

# History of Annual Workshops on Surfactant Replacement



*Since the first official Workshop was held in Amsterdam in May 1986, the 2005 meeting in Belfast will mark the 20th anniversary of these annual scientific meetings. The common theme for all these International Workshops on Surfactant Replacement has been the study of Curosurf from bench to bedside and beyond. The history of Curosurf has been covered in other publications [1,2] but I will briefly review it here.*

## **History of Curosurf**

*Curosurf was first developed in the early 1980s by Tore Curstedt and Bengt Robertson whose surnames (first 2 letters of each) combined to provide its name [3]. In 1983, a pilot trial of Curosurf to treat severe respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) was begun and this was published in 1987 [4]. Prior to this publication the first randomised controlled trial of Curosurf to treat severe RDS was planned in late 1984 when I visited Stockholm to work in Bengt Robertson's laboratory. The protocol of the study [5] was written out long hand on a sheet of paper to be refined later. The plan was to recruit other centres, in addition to Stockholm and Belfast, and soon Amsterdam, Lund, Groningen, Paris and Parma were to join, followed a little later by Gottingen. About 12 months after the start of the study we had our first Workshop with about 20 delegates to discuss progress and the meeting was held in Amsterdam in 1986, organised by Janna Koppe. From these rather humble beginnings there was an almost unbelievable growth in our membership and this was reflected in the number of studies involving Curosurf; some 1400 are listed in the bibliography from 1985 to 2002 [6].*

*The purpose of this history of the Annual Surfactant Workshops is to remind us all about how our collaborative research developed, how we formed a cohesive group (sometimes called a family) to answer a number of important scientific and clinical questions and also how we enjoyed each others' company. This booklet contains accounts and reminiscences of the various annual meetings and is illustrated with photographs to show both the scientific and social aspects.*