Introduction
Welcome to the latest CMMPH newsletter, sharing our news, events and activities undertaken by staff, students and visiting faculty. We are reporting on a fruitful half year. Before we highlight our milestones and achievements, we would like to say a few words in memory of childbirth activist Sheila Kitzinger. Sheila was a great promoter of birth and midwives and we remember her on page 7 of the newsletter.

In early 2015 we welcomed four new PhD students in the field of midwifery and maternity care in CMMPH. As detailed on page 2, two are jointly funded studentship with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (Donna Wixted and Layla Toomer), one is a jointly funded studentship with the Isle of Wight (Dominique Mylod) and one is a BU Vice Chancellor’s Scholarship student from Nepal (Preeti Mahato).

In April we saw the tragic earthquake in Nepal where CMMPH has been conducting research for years. One of the research field sites, Pharping, was badly affected by the earthquake whilst the second field site, near the Indian border, was relatively undamaged. We are keeping our colleagues in our thoughts at this difficult time.

Edwin R. van Teijlingen
Professor of Reproductive Health Research

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CMMPH Aims
We promote the health and wellbeing of women, babies and their families by enhancing practice through education, research and scholarship.

Our strategy is to develop nationally and internationally recognised research that:

- Promotes the health and well-being of women, babies and their families
- Underpins clinical midwifery practice
- Informs policy making in relation to maternity care
- Ensures relevance and impact by maximising service user/voluntary sector involvement and the dissemination of results to health and social care professionals, service users and the voluntary sector undertakes work across a wide methodological range.

Our educational and research activity has gained national and international recognition for its contribution to the enhancement of professional practice and maternal and perinatal health.

Newsletter Editors:
Dr. Jen Leamon, Prof. Edwin van Teijlingen and Prof. Vanora Hundley

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Web: research.bournemouth.ac.uk/centre/centre-for-midwifery-maternal-and-perinatal-health
As I only qualified as a midwife two years ago, BU’s clinical PhD is a fantastic opportunity as it means I can still practice as a midwife and continue to focus on all aspects of a women’s experience in pregnancy and birth while doing what I hope will be meaningful research. Portsmouth is recognized nationally for its excellent alcohol screening and referral pathway and I intend to draw on their experience. I am excited to think that my research may help midwives and other healthcare professionals are well-placed to offer the most effective advice and support to pregnant women. Supervisors Dr Liz Norton, Prof Edwin van Teijlingen, Dr Greta Westwood, Deputy Director of Research & Innovation, PHT.

An exploration of the community care provided by midwives and maternity support workers in the postnatal period. Layla Toomer is undertaking this PhD studentship to explore the interaction of midwives and maternity support workers in providing infant feeding and parenting support in the community. Supervisors Dr Carol Wilkins and Dr Catherine Angell

Dominique Mylod is exploring whether a programme of education and pelvic positioning can help women cope with early labour pain at home. Can pelvic positioning help women cope with pain in early labour? Dominique works clinically on the Isle of Wight. She says “This is a golden opportunity to strengthen the midwifery profession through visibly generating research and applying findings to practice alongside colleagues. Balancing research hours on the laptop with the privilege of facilitating a birth is a wonderful way of reminding yourself why it is vital to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of labour and birth.” Supervisors Prof Vanora Hundley, Dr Sue Way, Dr Carol Clark

Preeti Mahato is exploring birth centres in Nepal. Her supervisors are Prof Edwin van Teijlingen and Dr Catherine Angell. She has also been assigned Dr. Ben Campbell as ‘Study day tutor’ at the BNAEC conference to help her focus her thesis research question and methods and any issues and queries she may have.

PhD student Sheetal Sharma is co-author of a book chapter called ‘Customs and believes surrounding newborn babies in rural areas’ published in ‘The Dynamics of Health in Nepal’, edited by Wasti, SP et al. and published by Himal Books, Kathmandu, Nepal. (see details below).

Sheetal’s contribution to this chapter is based on her Ph.D. research in rural Nepal. The Nepal based-research looks to better understand the constraints of care-seeking behaviour in maternal health. Sheetal’s PhD research is supervised by Prof. Edwin van Teijlingen, Prof. Vanora Hundley and Dr. Catherine Angell in CMMPH with added support from Barcelona-based Dr. Elisa Sicuri; Liverpool John Moores University’s Prof. Padam Simkhada and IECS Argentina’s Prof. Jose Belizan. The work is carried out with funding from Santander Universities and Bournemouth University and support from Green Tara Trust.
Communicating research

In mid May Vanora Hundley and Edwin van Teijlingen together with Dr. Anne Luce (Faculty of Media & Communication) shared their years of experience in writing about research across disciplines as varied as media, sociology, midwifery, health economics, medicine and public health as part of BU’s Interdisciplinary Research Week. Over the past decades interdisciplinary research has become more fashionable. The presenters reminded their audience that interdisciplinary writing is not always straightforward, whilst they shared what is likely to work well and can be more challenging.

