

# Having a Baby in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

RCPI Public Meeting Series  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008

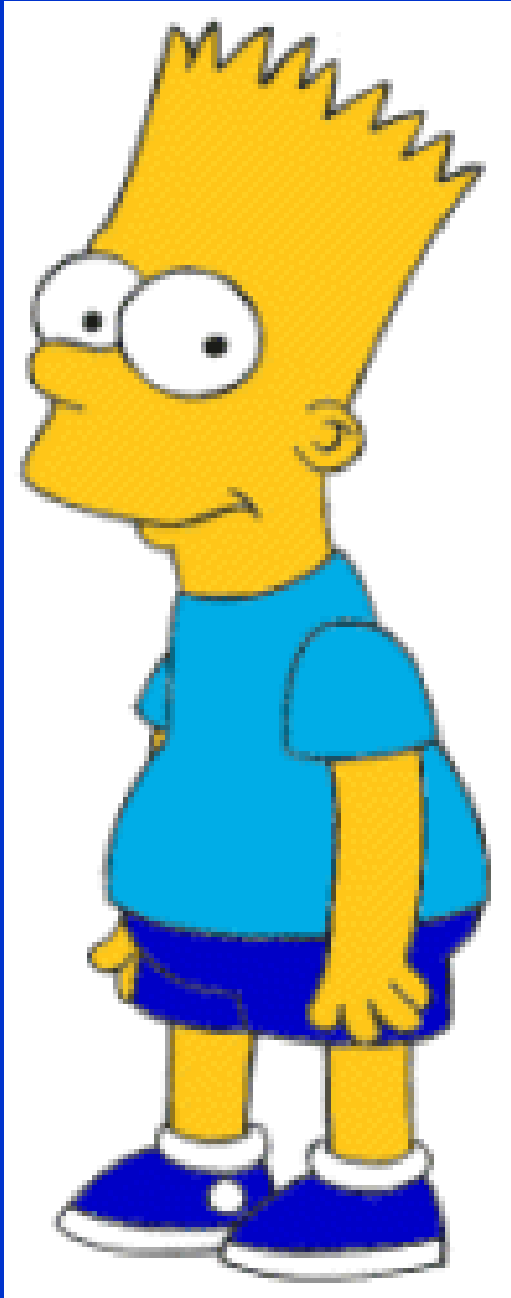
# Safety of Mother and Baby in Pregnancy and Childbirth

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GO FOR IT,  
DUDE !!

# Privilege of care in pregnancy and Childbirth

- Life- changing event
- Deeply personal
- Invariably happy and healthy
- Life-long memories
- Life-long effects
  
- Delivering Ireland's future generation

# Points for Discussion

- Ireland's track record
- Reasons for good results
- General communication issues
- What if things go wrong
- Risk management
- The Future



# Normal outcome for baby in 2008

- Overwhelming odds of a very healthy outcome
- 99%+ survival of baby
- 5% born preterm (<37 weeks); 1% <30 weeks
- 2% have a minor physical abnormality
- 2% have a major physical abnormality
- 2 per 1000 full-term normally-formed babies will develop cerebral palsy

# Perinatal Mortality

Irish statistics 2003

8.6 per 1000 births

Rotunda statistics 2006

8.6 per 1000 births

4.4 per 1000

when corrected

# Cerebral Palsy

- Major improvements in neonatal intensive care in last 25 years
- More very premature survivors with increased CP
- Rate unchanged in last 50 years in full-term babies
  - 70-75% due to antenatal event
  - 10-15% due to labour or birth-related event
  - 10-15% due to events in the neonatal period

# Maternal Mortality

- Rare event – thankfully
- Reportable to Coroner
- Ireland has one of the lowest rates in the world
- Testimony of staff commitment & high standards
- Data not perfect
  
- Need to look at 'near-misses' to learn lessons

# Severe Maternal Morbidity

- Caesarean hysterectomy
- Massive haemorrhage (>5 units blood transfusion)
- Pulmonary embolus
- Need to transfer to ICU
- Rupture of the uterus
- Eclampsia
  
