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Nottingham Maternity Research Network

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Nottingham Maternity Research Network seeks to include the views of a range of local maternity service users.

If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please share this newsletter with them and encourage them to get in touch.

We'll be happy to hear from them!

**HS-nottsmaternity@
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Our latest meeting

We met online on 27th January. It was great to see everyone, including some new members. It was a busy meeting.

Julie has been awarded some funding to develop the Network and its membership. See separate item for more about this good news.

Jo reminded the group about the PANDA study, about anaemia in pregnancy. Jo and Steph will be facilitating a separate meeting soon to talk about following up babies born to mothers who take part in the research study. Look out for an email if you are interested in joining this discussion.

Catrin and her team will be reviewing the literature around what makes remotely-delivered care work well. They will be thinking about both telephone and video-calls. We discussed what the important issues might be including unequal access to technology and impacts on non-pregnant partners.

Phoebe is starting new research about diabetes and care in labour and asked for volunteers to join the project steering group.

Kerry updated the group on her research about anxiety in pregnancy and thanked group members for all their input in adapting the intervention to the circumstances of the pandemic.

We revisited the topics suggested about the group about maternity care during covid-19 and talked about how these were feeding into projects in development.



Good news!

The Institute for Policy & Engagement, University of Nottingham, has awarded funding to the Network. We will be undertaking a short project to make sure our group is as inclusive as possible.

Our members bring invaluable insights and experiences to inform and improve research. We aim to improve services for all women through research.

We want to find out to what extent our membership reflects the local community. We want to reach out to under-represented groups and make sure our research isn't leaving our important topics and perspectives.

The core team is Amy Bishop-Powell, Pearl Agyakwa, Julie Roberts and Helen Spiby.

We need your help!

We will be bringing ideas to our meetings and asking for your input. The first step is a survey. We will send the survey to everyone on our mailing list. We will ask questions about you, your experience of the Network and the topics that interest you most.

We want to hear from everyone – whether you have been a member for years or just joined us, whether you have been to lots of meetings or none at all.

Please look out for this and take a few minutes to fill in the survey.

SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF MEMBRANES AND POTENTIAL USE OF REAGENT PADS: MIDWIVES' EXPERIENCES AND PERSPECTIVES

In our last newsletter, we introduced a project led by Sara Borrelli to introduce student midwives to research. Here, Sara describes one of the research projects that the students worked on.

Spontaneous rupture of membranes (SROM), also known as waters break, commonly occurs during childbirth. Diagnosis of waters rupture is difficult to establish in at least 10% of cases. Assessment at a maternity unit is often required and may involve invasive procedures. The use of absorbent reagent pads to tell the difference between urine and amniotic fluid may provide reassurance although there might also be potential for increasing women's anxiety.

The aim of this research study was to explore midwives' experiences of and perspectives on current midwifery care for women with pre-labour or early labour spontaneous rupture of membranes (SROM), particularly focussing on the potential use of reagent pads. Five qualitative focus groups were conducted with 22 community or hospital-based midwives.

Midwives perceived potential advantages to the use of reagent pads, for instance to avoid unnecessary intervention. They suggested that reagent pads may have the potential to support communication between women and midwives, including telephone conversations during early labour. However, midwives need access to more information about reagent pads to be able to provide optimal care to women considering using them. Further research is needed to explore approaches to reagent pads' incorporation into practice, including larger trials of clinical outcomes and cost-effectiveness, accompanied by exploration of women's and midwives' experiences.

The study findings have been published on MIDIRS Midwifery Digest journal. If you would like to hear more please contact sara.borrelli@nottingham.ac.uk

TOTEMM: TRANSFORMING TRANSNATIONAL INTERCULTURAL SENSITIVITY FOR MIDWIFERY STUDENTS THROUGH AN INCLUSIVE MOBILITY MODEL

Funder: ERASMUS + KA203- STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Team: University of Nottingham- Helen Spiby, Sara Borrelli, Louise Walker; Stathis Konstantinidis; Kirstie Coolin

University of Milan-Bicocca: Antonella Nespoli, Simona Fumagalli

Tallinn Health College: Annely Karema, Silja Mets-Oja

Academy of Amsterdam Groningen: Anne-Marika Smit; Maria van Oost

Midwifery students need to have insight into women's health in both their local and wider communities in order that they can provide culturally appropriate and sensitive care to women from diverse settings. There are some opportunities for students to gain experience in settings other than their training base, but these are limited and not all students are able to travel.

This new initiative is a partnership between midwifery and the Health and E-Learning Media (HELM) team at the University of Nottingham and midwifery educators and students in Italy, Estonia and the Netherlands. We are evaluating a new approach to developing understanding of midwifery and women's health needs that does not rely on travel.

This virtual mobility approach will include five e-learning packages. The first package introduces students to the different settings and maternity care and midwifery in the four countries. We will then develop four e-learning packages related to different aspects of the public health role of the midwife. Students from each partner institution will study these learning packages together. Our evaluation will explore midwifery students' experiences of the packages, impacts on cultural sensitivity and broader learning. If found helpful, we will be looking for ways in which the package can be integrated and continued in midwifery education programmes.

For enquiries, please contact Helen Spiby helen.spiby@nottingham.ac.uk

Meet Network Member Nadine Otting

My name is Nadine Otting. I'm originally from the Netherlands, have lived in Beijing and Hong Kong and settled in Nottinghamshire in 2018, a month before we welcomed our little one into the world. I obtained a PhD in linguistics and am multilingual in Dutch, English and Mandarin Chinese.

Since late 2019, I have been involved as chair and volunteer for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Maternity Voices Partnership. This is an independent, multidisciplinary NHS working group that aims to improve local maternity services by putting the experiences of the people who use these services at the centre. Pregnancy, birth and beyond is such an important phase in people's lives. I am passionate about helping to improve the care and support people receive during this time. I also offer a bit of support to parents myself as a breastfeeding peer supporter.



I've been a lay member of the Nottingham Maternity Research Network since May 2020. The Network provides a platform to help ensure that perinatal research objectives align with the needs and priorities of women, birthing people and their families. I very much enjoy the research network meetings with open discussions and sharing of knowledge and ideas and am also excited to be collaborating on a funding bid. I look forward to learning more from all of the Network's members!

If you want to refer to info about the Nott & Notts MVP, the website is www.nottsmvp.co.uk or @NottsMVP on Facebook

Visit our website: www.nottsmaternity.ac.uk
Email us: HS-nottsmaternity@nottingham.ac.uk