

November 10, 2006

RE: Sponsorship letter for Saving Mothers Research Team

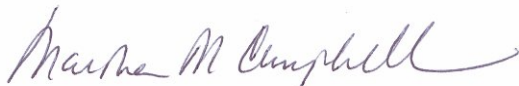
To Whom it May Concern,

A preventable tragedy, over half a million mothers die annually due to childbirth or pregnancy-related complications. Saving Mothers Research Team (SMRT) is a non-profit, student-run organization dedicated to reducing maternal deaths in developing countries, by promoting the obstetric use of misoprostol by doctors, nurses, midwives, birth attendants, and pregnant women for the control of post-partum hemorrhage (PPH). PPH, is the leading cause of maternal mortality in the world.

In low-resource settings, a large portion of births take place at home, often remote from any clinic. The drugs used in hospitals cannot be used in most home settings as they require refrigeration and injections. Home births are prevalent due to the difficulty of reaching a health facility at the time of delivery, a lack of skilled providers in rural communities often due to brain drain, the cost of delivery through the private sector, and a simple preference of many women to deliver with an experienced woman from her village called a traditional birth attendant (TBA), even if the TBA is not medically trained.

Fortunately, misoprostol, a low-cost, heat-stable, off-patent tablet originally developed for gastric ulcers, is legally used off label in the US and Europe to after childbirth to control PPH. By building a student research network, SMRT will collect data on the availability and prices of misoprostol in developing countries, and describe the system of pharmacies and rural drug vendors. This information will later be used to inform policy makers on how best to introduce this life-saving drug in low-resource settings around the world.

Sincerely,



Martha Campbell, PhD
Co-director, CEIHD