

Finding Solutions to Pregnancy Problems.

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Stillbirth occurs in 1/200 pregnancies in the UK, a rate that has not changed for over 20 years, and which translates to around 4000 babies dying each year. At the present time the obstetrician has no method of determining exactly which pregnancies are at risk of stillbirth. In about 50% of cases the cause of stillbirth is fetal growth restriction (FGR), the baby not growing as it should in the uterus. Underlying FGR and stillbirth is a placenta that is not functioning correctly, i.e., it is dysfunctional. Professor Sibley's research, and the main topic of this presentation, is work in the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre to understand better how the placenta works and discover what goes wrong when it becomes dysfunctional. He will also describe how this information is being used to develop new tools to diagnose the dysfunctional placenta and to find ways to treat it and so prevent FGR and stillbirth.

Colin Sibley has been on the academic staff of the University of Manchester since 1982, and was appointed to a personal chair in 1997. In 2001 he was appointed Research Dean in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

Colin has published over 160 peer-reviewed papers, currently holds several major grants from the Medical Research Council, The Wellcome Trust, Department of Health and other AMRC charities, and leads his own group of 20 researchers, and over 70 scientists and support staff.