



Tribute to Dr. Maureen E. Andrew

Dr. Maureen Andrew was asked to organize the session on neonatal thrombosis and, as we have come to expect from Maureen, she put together a stellar session. She was also meant to chair this session; however, tragically Maureen

Andrew passed away suddenly on August 28, 2001 at the age of 48.

I would like to take a few minutes to remember Maureen with you, her colleagues. Throughout the 1980s Maureen defined the developmental hemostatic system throughout the newborn period and childhood, showing the hematology world that children are not little adults. She delineated many of the unique and very critical physiologic and pathophysiological mechanisms involved in developmental hemostasis. In the 1990s, in her clinical research, she was the first to identify a new iatrogenic disease, thrombosis in pediatric patients. I don't know how many times clinicians, health care workers and lay people turned to her in bewilderment saying, "You mean kids get clots?????" By establishing a Canadian Registry of Paediatric Thrombosis, Maureen carefully, systematically charted the epidemiology of this disease. Using the same rigor and care, she set out on the next step, looking at optimum management and prevention of thrombotic events in pediatric patients. The difficulties in running appropriate anticoagulant trials in children are monumental. Children with clots are seriously ill, have multiple complicating risk factors, and are difficult to manage. Any anticoagulant clinical trial in children requires multicenter, multinational collaboration. All of these factors provide huge challenges in the design and implementation of trials, and until recently these studies had not been performed in a rigorous, careful way. However, Maureen was so brilliant and so dedicated she met these challenges. Results: the first four randomized controlled trials in anticoagulant therapies in pediatrics were initiated and completed by Maureen's group.

Not satisfied that her careful, thorough research was enough to help children with thrombosis, Maureen recognized an acute, immediate need for information about the care of children with clots. To this end, she established the 1-800-NO-CLOTS

service. Maureen carried a pager 24 hours a day 7 days a week and answered questions from clinicians from all across North America and the world. She received no compensation for her time, and the resources for running the service were absorbed by the Paediatric Thrombophilia program. Maureen's belief was that all children should have access to her expertise irrespective of their financial situation. In the last few years Maureen was taking on average 10 calls a day—an enormous time commitment from an already extraordinarily stretched time schedule.

One of Maureen's visions for the future was to have the 1-800-NO-CLOTS service rendered obsolete. In endeavoring to achieve this goal she used multiple approaches. She gave talks all over the world and established an extensive education system including protocol booklets for clinicians and pamphlets for parents and children. Maureen was a prolific writer of book chapters; she would painstakingly review all of the literature and then provide an accessible, crystal clear synopsis. Maureen was also writing a series of books on pediatric thrombophilia; the first book, *Thromboembolic Complications During Infancy and Childhood*, was published last year.

However, Maureen's passion and most enduring strength was teaching and mentoring. She was the most selfless academic I have ever met in my long years of academic associations. Maureen loved to watch people grow into independent investigators and she stepped aside to allow that to occur. She took no ownership of any of her work, always acknowledging others around her. Maureen had an uncanny ability to quickly determine a person's strengths and how best to utilize those strengths. She motivated and inspired everyone she met. As a mentor, no one could compete with her—she was simply the best. Precisely because of Maureen's superb mentoring her vision can and will be carried out by those people who worked with her. Maureen's dedication and passion in the area of pediatric thrombophilia has been instilled into us all. The privilege of having known Maureen will give us the strength we need to accomplish the task.

Quantification of the measure of the loss of Maureen as outstanding scientist, colleague, mentor and friend is incalculable. Quantification of the loss of Maureen as wife and mother is incomprehensible. Therefore, we would like to dedicate the session on neonatal thrombosis to Maureen's family: Hugh, Michele, Robbie and AJ.

Dr. Anthony Chan