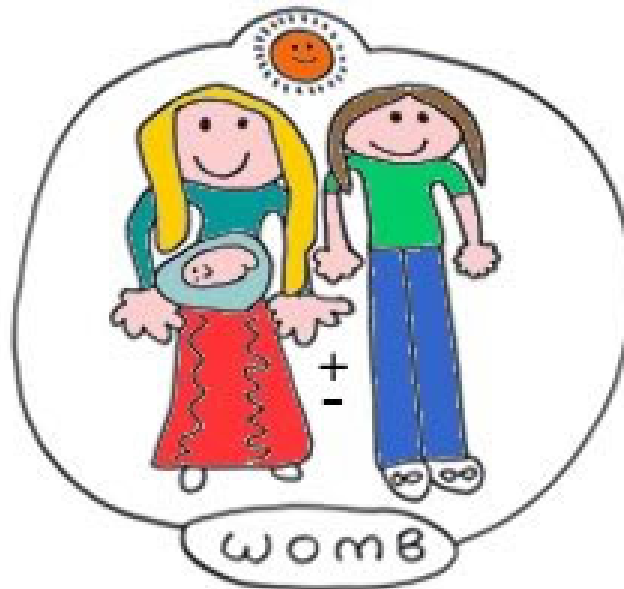


WOMen, Babies and their families (WOMB)  
Programmatic Research Group

Inaugural Report 2006

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## Acknowledgements

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Thanks are due to all those who have given permission for their work to be included in this report and to those who participated in our research. Thanks are also due to those who are active members of WOMB but whose work is not yet at a point at which they wish it to be included or whose involvement is of a different kind. We also thank Professor Jo Garcia for her most helpful comments on this manuscript.

## WOMB Group Membership

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**Membership:**

40+

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## Foreword

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I am very happy to be able to introduce this first report of the research of the WOMB Programmatic Research Group at Bournemouth University. The work combines qualities that I think are crucial: good quality research using methods that are appropriate to the research question; an interdisciplinary approach; work with people who are using the services; and direct links to those providing care so as to take their needs and concerns into account. This sort of approach leads to research that is really useful for mothers, babies and families and at the same time is of a very high standard and of international importance.

The research completed, in progress and planned is wide ranging and relevant. It is good to see that it includes healthcare professionals researching their practice. Particularly interesting for me are the studies of postnatal health and health care, an important and neglected area with many unevaluated elements.

It is also very encouraging to see the collaboration with the DIPEX research group in Oxford. This series of research projects has led to the pioneering websites which link people's experiences of health conditions with top quality information on the condition and contacts with key support groups.

I wish the group success in the future as it grows and develops further.

**Professor Jo Garcia**

**[Visiting Chair – Bournemouth University]**

**Institute of Education, University of London**

## Introduction

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It is with both pride and pleasure that I write this introduction to the inaugural report of the WOMB (WOMen, Babies and their families) Programmatic Research Group.

This report outlines the work undertaken by members of the group, much of which has taken place since its inception. Inevitably there will be work that I have forgotten to include and I apologise to those concerned. A variety of externally and internally funded work has been undertaken. Where earlier work is described, this is to demonstrate the cohesion, continuity and development of the programme.

We were delighted that work related to midwifery at Bournemouth University was identified as being of international standard in the feedback from the last Research Assessment Exercise. As a development from this, the first meeting of the WOMB group was held in July 2003 and during this the aims and principles of the group were developed (see 'About the Group' on p.6 below). Since then, 12 further meetings of the group have been held, the majority of which have had an external speaker (for further details, see p.27). The meetings have been open and publicised to all members of the Institute of Health and Community Studies in addition to all those, internal and external to the Institute, who chose to join the WOMB e-mail list. More recently, the meetings have been posted on a variety of e-mail discussion lists and this has resulted in a number of international enquiries.

Much has been developed from relatively small beginnings and we look forward to the group going from strength to strength.

**Dr Jo Alexander**

**Professor of Midwifery, Maternal and Perinatal Research**

**WOMB Group Lead**

## About the Group

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### **Aims and principles**

The aims of the group are:

- To promote the health and well-being of women, babies and their families by undertaking work to underpin clinical practice and to inform policy making;
- To ensure 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;
- To undertake work across a wide methodological range as led by the research questions;
- To provide a forum to discuss issues related to the above.

WOMB is a multi-disciplinary group with the involvement of 41 people who have attended meetings and chosen to join the e-mail distribution list.

