In this, our last issue for 2020, our editorial team take the opportunity to reflect on several important milestones. This year marks the 40th anniversary of *Prenatal Diagnosis*, the official journal of the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis (ISPD). For this edition, our editor-in-chief Diana Bianchi has performed a fascinating analysis of the trends in publication topics over the life of the journal.1 This comprehensive study illustrates how the scope of our field has evolved, from the early predominance of cytogenetics, congenital anomalies and fetal imaging, to the more recent advances in molecular genetics and noninvasive prenatal testing (NIPT). This study, based on decade-by-decade analysis of standardized Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms, also reveals how the pace of change in our field has exceeded the capacity of the MeSH vocabulary to keep up. It is hard to believe that it was not until 2020 that a dedicated MeSH term for ‘NIPT’ was included in the Medline indexing system, marking a key milestone in medical literature.

Ten years ago, we invited leaders to make ‘horizon-gazing’ predictions for 2020 and published them as a series in our 30th anniversary issue.2-6 With the great advantage of hindsight, our editors now revisit their predictions on fetal therapy, noninvasive prenatal diagnosis, prenatal cytogenetics, invasive prenatal procedures, and fetal imaging to see if the science has lived up to expectations.7 Needless to say, while not all predictions have been borne out in full, the overall progress in our field over the past 10 years is impressive and points to an incredibly exciting decade to come.
Perinatal infections in 2020

The special theme for this edition could only be perinatal infections. The year of the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the impact of globalization and the importance of our relationship with all living things. In this issue, we have brought together invited commentaries and reviews on the COVID-19 and other infectious diseases that have importance for prenatal care. Throughout the year we brought you rapid online access to papers on the pandemic, including one of the earliest case reports of a maternal death from Iraq, and comprehensive scientific reviews on coronaviruses in pregnancy and transplacental viral infections including SARS-CoV2.

Of course, there are also secondary impacts of the pandemic, including changing the way we deliver prenatal care such as using telehealth for genetic counselling. Other prenatal services do not lend themselves to remote models – world leaders in fetal surgery provide our readership with their deliberations on the sustainability of fetal therapy programs that are resource intensive and entail high exposure risks during the pandemic.

And of course, we were all greatly disappointed that the annual ISPD congress in Montreal, along with many other scientific meetings, were cancelled this year. The ongoing restrictions on travel and large gatherings mean that international professional societies need to adapt quickly and reach out to their membership in new and innovative ways. We publish an invited commentary from Louise Wilkins-Haug, the outgoing president of ISPD, and Joris Veltman, from the European Society of Human Genetics, to comment on their visions for the future of international societies in the COVID-19 era.

Other infections that have been with us for years, decades or even centuries, continue to play a major role in pregnancy outcomes today. In this issue, the authors who were instrumental in alerting the world to the devastating impacts of Zika virus on fetal brain development summarize the latest on obstetric and perinatal outcomes of congenital Zika virus syndrome. We also include two articles on congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV), the most common perinatal infection and the potentially most preventable cause of sensorineural deafness and cerebral palsy. We asked experts to give us their approach to counselling couples at risk of cCMV, and routine serological screening for CMV, which become even more topical in light of new data on antiviral therapy. We also publish the latest on congenital toxoplasmosis, including a large case series gathered from 30 fetal medicine centres across France, and a review of pharmacotherapy from Mandelbrot. We conclude the issue with reviews on other important infections in pregnancy, including HIV, syphilis, and parvovirus B19.


Our 40th anniversary is a bittersweet occasion. Not only is it a celebration of another decade for Prenatal Diagnosis, but the end of an era, as Diana steps down as Editor-in-Chief. Certainly Prof. Charles Rodeck, the previous editor-in-chief, picked his successor wisely: Diana’s exceptional qualities as a scholar, scientist, innovator and leader have been evident throughout her distinguished career, which included two terms as president of ISPD (2006-2010) and the ISPD Pioneer award in 2019. The title of her pioneer award lecture delivered at our annual congress in Singapore was “The Many Joys of Being a Connector” – this title sums up both her incredible qualities as a colleague, collaborator, mentor and friend and her unremitting enthusiasm and positivity. (Figure 1) Her departure from the journal is not a sign of stepping back from leadership roles – on the contrary, Diana holds enormous responsibilities as the director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development. It is her
commitment to this role that has led to her hand over leadership of the journal as it enters its fifth decade (Figure 2).

She leaves behind a huge legacy. The Aims and Scope of the journal have been updated to better fit the contemporary mission of Prenatal Diagnosis, namely to publish the highest quality research at the intersection of molecular biology and genetics with prenatal care and therapy. Diana always has her finger firmly on the pulse of the discipline, the new and momentous technological developments, with a focus on maintaining a global reach. During Diana’s tenure, the impact and visibility of the journal increased progressively, both in terms of Impact Factor, as well as other important metrics, such as Altmetric score and article downloads.

On a more personal side, working alongside Diana as Associate Editors was both an honor and a pleasure. We all looked forward to our annual editors meeting: from the beginning of her term she established a camaraderie that facilitated the free flow of ideas; we would reach the end of an incredibly full productive day without the expected fatigue. And she would always make sure we dedicated time to relax, enjoy each other’s company and celebrate after a long day of work on the journal! (Figure 3)

**Lyn Chitty, Editor-in-Chief 2021-**

We are thrilled that Lyn Chitty, incoming president of ISPD and longstanding associate editor of Prenatal Diagnosis, will now take the Editor-in-Chief baton from Diana.(Figure 4) As Professor of Genetics and Fetal Medicine at University College London and a global leader in prenatal diagnosis, she is already well-known to our readership and the ISPD community. Having published extensively on a range of subjects, from fetal ultrasound, to cell-free DNA for the screening and diagnosis of fetal conditions, she has first-hand knowledge of the hottest topics in our field, as well as the needs of researchers submitting their output to our journal. We look forward to the next chapter in the evolution of the journal and ISPD with Lyn at the helm.

**Thank you to our peer reviewers, authors and readership**

This year has been exceptionally challenging for all of us – as private individuals, health care professionals and global citizens of the research and clinical communities. We thank all our authors, reviewers and readers for their support for the journal’s work during the pandemic. In particular, we thank our peer reviewers who have continued to lend us their time and expertise despite the huge increases in clinical and administrative workload created by the pandemic. We hope that you enjoy the contents of this edition of Prenatal Diagnosis, and that it inspires you to connect with the ISPD community as you continue your important work caring for pregnant women and the world’s next generation.

**References**

1. Lu YL, Bianchi D. Trends in Prenatal Diagnosis: An analysis of forty years of Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms in publications. Prenat Diagn. Accepted Author Manuscript.
7. Chitty et al. TBA I want input from editors for title – still awaiting Brynns contribution
Figure 1. Prenatal Diagnosis Editors annual meeting, London, UK 2019.
From left to right Amanda McLean-Inglis, Alessandro Ghidini, Lyn Chitty, Diana Bianchi, Jan Deprest, Lisa Hui, Brynn Levy, Tim van Mieghem.

Figure 2. Diana Bianchi advocates for women and children’s health research before the House Appropriations Committee in her role as director of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Pictured here (from left to right) with Anthony Fauci, Norman Sharpless and Francis Collins. Image source C-Span Twitter feed, March 5, 2020.
Figure 3. Playing indoor boule with friends after the Prenatal Diagnosis Editors annual meeting, Bethesda, USA 2018.

Figure 4. Diana Bianchi and Lyn Chitty, International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis conference, Antwerp Belgium 2018.