- Others

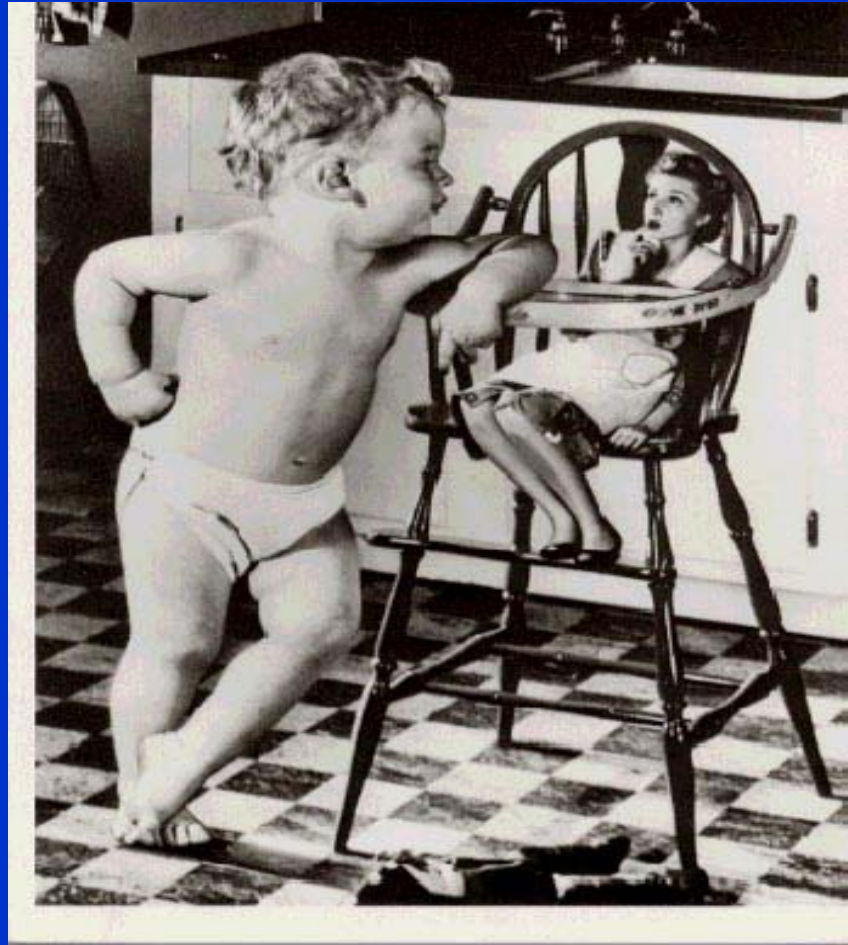
# Severe Maternal Morbidity

- Prospectively collected since 2002 (3 Dublin Mat hosps)
- 20 cases of 8036 pregnancies (incidence of 0.25%)
- Work acknowledged at International meetings
- Predictability – risk factor assessment
- All units should report
- 'Great saves' rather than 'near-misses'

# Reasons for good results

- Strong record in training and education
- Weekly/monthly audit meetings
- Hospital clinical reports (first Rotunda report 1848)
- Very strong clinical research focus
- Willingness to learn lessons

# Patient's perspective



# Abnormal outcome or problem

- Empathy and communication crucial
- What is the problem?
- Why did it happen?
- Why did it happen to me?
- What are we going to do about it?
- Will there be any long-term issues?
- Could it happen again?

# Abnormal outcome or problem

In tandem with appropriate medical management

- Debriefing early
- Clear communication (non-medical)
- Empathy
- Documentation
- Appropriate follow-up and explain again
- Leave no unanswered questions

# Risk Management – Patient Safety

- Good clinical governance
- Senior staff input and leadership
- Research and audit
- Training and education
- Staff feedback
- Continuous professional development
- Retraining/revalidation if required
- Review of critical incidents
  