Within the group, the work taking place can be categorised under four main themes:

- Experiences of health;
- Postnatal care and breastfeeding;
- Keeping childbirth normal;
- Education of healthcare professionals and service users.

Much of this work is undertaken in close collaboration with the Centre for Qualitative Research within the Institute of Health and Community Studies at Bournemouth University, and with the Research Development Support Unit (RDSU) at Poole Hospital.

The following sections of this report illustrate the range of research and scholarly activity undertaken by group members, arranged under the four main themes identified above.

(Further details of the group's work can be found at: [www.bournemouth.ac.uk/ihcs/resgroupmi.html](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/ihcs/resgroupmi.html))

## 1. Experiences of Health

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### **Collaboration with DIPEX Research Group (University of Oxford)**

A significant strand within this theme is the collaborative work being undertaken with the DIPEX (Personal Experiences of Health and Illness) research group of the University of Oxford (Institute of Health Sciences). This group specialises in narrative interview studies which are each used as the basis for a module on a freely available multimedia resource on their website ([www.dipex.org](http://www.dipex.org)). The themes identified from the interviews with those who have had the particular health experience that the module is about, are illustrated by video excerpts from the interviews. In addition to the text of the themes, there is text outlining the best available related evidence and links to specific support groups.

Following a short sabbatical in Oxford in 2003, Prof. Jo Alexander (JA) has been a member of the advisory groups for the DIPEX antenatal screening and pregnancy modules. Bournemouth University is now collaborating with them on a study of women's experiences of breastfeeding which will result in a module on the DIPEX website. Senior Research Fellow Dr Kath Ryan, who is leading on this work, was recruited from the University of Otago in New Zealand. Three members of WOMB (Prof. Les Todres, Sarah Brown and JA [co-chair]) and the co-ordinator of a number of local lay-breastfeeding support groups (Mandy Grant) are members of the Advisory Group for this module. The Advisory Group includes Dr Valerie King of the Department of Family Medicine, University of Oregon.



**DIPEX Advisory Group:** L-R, seated: Louise Locock, Senior Qualitative Researcher, DIPEX; Dr Sue Ziebland, Research Director, DIPEX; Dr Kath Ryan, Senior Research Fellow, Bournemouth University; Alison Baum, Express Yourself Mums; Dr Pat Hoddinott, GP and Senior Clinical Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen.  
L-R, standing: Alison Taylor, Midwifery Lecturer, Bournemouth University; Dr Wendy Jones, The Breastfeeding Network; Dr Valerie King, Oregon Health and Sciences University; Professor Les Todres, Professor of Qualitative Research & Psychotherapy, Bournemouth University; Sarah Gill, La Leche League Great Britain; Sally Inch, Lactation Consultant, Breastfeeding Clinic/Human Milk Bank, Oxford; Christine Carson, Department of Health; Rosie Dodds, Policy Research Officer, National Childbirth Trust; Professor Mary Renfrew, Director, Mother and Infant Research Unit, University of York; Janet Fyle, Professional Policy Advisor, The Royal College of Midwives.

Following her membership of the DIPEX Advisory Group, JA collaborated in a secondary data analysis of the data related to fathers' experiences of antenatal screening. A paper and a book chapter (the latter also containing discussant comments from a conference presentation given in Austria) have resulted from this.

### **Higher degree students, taught master's students, completions and a sabbatical visitor**

Dr Jo Hartley, who works as a midwife in Dorchester, gained her PhD in 2005 for a study of women's experiences of transition to first motherhood which has led her to question many of the current widely held views concerning postnatal depression. (This student's work was partially funded by two external competitive scholarships.) There are two other MPhil/PhD students whose work relates to this theme. Sue Barker is exploring midwives' experiences of supporting women in their transition to first motherhood and Katherine Graham is exploring men's experiences of transition to first fatherhood (an area receiving increasing national policy interest). These three students are using a qualitative research approach known as phenomenology.

Midwifery lecturer Carol Wilkins has recently registered as a PhD student to explore changes in, and the relationship between, the Emotional Processing Scale and the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale in a cohort of childbearing women. Her master's dissertation was also concerned with the support needs of postnatal women and a related paper has been published. Another midwifery lecturer (Luisa Cescutti-Butler) also used grounded theory to explore parents' perceptions of staff competency in a neonatal intensive care unit for her master's dissertation. A paper concerning the importance they laid on caring behaviours has been published.

