



## Summer 2004 Newsletter

2 Brattle Square, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617-349-0040  
Fax: 617-349-0041

[www.ibisreproductivehealth.org](http://www.ibisreproductivehealth.org)  
[admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org)

---

Welcome to the first official newsletter of Ibis Reproductive Health! This quarterly newsletter will include updates about the organization, recent staff publications, Ibis projects currently underway, relevant issues in the news, job announcements, and other items. If you would rather not receive our newsletter, please contact us at [admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org) and we will remove your name from our list immediately.

---

### Ibis Reproductive Health Founder, Charlotte Ellertson

We announce with much sadness that Charlotte Ellertson, Ibis' founder and former President, passed away on March 21, 2004 after a year long battle with breast cancer.

Charlotte was a wonderful friend, mentor, and colleague. Her energy and enthusiasm for our work was infectious and she inspired us with her unique insight, hard work, and intellect. We hope to honor Charlotte by continuing the work that was so important to her. We can think of no greater tribute than to further her vision of a world where women and men have healthier reproductive lives characterized by dignity and choice. Charlotte will be greatly missed.

Kelly Blanchard will serve as Ibis' Acting President. Kelly established and manages Ibis' Johannesburg office. She will work closely with Ibis' Senior Management Team (Kate Miller, Senior Associate, and Laurel Morrison, Director of Finance and Administration) and is currently splitting her time between the Cambridge and Johannesburg offices.

Ibis' Board of Directors has established a fund in Charlotte's memory, which will be used to further Ibis' mission of improving reproductive health, choices, and autonomy worldwide. For more information, please email us at [admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org) or visit Ibis' website: [www.ibisreproductivehealth.org](http://www.ibisreproductivehealth.org).

---

### Article Clarifies Relationship Between Oral Contraception and Cervical Cancer

An Ibis-led article published in this month's *Contraception* ([Oral contraceptives and cervical cancer: a critique of a recent review](#). *Contraception* 2004; 69:347-51) seeks to clarify what we can infer from available evidence on the relationship between oral contraception (OC) and cervical cancer. This article is a comment on an earlier publication by Smith *et al.* (Cervical cancer and use of hormonal contraceptives: a systematic review. *Lancet* 2003; 361: 1159-67).

Smith *et al.* reviewed 21 studies but did not specifically discuss possible behavioral or biological route is identified, Smith *et al.* conclude that "the

risk of cervical cancer increases with increasing relative routes of causation. In spite of the fact that no causal duration of oral contraceptive use."

Authors Kate Miller and Kelly Blanchard (Ibis Reproductive Health) and Paul Blumenthal (Johns Hopkins University) caution against assigning any causal relationship between OCs and cervical cancer given the evidence on the subject. They examine the role of potential behavioral confounders and advocate a focus on appropriate strategies for preventing clinically-relevant outcomes, including both invasive cervical cancer *and* unintended pregnancy.

---



## Cervical Barrier Advancement Society

In the summer of 2004, Ibis Reproductive Health plans to announce the launch of a new organization and web resource on cervical barrier methods.

The Cervical Barrier Advancement Society (CBAS) aims to raise the profile of cervical barrier methods both for preventing pregnancy and potentially HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. CBAS' goal is to create an international, professional networking organization including clinical and social science research groups, academic institutions, advocacy groups, trade associations, and pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies.

The CBAS website is our primary tool for sharing information with our members and with the general public ([www.cervicalbarriers.org](http://www.cervicalbarriers.org)). It contains:

- Information about cervical barriers
- Downloadable materials
- Images of cervical barriers
- Research updates
- CBAS newsletter

CBAS membership is free and open to all who are interested in joining – just visit the CBAS website to sign up.

## Oral Contraceptives Over-the-Counter?

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Ibis, Family Health International and the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies co-hosted a meeting of reproductive health experts to discuss strategies for making oral contraceptives (OCs) available over-the-counter (OTC). Participants reviewed the main arguments for and against making OCs OTC and there was a general consensus that whether or not OCs are sold OTC or as prescription products, compliance could be improved with better package labeling. New labeling would include a briefer list of evidence-based contraindications, as well as simpler instructions on initiating OCs and handling missed pills. Ibis intends to organize another meeting to review the evidence and build consensus around simplified labeling for OCs.

## 2004 Publications by Ibis Staff

Copies are available at the Ibis website: [www.ibisreproductivehealth.org](http://www.ibisreproductivehealth.org) or by emailing [admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org).

- Becker D, Garcia S, Ellertson C. **Do Mexico City pharmacy workers screen women for health risks when they sell contraceptive pills over-the-counter?** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 295-299.
- Blanchard K, Taneepanichskul S, Kiriwat O, Sirimai K, Svirojana N, Mavimbela N, Winikoff B. **Two Regimens of Misoprostol for Treatment of Incomplete Abortions.** *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 2004; 103(5) part 1: 860-865
- Grossman D, Ellertson C, Grimes D, Walker D. **Routine Follow-up Visits After First Trimester Induced Abortion.** *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 2004; 103(4): 738-745.
- Hedley A, Trussell J, Norris A, Coyaji K, Thi Nhu Ngoc N, Winikoff B, Ellertson C. **Differences in efficacy, differences in providers: results from a hazard analysis of medical abortion.** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 157-163.
- Harrison T. **Cervical Barrier Methods: a New Role for Old Devices?** *The Women's Health Activist* 2004; January/February.
- Kade K, Kumar D, Polis C, Schaffer K. **Effect of nurse's attitudes on hospital-based abortion procedures in Massachusetts.** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 59-62.
- Lara D, Strickler J, Olavarrieta C, Ellertson C. **Measuring Induced Abortion in Mexico.** *Sociological Methods & Research* 2004; 32(4): 529-558.
- Miller K, Blumenthal P, Blanchard K. **Oral Contraceptives and Cervical Cancer.** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 347-351.
- Shochet T, Blanchard K, King H, Henchcliffe B, Hunt J, McCaig C, Weaver K, Stirling A, Glasire A, Webb A, Ellertson C. **Side effects of the Yuzpe regimen of emergency contraception and two modifications.** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 301-307.
- Trussell J, Ellertson C, Stewart F, Raymond E, Shochet T. **The Role of Emergency Contraception.** *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 2004; 190: S30-8.
- Weitz T, Foster A, Ellertson C, Grossman D, Stewart F. **'Medical' and 'surgical' abortion: rethinking the modifiers.** *Contraception* 2004; 69: 77-78.

## Ibis News

Ibis Associate Angel Foster was recently appointed to Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health Board of Directors. Dr. Foster was the former President of Medical Students for Choice. Congratulations Angel!

---

## Ibis Store

Ibis now has merchandise for sale! Check out custom made Ibis t-shirts, hoodies, kids shirts, baby onesies, and other products at: [www.cafepress.com/ibisrh](http://www.cafepress.com/ibisrh).



---

*If you would rather not receive our newsletter, please contact us at [admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org](mailto:admin@ibisreproductivehealth.org) and we will remove your name from our list immediately.*