: therapeutic approach.	G. Botti. P. Weiss	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	10	Spontaneous and recurrent abortion: Etiopatogenesis. Diagnosis. Therapeutic approach.	H. Miechi	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	11	Infertility: Definition. Epidemiology. Factors. Prevention.	P.Perfumo/ M.Pijoan	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	12	Infertility: Diagnostic methodology.	M. I. Osta/ F. Premoli	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
19/11/2004	12:30	Teleconference to Geneva		
	14	Fertility preservation in cervix and ovary cancer.	M. Perrotta	Infections and Cancer
	15	Fertility preservation in cervix and ovary cancer.	M. Perrotta	Infections and Cancer
	16	Artificial reproductive technologies: low complexity.	V. Ventura	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	17:30	Artificial reproductive technologies: In vitro fertilization and others.	C. Morente	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	18:30	Menstrual cycle disturbances: Physiopathology. Diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.	A. R. Badano	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	19:30	Menopause: Definition. Physiopathology. Symptomatology. Benefits and risks.	C. Vieder	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
20/11/2004	9	Menopause: most frequent pathologies. Prevention and early detection.	A. Javkin	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	10	Menopause: Osteoporosis. Definition. Risk factors. Diagnosis. Prevention. Treatment.	E. Delgado	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	11	Menopause: Hormonal treatment.	E. Delgado	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
	12	Menopause: Non hormonal treatment.	E. Delgado	Gynaec. endocrinology, infertility, and menopause
20/11/2004	14	Prematurity and prelabour rupture of membranas.	M. Sebastiani	Obstetrics
	15	Prematurity and uteroinhibition.	L. Otaño	Obstetrics
	16	Caesarean section: ¿necessary or unnecessary?	M. Sebastiani	Obstetrics
	17:30	Fetal growth retardation.	L. Otaño	Obstetrics
	18:30	Postpartum haemorrhage: Prevention and treatment.	J. M. Nardin	Obstetrics
	19:30	WHO Antenatal Care Program.	J. M. Nardin	Obstetrics
17/12/2004	9	Obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia.	M. Traglia	Obstetrics
	10	Analgesia and anaesthesia in Gynaecological Surgery.	M. Traglia	Obstetrics
	11	Preeclampsia / eclampsia	E. Abalos	Obstetrics
	12	Nutritional interventions and perinatal outcomes.	E. Abalos	Obstetrics
18/12/2004	14	Written exam		

**Table 3. Course speakers**

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
Abalos Edgardo, MD	Vice-director, Centro Rosarino de Estudios Perinatales (CREP)	<a href="mailto:edgardoabalos@crep.com.ar">edgardoabalos@crep.com.ar</a>
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Barbato Walter, MD, PhD	Professor in Obstetrics, School of Medicine, National University of Rosario. Human Reproduction and Family Planning Department.	<a href="mailto:wbarbato@masterwork.com.ar">wbarbato@masterwork.com.ar</a>
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Botti Gustavo, MD	Member of the Gynaecology Department, "Sanatorio Británico". Director of Reprolab – Reproduction Biology. Head of the Infertility and Family Planning Centre of the Gynaecology Professorship, National University of Rosario.	<a href="mailto:bottig@hotmail.com">bottig@hotmail.com</a>
Cabada Marcelo, MD, PhD	Professor of the Biology Professorship, Biochemistry and Pharmacy School, National University of Rosario. Researcher, CONICET (National Council of Scientific and Technical Researches).	
Caille Adriana, MD	Lecturer and Researcher, Laboratory of Reproductive Studies, Clinical Biochemistry and Physiopathology Professorship, Biochemistry and Pharmacy School, National University of Rosario.	
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Delgado Ernesto, MD	Gynaecology Professor, National University of Rosario. Head of Climacteric Department, "Dr. Roque Sáenz Peña" Hospital. Head of the Bone Densitometry Department, Gamma Institute of Rosario.	<a href="mailto:e-delgado@arnet.com.ar">e-delgado@arnet.com.ar</a>
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Elizalde Eduardo, MD	Obstetrics Department, National University of Rosario.	
Fontana Jorge	International Division, Tecnofarma S.A. Manager, Latin America Gynaecology-Urology Line. Member of the Board of Directors, Argentine Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health.	<a href="mailto:jfontana@office.tecnofarma.com.ar">jfontana@office.tecnofarma.com.ar</a>
Gadow Enrique, MD, Prof.	Head of the Genetics Unit, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, and Research Director, CEMIC (Centre for Medical Education and Clinical Research).	<a href="mailto:egadow@cemic.edu.ar">egadow@cemic.edu.ar</a>
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Girard Héctor, MD	Head of the Adolescence Department, Gynaecology Professorship, School of Medicine, National University of Rosario.	
González F. Eduardo	Authorized Professor, University of Buenos Aires.	<a href="mailto:egf@imagem.com.ar">egf@imagem.com.ar</a>
Javkin Adriana, MD	Gynaecologist.	<a href="mailto:ajavkin@gesinco.com.ar">ajavkin@gesinco.com.ar</a>
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Poletta Fernando (Lic.)	Bachelor of Genetics. ECLAMC (Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations). Researcher, Research Unit, CEMIC (Centre for Medical Education and Clinical Research). Postgraduate Grant Holder CONICET (National Council of Scientific and Technical Researches).	<a href="mailto:fpoletta@hotmail.com">fpoletta@hotmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:poletta@eclamc.org">poletta@eclamc.org</a>
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Ramos Silvina, MD	Director and Researcher, CEDES (Centre for the Study of State and Society).	<a href="mailto:arcoiris@cedes.org">arcoiris@cedes.org</a>
Rodríguez Pecora Aníbal, MD	Endocrinologist. Head of the Andrology Department. Endocrinology Professorship, School of Medicine, National University of Rosario.	
Romero Mariana, MD	Associate Researcher, CEDES (Centre for the Study of State and Society) and CONICET (National Council of Scientific and Technical Researches).	<a href="mailto:mromero@cedes.org">mromero@cedes.org</a>
Sebastiani Mario, MD	Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires. Member, SOGIBA (Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Buenos Aires) and ASAPER (Argentine Association of Perinatology). Vice President, (AAGOP) Argentine Association of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Founding Member, Bioethics Committee of the Italian Hospital of Buenos Aires.	<a href="mailto:mario.sebastiani@hospitalitaliano.org.ar">mario.sebastiani@hospitalitaliano.org.ar</a>
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Ventura Viviana, MD	PROAR (Rosario Assisted Reproduction Program)	
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**Table 4. Average score of each module**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Average score (1-5)</b>
Research Methodology	M. E. Mackey	4.61
Gender Issues	M. Romero	3.07
Ethics	R. Pineda	3.58
Basic pathophysiological principles	M. J. Munuce	4.04
Genetics	E. Gadow	3.93
Family planning	W. Barbato	3.82
Infections and Cancer	R. Tozzini	4.45
Gynaecological endocrinology, infertility, and menopause	P. Figueroa Casas	3.70
Obstetrics	E. Abalos	4.34