The month before a Dutch university newsletter (in English) offered its readers a brief introduction on journal selection for a scientific manuscript. This newsletter piece was based on two papers offering suggestions on how to select the appropriate journal. We were pleased to see that one of these papers is by CMMPH staff, namely the paper ‘Getting your paper to the right journal: a case study of an academic paper’.


Festival of Learning 2015

Debate: Postnatal Care is it really worth the money? (13th July) Dr Carol Wilkins & Prof Vanora Hundley & Edwin van Teijlingen

Postnatal care plays an important public health role, ensuring optimal maternal and newborn wellbeing; however in recent years it has been subjected to significant financial cutbacks. This event will debate the motion “Postnatal care: it is simply not worth the money”.

Midwifery media workshop (14th July) Dr Ann Luce & Prof Vanora Hundley

Focusing on helping midwives specifically, this workshop will talk through how journalists come up with stories and how best to engage with them—from pitching a story to being better prepared to liaise with the media. This is a hands-on workshop so be ready for role play, writing and a lot of fun!

What’s your story? Childbirth over the last 60 years from people in and around Boscombe. (16th July) Drs Jen Leamon & Jenny Hall

The childbirth process has in the last 60 years moved from being a private event shared by woman, their partner and the midwife to become a public one shared via many formats of multimedia. This event will engage members of the local community in supporting their contribution to a visual timeline of personal experiences of receiving or providing midwifery care including general commentary on the childbirth process.

Details of all Festival of Learning events can be found at www.bournemouth.ac.uk/fol

Book published on health in Nepal

Earlier this year our book ‘The Dynamics of Health in Nepal’ was published by Himal Books for Social Science Baha in Kathmandu. The book is an edited collection covering a range of current health topics in Nepal, including issues such as maternal health, HIV/AIDS, sexual health, road traffic accidents, non-communicable diseases and the role of the media and migration.

Save the date: Friday 3 July 2015
Innovation in midwifery education—what works?
BU is organising an interesting one-day conference exploring evidence based innovation and development in midwifery education.

The conference will include:
- Professor Stephen Hepell- New technologies and online learning
- Professor Billie Hunter- Learning from resilience research
- Kirsten Baker- Drama in midwifery education
- Student led debate - "Online learning is the way to increase student satisfaction"
- Meet the editors - Tips and advice on publishing education research findings

Cost: Tickets and hospitality for this conference are subsidised by Midwifery at BU. £80 per person. Tickets are available at https://innovation-midwifery-education.eventbrite.co.uk

Pre-Registration News
A number of chiropractic interns, joined forces with a group of student midwives to share their experiences of working together at the AECC/BU feeding clinic. The clinic offers a unique opportunity to gain experience in providing interprofessional support for mothers and babies.

A morning of interprofessional learning occurred in the third year midwifery unit, Knowledge and Practice for Professional Registration. Chiropractic interns presented details about the running of the clinic including latest research. Case-histories were shared by interns and midwifery students provoking a lively discussion that included enhanced insights into why mothers experience breastfeeding problems and how they can be supported better. One student commented, “Thank you…it was a brilliant learning opportunity”.

For further information: Alison Taylor (Senior Lecturer in Midwifery & Infant Feeding Lead)

To book an appointment:
Email: clinicappointments@aecc.ac.uk
Tel: 01202 436222
Clinic address: AECC, 13-15 Parkwood Road, Bournemouth, BH5 2DF
Web: http://www.aecc-clinic.co.uk/services-and-prices/newborn-feeding-clinic/

Student electives
The midwifery elective offers an exciting opportunity for our students to visit foreign countries and learn about midwifery practice there. This year 16 students are going to countries as diverse as Sri Lanka, Ghana, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, Australia and the USA.

Sian Ridden one of the student midwives going to Ghana writes: "This July, three third-year midwifery students from the west campus will be travelling to the remote village of Mpraeso in Kwahu region (Ghana) for their midwifery elective.

"Amelia Westwood, Ruby Vowles and Sian Ridden will embark on a two-week placement that will involve working within the local hospital maternity and neonatal wards, community midwifery and community projects such as a HIV public health clinic and teaching at the local school. What makes this elective even more exciting, is that Rachel Holmes, a registered midwife from Salisbury will also embark on this adventure with the girls to provide a fusion of experiences and knowledge.