Dr Gill White, Associate Professor of Midwifery and Director of Health Science Programmes, Massey University, New Zealand, spent a sabbatical in the Spring of 2006 with Professors Roger Baker, Peter Thomas and Jo Alexander of the WOMB group and the RDSU (Poole) to develop collaborative work using the Emotional Processing Scale with childbearing women. In 2005 she published a book for parents concerning emotional changes following birth.

Prof. Peter Thomas is also supervising an MPhil/PhD student who is researching chronic fatigue syndrome in adolescents.

### **Midwifery care in a local 'Sure Start and Children's Centre' area**

Two members of the WOMB group (Dr Jen Leamon and Anne Viccars) have gained funding to undertake an evaluation of the experience of women and their families who have received specific midwifery care and support in a local Sure Start and Children's Centre area and the impact of that care. They will use mixed methods.

### **Some related published literature**

Alexander J. (2001) How much do we know about the giving and receiving of information? (Guest editorial). *International Journal of Nursing Studies* 38 (5), 495-496.

Alexander J, Ziebland S. (Editorial) (2006) The web – bringing support and health information into the home: the communicative power of qualitative research. *International Journal of Nursing Studies* 43 (4), 389-391.

Cescutti-Butler L, Galvin K. (2003) Parents' perceptions of staff competency in a neonatal intensive care unit. *Journal of Clinical Nursing* 12, 752-761.

Hartley J. (2005) *A Phenomenological Study of Transition to Motherhood*. Unpublished PhD thesis. Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University.

Hartley J, Todres L, Alexander J. (2001) *The journey to motherhood – a feminist phenomenological approach to understanding how women experience becoming mothers*. Society for Reproductive and Infant Psychology Conference.

Locock L, Alexander J. (2006) 'Just a bystander'? Men's place in the process of fetal screening and diagnosis. *Social Science and Medicine* 62, 1349-1359.

White, G. (2005) *Postnatal Moods – Emotional Changes Following Birth*. Auckland, NZ: Random House.

Wilkins C. (2006) A qualitative study exploring the support needs of first-time mothers on their journey towards intuitive parenting. *Midwifery* 22 (2), 169-180.

## 2. Postnatal Care and Breastfeeding

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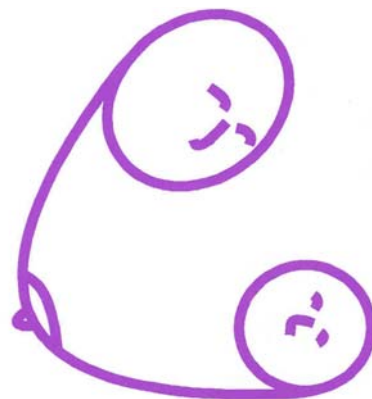
### **Supplementation of breastfed babies**

An ethnographic study of the supplementation of breastfed babies in hospital was funded by the Department of Health (DoH – England). A major theme to emerge was the healthcare professionals' desire to protect mothers from tiredness or distress, even though this sometimes conflicted with their role in promoting breastfeeding. At times, the supplementation appeared to be 'midwife led' and it was found that the use of naso-gastric tubes on the postnatal ward caused parents considerable distress. The study also suggested that there is an urgent need to determine which is the best method of giving supplementary feeds, so that full information can be given to parents, appropriate policies can be devised and the related resources and staff training can be provided.

Considerable interest has been shown in the outputs from this study, resulting in an invited plenary paper at a major national conference run by a lay organisation and an interview about the study on Radio 4's Woman's Hour programme (JA). One of the papers from the study has been used as the core material for an education module for the International Lactation Consultant Association. JA presented another related paper at the 2005 International Confederation of Midwives Conference in Brisbane with the assistance of a travel award from the British Academy.

### **Breastfeeding support group – an evaluation**

Two members of the WOMB group (Tricia Anderson and Mandy Grant) pioneered a number of lay breastfeeding support groups (Bosom Buddies). In one instance this was supported by a grant from the DoH (England) which included funding for an evaluation. This found that the group appeared to be highly successful in supporting women to continue breastfeeding for at least six weeks after their first attendance. Following publication, a number of other researchers have asked to use the survey tool.



**Bosom Buddies breastfeeding support group logo**

### **Collaborative work**

One member of WOMB (JA) is an identified Research Collaborator with the Public Health Collaborative Centre for Maternal and Child Nutrition at the University of York. Also, Bournemouth University has registered as a stakeholder for the development of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidelines on maternal and child nutrition.