- LEARN LESSONS

# Risk Management – Patient Safety

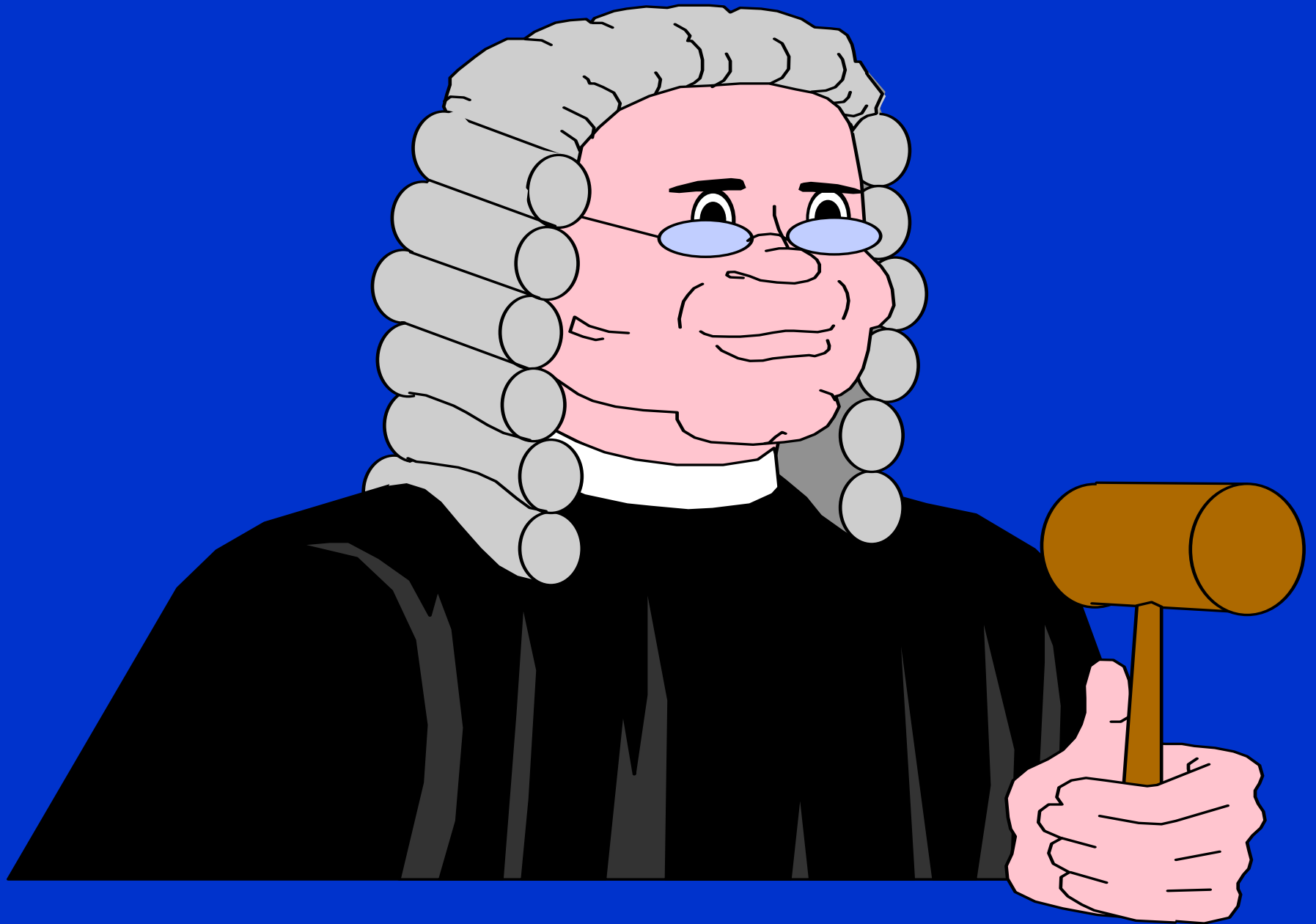
- ‘First, do no harm...’
- WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety
- Pilot in Rotunda in 2008

