To All BOOST II Investigators, ANZNN Directors and Research Nurses

4 May 2013

Dear Colleague

New England Journal of Medicine, on line 5 May 2013: Publication of hospital outcomes in the BOOST II Trials

As you know, recruitment to the Australian and UK BOOST II trials closed early on December 25th 2010 after a combined analysis of survival to 36 weeks. This showed higher survival in infants on the high target using a revised calibration algorithm, installed in Australian and UK study oximeters in 2009. A Letter appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine on 28 April, 2011, a copy of which was sent to investigators and ANZNN Directors.

A full article entitled ‘Oxygen Saturation and Outcomes in Preterm Infants‘ will appear online in New England Journal of Medicine on 5 May, 2013 at www.nejm.org. Attached is a Study Update for Parents approved by the Chair of the lead Ethics Committee (RPAH, Sydney) for BOOST II and a Factsheet with Questions and Answers for Investigators.

The Study Update for Parents will go on the BOOST II study website on Sunday 5 May at 5 pm at

http://boost.ctc.usyd.edu.au

Please email a copy of this letter and all attachments to the Chair of your ethics committee for information.

Parents seeking more information are encouraged to contact a specialist who cared for their baby. If the baby was in BOOST II, please thank them for supporting the study, which is likely to increase the survival of many preterm babies managed as in participating units each year worldwide. For parents whose babies experienced an adverse outcome, it may help to explain that we will never be able to find out exactly why an individual baby had a particular outcome, and that the difference in oxygen targets only explains part of the risks. The attached Study Update for Parents may also be of help.

If you would like further information or wish to discuss any aspects in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact our Project Manager, Dr Alpana Ghadge at 02 9562 5341 or alpana.ghadge@ctc.usyd.edu.au in the first instance.

Thank you for all your support for this important study, whose final results will be published after two year outcomes become available next year.

Yours sincerely

William Tarnow-Mordi
on behalf of the BOOST II Trial Management Committee

Attachments:  BOOST II Fact Sheet with Questions and Answers for Investigators - 5 May 2013
Study Update for Parents - 5 May 2013