### **Postnatal blood loss**

Earlier pioneering work establishing the normal pattern of postnatal lochial loss and the predictive factors for secondary postpartum haemorrhage continues to receive acknowledgement (Dr Sally Marchant and JA). The Cochrane systematic review of treatments of the latter has been updated and a main paper concerning the predictive factors (which include a previous history of secondary postpartum haemorrhage and maternal smoking) has been accepted for publication in 2006.

### **Higher degree students**

The work of two PhD students is relevant to this theme. Irene Ridgers (a midwife working in Berkshire) is using an ethnographic approach to explore the care provided for women on the postnatal ward. This student's work was partially funded by an external competitive scholarship. Another student, Susan Way, is conducting a qualitative exploration of women's experiences of their perineum postnatally.

### **Literature reviews about postnatal care translated into Indonesian**

An Indonesian translation of a book in the Midwifery Practice series (Core Topics 3) is in progress. This consists of nine chapters reviewing the literature concerning postnatal care. A member of the WOMB group (JA) is a foundation editor of this eight book series which is widely used within education curricula in both developed and developing countries.

### **Some related published literature**

Alexander J. (2001) Women, midwives and postnatal care – building the evidence together. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 11 (3), 377-379.

Alexander J. (2003) The role of tiredness, distress and the prevention of guilt in supplementing breastfed babies. Evidence from an ethnographic study. *New Digest Edition* 25, December, p13.

Alexander J, Anderson T, Grant M, Sanghera J, Jackson D. (2003) An evaluation of a support group for breastfeeding women in Salisbury. *Midwifery* 19 (3), 215-220.

Alexander J, Cloherty M, Holloway I. (2004) Should healthcare professionals 'rescue' women? The role of tiredness, distress and the prevention of guilt in supplementing breastfed babies. In: *National Childbirth Trust and Sure Start Joint Conference 'Making Breastfeeding a Reality: Sharing Good Practice and Strategies That Work' Conference Proceedings*. London: NCT, pp. 25-28.

Alexander J, Garcia J, Marchant S. (1997) (Reprinted 2000) *The BliPP Study: Blood Loss in the Postnatal Period – Final Report*. (2nd edition) Bournemouth: Bournemouth University. ISBN 1-85899-094-7

Alexander J, Marchant S, Garcia J. (1998) (Reprinted 2000) *BliPP 2: Blood Loss in the Postnatal Period. Information Leaflets for Women and Health Care Professionals about Postnatal Bleeding*. Bournemouth: Bournemouth University. ISBN 1-85899-095-5

Alexander J, Roth C, Levy V (eds). (2000) *Midwifery Practice: Core Topics 3*. [Postnatal Care] Basingstoke: Macmillan Press. ISBN 0-333-76433-1 [2006: to be translated into Indonesian – Konsep Kebidanan: Riset dan Isu]

Alexander J, Thomas P, Sanghera J. (2002) Treatments for secondary postpartum haemorrhage (Cochrane Review). *The Cochrane Library* Issue 1.

Anderson T. (1998) The Blandford Bosom Buddies: promoting breastfeeding in a small rural town. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 8 (1), 89-91.

Anderson T, Grant M. (2001) The art of community-based breastfeeding support. The Blandford Breastfeeding Support Group, incorporating the 'Blandford Bosom Buddies'. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 11, supplement 1, S20-S23.

Anderson T, Grant M, Alexander J, Jackson D, Sanghera J. (2002) *The Bemerton Heath Breastfeeding Support Group, incorporating the Bemerton Heath Bosom Buddies*. Bournemouth: Bournemouth University. ISBN 1-85899-145-5

Cloherty M, Alexander J, Holloway I. (2004) Supplementing breastfed babies in the UK to protect their mothers from tiredness or distress. *Midwifery* 20 (2), 194-204.