"Alongside academic commitments, the students have worked hard to fundraise, running half marathons, cycling races and tandem fancy dress cycling to buy vital resources and equipment to take with them for the women and children of Mpraeso."

Four fellow midwifery students have plans to spend their elective in Nepal, but after the major earthquakes in April and May this spring it was uncertain (at the time of our newsletter going to print) whether they would make it there.
Co-creation projects
Two student midwives were among the first to receive awards for their co-created projects. The BU co-creation programme is a pilot scheme aimed to provide support to the development of student/lecturer collaborative projects. Students and staff were encouraged to work together as equals, valuing each other’s ability to contribute to high quality academic work.

Professor Gail Thomas said: “The co-creation project is about having a fusion of research, professional practice and education, and the marriage of these component parts being the foundation of an excellent student experience and learning opportunity. A key element of this is to ‘inspire’ and this is around getting students, graduates and staff to enrich the world.”

Rebecca Dixon-Wright won an award for her work with Dr Carol Wilkins on Women’s hopes and anxieties in early pregnancy. The project has been a resounding success and they have submitted abstracts for conferences and hope to be published in the journal Midwifery. As a result, this project could have implications on future practice by understanding the issues that affect women during the early stages of pregnancy.

Sian Ridden won an award for her work with Professor Vanora Hundley and Dr Ann Luce to develop A Midwives Guide to Working with the Media. Professor Hundley said: “I've really enjoyed working with Sian. Her previous experiences as a journalist meant that she brought a unique perspective to the project that bridged the gap between media and midwifery.”

Team Maternity: Learning and assessment involving technology to enable undergraduates lead safe care in maternity emergencies.

Project aim
To collaboratively engage with 3rd year midwifery undergraduate as co-researchers in the co-creation of learning and assessment resources and processes linked to clinical leadership in emergency maternity situations, to inform future 3rd year learning and assessment. This project will adopt an action research approach and principles: look, think act and be undertaken in four stages:

- Stage 1. Focus group discussion with co-researchers to discuss learning needs and priorities how this could inform resources linked to pre and post testing of knowledge and readiness for employment as a registered midwife.
- Stage 2. This stage’s focus will be to co-create scenarios and videos linked to maternity emergencies by the students using tablet computers to film them working as a team in response to maternity care emergency scenarios.
- Stage 3. Via reflective review of stages 1 and 2 develop principles and process of assessment of team working in a maternity emergency by midwives and the submission of a team video for assessment.
- Stage 4. Pilot test the learning and assessment process and evaluate with student collaborators before developing further an integrating into the pre-registration curriculum in 2016-7.

Doctorate in Professional Practice Health & Social Care
The D.Prof is a journey of personal and professional development which enables individuals to use their experience and knowledge from practice to inform their study which will incorporate the four interlinked elements of: literature review, research, practice development and personal narrative. Independent learning is supported by 6 – 9 facilitated days a year which involved group learning and support, topic sessions linked to the study milestones and research and supervision.

Professionals will be supported in their plans to explore or understand an aspect further in order to develop care or services.

Find out more at www.bournemouth.ac.uk/courses/DPP
**SMiLE Clinic**

Plans are well underway for the roll out of the SMiLE clinic to two further clinical areas on the 18th of May.

This is a huge step in Portsmouth hospitals’ commitment and recognition of its value to both midwifery education and postnatal care for women and families. The journey is not always an easy one but we are slowly getting there.

BU collaborators just want to say a big thank you to you all for your on-going support particularly with the extra time allocated to me to ensure its successful implementation.

We look forward to keeping you updated on its progress from the operational perspective and BU clinical doctorate student Dana Coulbourne will be working even harder to evaluate its effectiveness.

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**Practice assessment and learning in midwifery study**

Several members of the Midwifery BSc/PGDip programme team have been successful in gaining funding from the Centre for Excellence in Learning (CEL) for a project that will evaluate a change in practice assessment strategy.

The innovative development has moved away from assessing multiple competencies to an assessment that uses five key benchmarks. A key element in the new system is that students will have the opportunity to receive two sets of formative competency assessment prior to the final summative assessment. The research will quantitatively compare grading between the old and new approaches, looking specifically at accuracy and grade inflation. Students, mentors and academic staff will be invited to participate by completing questionnaires relating to their experiences of the two different assessment methods.

Catherine Angell, Jen Leamon, Sue Way, Carol Wilkins

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**Story sharing in Midwifery practice**

Dr. Jen Leamon facilitated a creative writing morning for midwives and women in Poole on Saturday 16th May at a RCM Union Learning session. The session was attended by seven midwives and support staff in Poole maternity hospital.