# Litigation

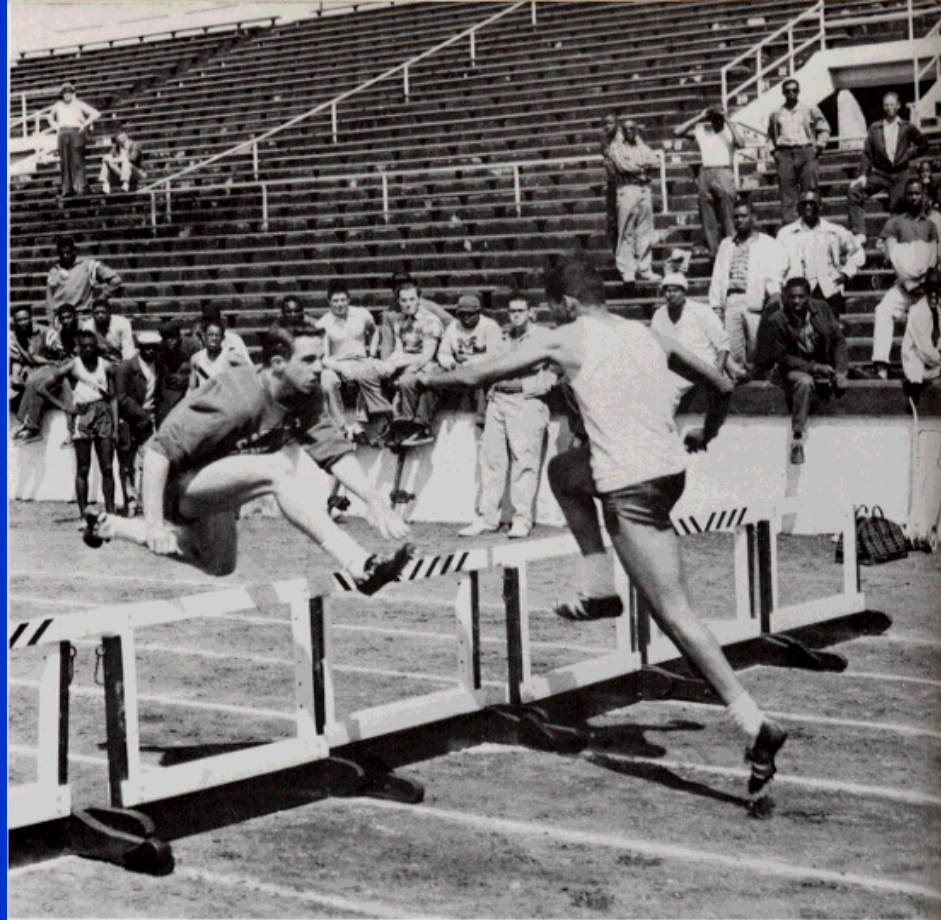


# No unanswered questions

- Empathy and communication crucial
- What is the problem?
- Why did it happen?
- Why did it happen to me?
- What are we going to do about it?
- Will there be any long-term issues?
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# Future Directions



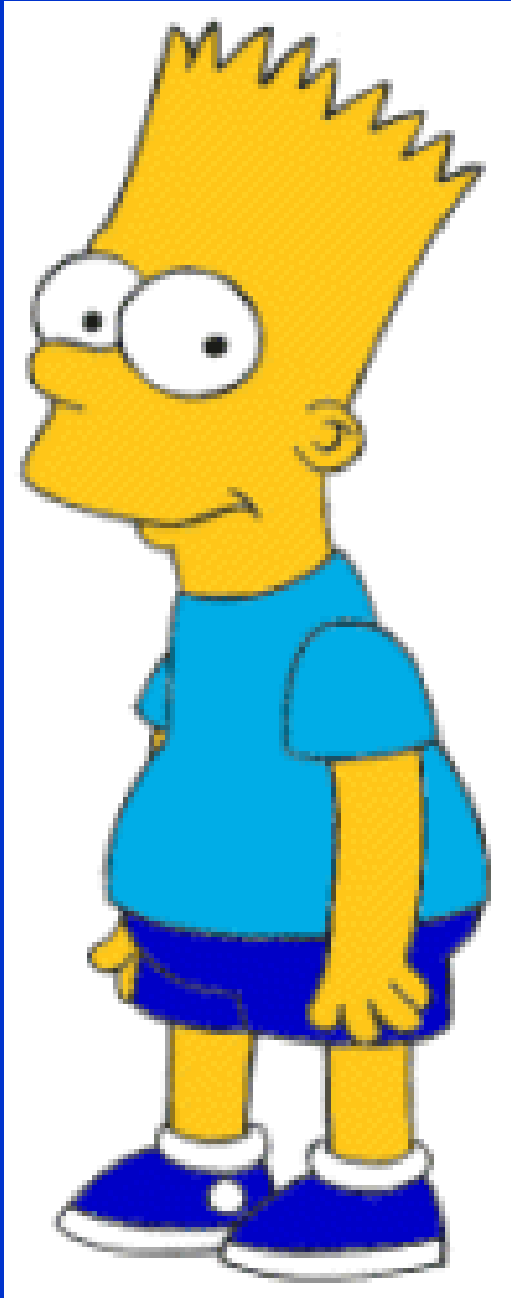
One of them must be going the wrong way, right? Wrong! This Michigan high school race is the 480-yard shuttle hurdles and each team has four runners. Dick Shenden of Catholic Central (left) is beginning the fourth and final lap while Harrison Baker of University of Detroit High is finishing the third and still has to tag his anchor runner who will then start in pursuit of Shenden. Get it?

*Taking It All in Stride*

Better nothing's said at all  
about this pushover.

# The Future

- Safety results and outcomes very good
  - Should not rest on our laurels
  - Positive experience not all about 'normal' outcome
  - Quality of service very important – patient experience
- 
- Constantly remind ourselves – we are delivering the future generation





Thank you