Cloherty M, Alexander J, Holloway I, Galvin K. (2003) *An Ethnography Concerning the Supplementation of Breastfed Babies*. Bournemouth: Bournemouth University. ISBN 1-85899-155-2

Cloherly M, Alexander J, Holloway I, Galvin K, Inch S. (2005) The cup-versus-bottle debate: A theme from an ethnographic study of the supplementation of breastfed infants in hospital in the United Kingdom (including an independent study module for the International Lactation Consultant Association). *Journal of Human Lactation* 21 (2), 151-167.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J. (2000) How does it feel to you? Uterine palpation and lochial loss as guides to postnatal 'recovery' (Part 1): Background. *The Practising Midwife* 3 (6), 23-25.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J. (2000) How does it feel to you? Uterine palpation and lochial loss as guides to postnatal 'recovery' (Part 2): The BliPP study (blood loss in the postnatal period). *The Practising Midwife* 3 (7), 31-33.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J. (2000) How does it feel to you? Uterine palpation and lochial loss as guides to postnatal 'recovery' (Part 3): Women's assessment of their own uterus. *The Practising Midwife* 3 (8), 23-24.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J. (2001) One small drop in the ocean? Blood loss in the postnatal period – the development and pilot tests of information leaflets for women about vaginal blood loss after childbirth (BliPP 2). *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 11, Supplement 1, S9-S13.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J. (2002) Postnatal vaginal bleeding problems and general practice. *Midwifery* 18, 21-24.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Garcia J, Ashurst H, Alderdice F, Keene J. (1999) A survey of women's experiences of vaginal loss from 24 hours to three months after childbirth (the BliPP study). *Midwifery* 15, 72-81.

Marchant S, Alexander J, Thomas P, Garcia J, Brocklehurst P, Keene J. (2006) Risk factors for hospital admission related to excessive and/or prolonged postpartum vaginal blood loss after the first 24 hours following childbirth. *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* [in press].

Ridgers I, Marchant S, Alexander J, Galvin K. (2002) What is happening on the postnatal ward? Non-participant observation. *26<sup>th</sup> International Confederation of Midwives Congress Conference Proceedings*, Vienna.

Viccars A. (2005) Editorial: Cutting smoking rates in pregnant women. *British Journal of Midwifery* 13 (4), 196-197.

### 3. Keeping Childbirth Normal

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#### **Higher degree students, taught master's students and completions**

The work of three higher degree students sits broadly within this theme. PhD student Tricia Anderson is using qualitative approaches to explore the role of trust within labour. Recently completed MPhil student Sue Fenwick has explored women's experiences of caesarean section and professional doctorate student Anne Viccars is undertaking a study of the experiences of midwives and women in labour. These latter two students used grounded theory.

Midwifery lecturer Sue Mant developed and piloted (via a national organisation) a questionnaire concerning the rarely used Zavanelli emergency procedure; this involves replacing the foetal head if there is intractable shoulder dystocia. A further master's student, Jane Fry, will be interviewing independent midwives about their experiences of supporting women during the third stage of labour at a home birth.

#### **Midwifery Ventouse practitioners**

Members of the WOMB group (JA, Suzanne Cunningham, Tricia Anderson) undertook an evaluation study of the Midwife Ventouse Practitioners' course and considerable interest has been demonstrated in the outputs from this.

#### **Spontaneous breech delivery**

An evolving area of work is that of spontaneous breech delivery and WOMB group member Jenny Davidson has been awarded a nationally contested (Ruth Davis) bursary to undertake a qualitative study of midwives' experiences of facilitating such births.

Another member of the group (Prof. Peter Thomas) has been assisting obstetric anaesthetists to investigate various aspects of their work.

#### **Data monitoring and research steering group membership**

One member of the WOMB group (JA) is a member of the Data Monitoring and Ethics Committee of the Early Labour Support and Assessment randomised controlled trial, funded by the DoH Service Delivery and Organisation stream at the University of York. Two members of the WOMB group (Anne Viccars and JA) have been steering group members of the Birthplace Choices study funded by the DoH.

### **Some related published literature**

Alexander J, Anderson T, Cunningham S. (2002) An evaluation by focus group and survey of a course for Midwifery Ventouse Practitioners. *Midwifery* 18 (2), 165-172.

Anderson T. (2002) The misleading myth of choice: the continuing oppression of women in childbirth. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 12 (3), 405-407.

Fenwick S. (2005) *Achieving Normality: The Key to Status Passage to Motherhood after a Caesarean Section*. Unpublished MPhil thesis. Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University.

Lewis P. (1997) This breech is not for turning: evidence based practice or professional ideology? *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 7 (3), 318-319.

Sutherland PD, Wee MYK, Weston-Smith P, Skinner T, Thomas PW. (2001) The use of thromboembolic deterrent stockings and a sequential compression device to prevent spinal hypotension during caesarean section. *International Journal of Obstetric Anaesthesia* 10, 97-102.

