

Monday 12th

Highlights of the 1st day of Congress

The main highlight of Monday is the Plenary session which based on "Midwives' Voices, Midwives' Demands" (2022, White Ribbon Alliance, ICM); a report detailing the top demands of more than 56,000 midwives from 101 countries. To the question 'What do you want most in your role as a midwife?' The majority of midwives indicated being paid a decent wage with benefits as their top demand. This plenary session will spotlight the work of midwives and other activities who have fought and won the right to better pay and working conditions for their profession. The session sets the standards for the subsequent concurrent sessions and poster presentations of the day.

The following are some concurrent oral or workshop sessions which touch the core of midwifery and are relevant for our own well-being. It is suggested that besides visiting the poster presentations in the foyer, delegates should also follow the authors' short videos posters presentations on the online platform.

Midwives can find it challenging to be compassionate to others if they are not compassionate to themselves and are at risk of compassion fatigue and burnout. One of the workshops relates to an enabling environment and 'caring for carers' to support participants develop some self-compassion skills to prevent compassion fatigue. This interactive workshop introduces the concept of self-compassion and how this is an important component of selfcare, calm breathing, deep relaxation, the power of touch techniques, meditation and much more. This workshop is highly relevant for all midwives, especially since many of us are still feeling/living the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[W1 Midwives matter: developing compassionate selfcare skills workshop](#)

Leadership is a critical aspect of our profession. The midwifery profession requires leaders who are proficient and confident as well as visionary to shape its future in the best interests of childbearing women, their babies and families. The Dragon's Den programme aims to prepare the future midwife leader by including authentic assessment throughout. This 3-minute Thesis session discusses the development of this assessment programme within an undergraduate pre-registration midwifery with leadership programme whereby leadership potential and creativity are nurtured from the outset seeking to advance the midwifery profession and improve quality of service.

[Session: Education Assessment/Teaching methods/3 min. thesis: J. Marshall - Welcome to the "Dragon's Den" – Developing authentic assessment in an innovative 4-year undergraduate Master in Science Midwifery with Leadership programme](#)

Critical thinking in midwifery practice is vital to inform safe, evidence based, and woman centred clinical decision-making. A concurrent session presents the findings of an international Delphi study which developed a definition of critical thinking in midwifery practice. How was the Delphi study implemented and how can this definition be applied by midwives? The authors will discuss the methods results and the characteristics, skills and attributes of clinical thinking in midwifery.

[Session: Standards and frameworks: A. Carter - Developing an International Consensus Definition of Critical Thinking in Midwifery.](#)

One concurrent session presentation examined how the integration of midwives into interprofessional primary health care team impacts access to care in Canada using a case study approach. Results showed integrating midwives in primary healthcare settings increased visibility

and trust in the profession, decreased access barriers such as travel time and cost, increased collaboration between professionals and ensured more timely and available care. Although this study is based in Ontario, Canada, its findings, are highly relevant and useful for midwives who work or aspire to work within similar primary health care systems in other international settings.

[Session: Enabling environments/supporting change 2: L. Darling - The impact of integrating midwives into primary healthcare settings on access to care: A case study from Ontario, Canada.](#)

We are all aware that every six minutes a mother dies from postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) in low-resource country. The WHO provided evidence-informed recommendations for managing PPH, yet recommendations are currently limited by several challenges. This presentation presents the results of a multi-country, parallel cluster randomised trial with a baseline control phase in secondary level health facilities in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, South Africa and Pakistan. The evaluation of the implementation of early detection and the use of the WHO MOTIVE 'first-response' treatment bundle for PPH will be reported. The result of this international study is highly relevant to all midwives.

[Session: Adverse events 1: I. Gallos - Early detection of postpartum haemorrhage and treatment using the World Health Organisation MOTIVE 'first response' bundle: a cluster randomised trial.'](#)

Lack of knowledge of pregnancy and childbirth has been linked to higher rates of fear and medical interventions, calling the need for education to be offered in primary school settings. This three-minute presentation highlights the extent of the research gap of children's understanding of childbirth through a scoping review of relevant literature. Could pregnancy and childbirth education with young people, decrease fears and improve health towards greater reproductive justice? This scoping review is a call to action for midwives and educators to work with children to review and re-create school-based education programmes.

[Session: Childbirth education / family / 3 min. thesis, M. Turner - What is known about children's understandings of childbirth? A scoping review](#)

Acupressure is a non-invasive technique, easy to implement within the midwifery practice. Advantages also include that it is an accessible, effective safe birthing tool for midwives, promoting partner involvement and reducing the need of pharmacological pain relief in labour. The workshop will include practical session for points location on each other's with expert supervision and a small group activity for a clinical scenario solving exercise using acupressure for pain relief in labour. The participants will also receive an additional booklet outlining the acupressure points used for pain relief during labour. This is a hands-on workshop surely not to be missed.

[Workshop: W5 Acupressure for pain relief in labour](#)