

Tuesday 14th

Highlights of the 3rd day of Congress

The first day plenary session highlighted the work of midwives and other activists who fought and won the right to better pay and working position for their profession; the second day focused on the role of midwives and associations in humanitarian emergencies and the third day plenary session, is looking into the future of midwifery globally, aptly titled “The next 100 years of ICM and midwifery – strategies for ensuring greater support, inclusivity and representation for our global community of midwives.” What is the role of ICM in advancing midwifery and how could ICM support midwives to deliver the best possible care to women and all community members, respecting their race, sexual orientation religion, other social identities and individual needs? This session will explore the strategies needed to warrant that the next generation of midwives, reflect our increasingly diverse communities as well as the practices midwives can adopt to validate, they are providing inclusive care.

The following are some highlights from the 3rd and last day of the congress’s concurrent oral presentations or workshop sessions which touch the core of midwifery and midwives. 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.

One of the oral presentation focuses on how war instigated changes in the Ukrainian maternity health care system. The Maternity health care system, pre-war does not provide home or free-standing birth centres; yet the war forced women to give birth outside hospitals including basements, shelters and unexpected settings. The presentation describes a pilot maternity health care system project, with 50 midwives and 50 midwifery graduates. The midwives are trained by foreign midwives to work autonomously, yet collaboratively within the health care system under three institutional settings of home, birth centre and hospital. Midwives will be able to follow women prenatally and manage their labour and birth at the setting of the woman’s choice. The presentation is an excellent example for all the delegates as it highlights that amidst all adversity, positive resilient change to the midwifery profession, midwives and women could also happen.

[Session: Maternity and Humanitarian crises 1: V. Luchka - Bomb shelters have become beacons of normal birth: home and birth centre options are finally coming to Ukraine](#)

Interdisciplinary collaboration in partnership with women is critical in high-risk pregnancies such as Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP). An oral presentation reports the findings of a qualitative study using framework analysis, which explores 13 women’s and health care provider’s (including 11 midwives’) education and follow-up preferences regarding the woman’s health after hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Both women and midwives preferred more structured long-term follow-up to facilitate the transition from hospital to community care. This presentation is especially useful for student midwives and midwives working with women who have hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

[Session: Collaborative care 1: H. Roth - Let’s pull together as a team” – From evidence to reality: Inter-disciplinary collaboration in partnership with women on long-term health after hypertensive disorder of pregnancy](#)

One of the Workshops on Wednesday focuses on the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care (QMNC) Research Alliance, which has established a global research network (www.qmc.org) to foster research collaboration. This workshop is of interest to all midwives and researchers who are interested in expanding their research activities and future collaborative midwifery research, to

develop capacity and dexterity in research to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes. It is vital that the profession of midwifery develops robust collaborative networks and capacity-building. [Workshop W8: Global research collaboration to improve quality maternal and newborn health outcomes](#)

A three-minute thesis presentation describes how an online international students' midwives project commenced in 2020 between 2 universities, by 2021 it had expanded to 4 universities and aiming to expand further. This project is building an innovative, inclusive, sustainable and long-lasting intercultural exchange between students using a compendium of facilitating and promoting strategies. The presentation describes how monthly meetings among a small group of 8 international students improved their understanding of the international role of the midwife, enhanced interpersonal communication skills, empowerment to work cross culturally and increased belongingness to the global midwifery profession. This presentation is highly relevant for student midwives, educators and academics, as international networking can help students and midwives build a wider understanding of the strengths and challenges of the profession from a local and global perspective.

[Session: Education-International/National networks \(+3 Minutes Thesis\): S. Ammann-Fiechter, International Student Midwives Network \(ISMN\) - a student-led online collaborative project integrated into the Bachelor of Midwifery programs in Aberdeen, Bologna, Rotterdam and Zurich](#)

Midwives working alongside students in clinical practice contribute to the development of professionally competent graduate midwives. The level to which midwives feel prepared and competent for their clinical teaching role is under-researched. This oral presentation presents the research process of the development and testing of a new tool to measure midwives' perception of their clinical teaching role within midwifery. The new tool can be used to identify areas for improvement and as an indicator of quality clinical education. This presentation is highly relevant for midwives' educators / academics, researchers and clinical midwives.

[Session: Education-supportive strategies: M. Griffiths, Supporting student learning: A new self-report measure of midwives' perceptions of their clinical teaching role](#)

The Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown warranted unforeseen changes to the way midwifery education was delivered. The Midwifery programme of studies had to transition to an online programme. The sudden shift from a face-to-face teaching method to a completely virtual presentation presented challenges. This presentation discusses the results of a survey research carried out with UK student from three-year groups of an undergraduate midwifery study. The objective was to evaluate the attitude and feelings of student midwives concerning the sudden shift to digital learning and teaching. Both positive and negative changes were mentioned by the students. One key message was that students would not choose to study online full-time; they prefer a blended curriculum. This promises to be an interesting presentation especially relevant for student midwives, academics and educators.

[Session: Covid-Impact: N. Lacey - "A sudden shift"- An evaluation of Student Midwives attitudes to remote online learning during the Covid 19 Pandemic](#)