

Dr. John R. Higgins

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
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Professor John Higgins is from Co. Tyrone. He graduated from the medical school of Trinity College Dublin in 1988. He trained initially in Internal Medicine (MRCPI 1991). He commenced clinical and academic training in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Rotunda Hospital and the TCD Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology led by Professor John Bonnar (MRCOG 1996, MD 1996). He then undertook a fellowship at the University of Melbourne, Perinatal Research Centre at the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne. He was appointed Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne and Consultant Obstetrician & Gynecologist in the Mercy Hospital for Women in 2000. His ongoing clinical and research interests remain in the areas he explored during this period – High Risk Pregnancy, Thrombophilia, and Haemostatic disturbances in pregnancy. He was awarded the Blair-Bell Lectureship 1999 by the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists and the Ella MacKnight Memorial Lectureship 2000 by the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. He returned to Ireland to take up the UCC Chair in Obstetrics & Gynecology in 2001. At the same time, he took on the clinical leadership of the Maternity Services in Cork; a post he held until 2009 when he took up the post of Director of Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital Services in Cork & Kerry.

Dr. John Higgins has deep interest in organizational reform and change management. He gained unique experience from leading the amalgamation of three maternity hospitals to form the new state-of-the art Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH). Working closely with his colleagues, he has overseen the significant expansion of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and the development of the Anu Research Centre at CUMH. He is strongly committed to the integration of the delivery of clinical care with the teaching, training, research and innovation agendas. In April 2011 he was appointed Head of the College of Medicine and Health in University College Cork.

QUALIFICATIONS

1988 MB, BCh, BAO Trinity College Dublin
1991 MRCPI RCPI
1996 MRCOG Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
1996 MD Trinity College Dublin
2000 FRANZCOG Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Australia and New Zealand
2002 FRCPI Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

2010 FRCOG Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

PRESENT POSITION

2011-Present Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Head of the College of Medicine & Health, University College Cork, Cork

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2001- 2011 Head of Department and Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology,
2000 - 2001 University College Cork
Senior Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Melbourne
1997– 2000 Fellow in Perinatal Medicine, Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne
1995 – 1996 Registrar in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Rotunda and Mater Hospitals

RESEARCH INTERESTS: High Risk Pregnancy, Haemostasis in Human Pregnancy, Use of Heparins in Pregnancy

PUBLICATIONS: 50+

NO. OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETED: 3 MD, 1 PhD, 1 MSc; 2 MD, 1 PhD ongoing

AWARDS/HONOURS

1998 Andrew Phippard Memorial Young Investigator Award
1999 William Blair-Bell Memorial Lectureship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
2000 Thalia Roche Demonstrator, Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne
2001 Ella MacKnight Memorial Lecturer, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

MEMBERSHIP OF RELEVANT COMMITTEES/ EDITORIAL BOARDS

Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Gynaecological Visiting Society of Great Britain & Ireland, International Society of the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy, Obstetrics Medicine Group of Australia

GRANTS AWARDED

Co-Principal Investigator – HRB – Ireland National Obstetrical Ultrasound Consortium (Perinatal Ireland) 2006-2010, total €4.1 – €201,509.00 to University College Cork
Co-Principal Investigator - The Efficacy of Vitamin D as a functional food ingredient for disease prevention during the life cycle – Department of Agriculture - €750,000, 2007-2010
Co-Principal Investigator - SFI ETS Walton Award, Walton Visiting Professorship - €54,651, 2009

RECENT RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

1. Kent EM, Breathnach FM, Gillan JE, McAuliffe FM, Geary MP, Daly S, Higgins JR, Dornan J, Morrison JJ, Burke G, Higgins S, Carroll S, Dicker P, Manning F, Malone FD. Placental cord insertion and birth weight discordance in twin pregnancies: results of the national prospective ESPRiT Study. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2011 Jun 25. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 21864823
2. Breathnach FM, McAuliffe FM, Geary M, Daly S, Higgins JR, Dornan J, Morrison JJ, Burke G, Higgins S, Dicker P, Manning F, Carroll S, Malone FD; Perinatal Ireland Research Consortium. Prediction of safe and successful vaginal twin birth. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2011 May 27. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 21784400
3. Ismail SK, Higgins JR. Hemostasis in pre-eclampsia. *Semin Thromb Hemost.* 2011 Mar;37(2):111-7. Epub 2011 Mar 2. Review. PubMed PMID: 21370210
4. Said JM, Ignjatovic V, Monagle PT, Walker SP, Higgins JR, Brennecke SP. Altered reference ranges for protein C and protein S during early pregnancy: Implications for the diagnosis of protein C and protein S deficiency during pregnancy. *Thromb Haemost.* 2010 May;103(5):984-8. Epub 2010 Feb 19. PubMed PMID: 20174758
5. Said JM, Higgins JR, Moses EK, Walker SP, Borg AJ, Monagle PT, Brennecke SP. Inherited thrombophilia polymorphisms and pregnancy outcomes in nulliparous women. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2010 Jan;115(1):5-13. PubMed PMID: 20027027
6. Murray DM, O'Riordan MN, Horgan R, Boylan G, Higgins JR, Ryan CA. Fetal heart rate patterns in neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy: relationship with early cerebral activity and neurodevelopmental outcome. *Am J Perinatol.* 2009 Sep;26(8):605-12. Epub 2009 Apr 27. PubMed PMID: 19399706
7. Said JM, Brennecke SP, Moses EK, Walker SP, Monagle PT, Campbell J, Bryant VJ, Borg AJ, Higgins JR. The prevalence of inherited thrombophilic polymorphisms in an asymptomatic Australian antenatal population. *Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol.* 2008 Dec;48(6):536-41. PubMed PMID: 19133039
8. O'Riordan MN, Kiely M, Higgins JR, Cashman KD. Prevalence of suboptimal vitamin D status during pregnancy. *Ir Med J.* 2008 Sep;101(8):240, 242-3. PubMed PMID: 18990953
9. Higgins JR, Quinlivan EP, McPartlin J, Scott JM, Weir DG, Darling MR. The relationship between increased folate catabolism and the increased requirement for folate in pregnancy. *BJOG.* 2000 Sep;107(9):1149-54. PubMed PMID: 11002960
10. O'Riordan MN, Higgins JR. Haemostasis in normal and abnormal pregnancy. *Best Pract Res Clin Obstet Gynaecol.* 2003 Jun;17(3):385-96. Review. PubMed PMID: 12787533