The morning involved considering how and what the creation of stories about our experience can inform our personal and professional development. We considered the different formats a story can take and heard examples of narrated accounts and poems. Those present were then invited to engage in a six minute splurge of free writing, which was actually extended to 15 minutes. Following this the participants selected to share their free writing. Each individual story took those present on a journey, collectively the communicated the desire and commitment for woman centred care, promoting normal birth, the need for compassion for women and midwives and ended in the reflection that the experience whilst emotional at times enabled meaning making and was a valued experience.
**News, Congratulations and Events**

In March academic publisher Elsevier sent round an email with the top five most downloaded articles from the international journal *Midwifery*. We were pleased to see that the fifth paper on that list is BU paper ‘Risk, theory, social and medical models: A critical analysis of the concept of risk in maternity care.’ The paper is jointly written by Edwin van Teijlingen with Dr. Helen Bryers, Consultant Midwife in the north of Scotland.

Edwin van Teijlingen and Vanora Hundley were officially invited to attend a reception on March 16th followed by a panel discussion on midwives as agents for change organised in London by the Ambassador of Sweden Ms. Nicola Clare. Earlier this year the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched midwives4all, which is an initiative to spread the knowledge about the benefits of evidence-based midwifery, working closely with contributors to 2014 The Lancet’s series on midwifery.

The aim of midwives4all is to use a coordinated and innovative communication approach to highlight the need to implement universal practice of midwifery globally in order to improve maternal health and empower women. Midwives4all highlights that only 22 per cent of countries have potentially enough midwives to provide life-saving interventions to meet the needs of women and newborns, which leaves most countries with severe shortages of proper maternity care. The vast majority of women and children lose their lives due to complications and illnesses that could have been prevented. Scaling up the midwifery workforce could prevent about two-thirds of maternal and newborn deaths, saving millions of lives every year. A short blog post written by Edwin van Teijlingen was posted on the midwives4all website: [http://midwives4all.org/important-to-ensure-that-midwifery-is-properly-recognised-in-law/](http://midwives4all.org/important-to-ensure-that-midwifery-is-properly-recognised-in-law/)

**Sheila Kitzinger MBE** was born not too far from Dorset in Somerset and read Social Anthropology at Oxford. After having her first baby at home she joined the board of the new Natural Childbirth Trust (NCT), now National Childbirth Trust and became a consultant to the International Childbirth Education Association, The general public in the UK and abroad got to know her after the publication of her book: *The Experience of Childbirth* (1962). The obituary in *The Daily Telegraph* reminds us that in the early 1960s “the medicalisation of childbirth was at its peak and her message that birth was a wonderful, exhilarating event where women needed to retain control struck a chord.”

The latest edition of the now renamed *The New Experience of Childbirth* is still on sale as paperback and Kindle book. I first came across Sheila’s work whilst reading for my PhD on organisation of maternity care. I just checked the bibliography of my thesis and noted I quoted seven of Sheila’s papers and books in my thesis as well as several further chapters by others in her edited collections. I first met Sheila in person in 1987 at the First International Home Birth Conference in London.

A Home Birth Newsletter at the time commented “Sheila Kitinger gave a dramatic and dynamic presentation as only she can. Her anthropological perspective on birth clearly showed that worldwide the birthplace is a women’s space where women give birth surrounded by a group of female friends and family and often a midwife whose special skills are acknowledged by all present as she helps and orchestrates the whole event.” It was highly appropriate to read that the obituary in The Guardian refers to Sheila Kitzinger as the “high priestess of natural childbirth”.

**Conferences**

April 2015: 13th Annual British-Nepal Academic Council Conference at SOAS, London. CMMPH presenter included Edwin van Teijlingen. Preeti Mahato was assigned a ‘Study day tutor’ Dr. Ben Campbell at this BNAC conference to help her shape her thesis research question and methods.

In total 28 papers on nine wide-ranging themes concerning Nepal and its global connections were presented and debated by a large number of participants ranging from post-graduate students to established professors and researchers from the UK, Nepal and some other EU countries. The conference was reported upon in Nepal on an online news website: eKantipur.
Late 2014 and 2015 Publications

2014


2015

Professor Emeritus Paul Lewis & BU Visiting Faculty Jillian Ireland in collaboration with Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust midwife Danielle Freemantle published the paper ‘The loss of midwifery supervision: to mourn or rejoice?’ in the March edition of The Practising Midwife. This paper reflects on some of the possible consequences of the NMC’s decision to end statutory supervision of midwives in the UK.

Forthcoming

Thank you to all contributors. If you have a story linked to the CMMPH you want to share in the next edition, or would like to be added to our mailing list please email Rebecca Freeman on rfreeman@bournemouth.ac.uk