Wee MYK, Yentis SM, Thomas P. (2002) Obstetric anaesthetists' workload. *Anaesthesia* 57 (5), 493-500.

## 4. Education of Healthcare Professionals & Service Users

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### **Action research and enquiry-based learning**

The BUMP (Bournemouth University Midwifery Pre-registration) group is conducting an action research project led by Dr Jen Leamon. It includes two master's students (Stella Rawson and Sarah Brown) and Carol Wilkins in evaluating the pre-existing initiatives of the carrying of caseloads by students and enquiry-based learning (EBL) within the pre-registration midwifery curriculum. It is also evaluating story sharing and peer- and self-assessments. One WOMB member (Sue Tully) has already used her master's dissertation to explore whether students' learning styles affect their satisfaction with EBL as a learning and teaching strategy.

### **Higher degree students and completions**

WOMB member Dr Rosalind Bluff has completed a PhD exploring the role and impact of the clinical mentor on the education of student midwives, using grounded theory. An EdD student and child health lecturer (Helen Farasat) is exploring factors influencing competence in child health nursing education.

Senior lecturer Dr Jen Leamon's EdD thesis was entitled 'Stories about childbirth: learning from the discourses', which was based on the stories of women and both student and qualified midwives. In 2004 she was awarded one of the six Bournemouth University Teaching and Learning Fellowships to explore and disseminate further the story-sharing work for the benefit of professional education.

A third PhD student, Lynn Last, is exploring adolescent perspectives of teenage sexual behaviour.

Another member of the group (Prof. Peter Thomas) has supervised a primary school based intervention study to reduce children's fizzy drink consumption. A very influential publication resulted from this.

### **DIPEX evaluation**

A possible emerging area of work concerns evaluation of the use of DIPEX modules (see p.7) within the curriculum as a form of lifeworld-led learning. Professor Jo Garcia (Institute of Education, University of London; Visiting Chair, Bournemouth University) may be giving advice on this area.

## **Informing practice and education**

WOMB member Anne Viccars was central to conducting a randomised controlled trial concerning the effectiveness of a smoking and breastfeeding antenatal intervention programme. Anne is also part of the team that updates the *MIDIRS* Informed Choice leaflets, which are evidence-based, peer-reviewed leaflets for professionals and women. She has responsibility for the regular updating of two topics in the series.

Another member (Prof. Paul Lewis) is hoping to conduct an analysis of the midwifery cases that have come before the NMC Professional Conduct Committee in the last two years. It is proposed that the allegations, evidence and outcomes will be considered and one of the aims of the work is to inform education, supervision and practice.

Two midwifery lecturers, Sue Tully and Liz Davies, gave a presentation at the Royal College of Midwives' annual conference in 2006 about their innovative way of using posters within the pre-registration curriculum. A paper is in preparation.

## **Ethical guidelines**

Another WOMB member (JA) has recently given advice to the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services (AIMS) on the revision of their ethical guidelines for research involving service users. This was done in conjunction with IHCS Senior Lecturer Sabi Redwood, whose PhD studies specifically relate to research ethics. The earlier AIMS guidelines were accepted by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Royal College of Midwives and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

## **Undergraduate publications**

We are particularly pleased that the work of a number of pre-registration midwifery undergraduate students has been published in *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* – these are marked \* in the list below.

## **Other research publications**

Dr Rosalind Bluff is a foundation co-editor of the book *Principles and Practice of Research in Midwifery*. This is widely used within midwifery courses and the second edition was published in 2006.

JA is a foundation co-editor of the eight-book series *Midwifery Practice*, each of which is a series of literature reviews. Books from this series have been translated into Indonesian and Polish and were also published by a Canadian publisher.

### **Some related published literature**

Bluff R. (2000) *Learning and Teaching in the Context of Clinical Practice: The Midwife as Role Model*. Unpublished PhD thesis. Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University.

Cluett E, Bluff R (Ed) *Principles and Practice of Research in Midwifery*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.

Cook M. (2003) A beautiful birth. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 13 (4), 447-448. \*

Edwards D. (2004) The storm. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 14 (3), 309-310. \*

James J, Thomas P, Cavan D, Kerr D. (2004) Preventing childhood obesity by reducing consumption of carbonated drinks: cluster randomised controlled trial. *British Medical Journal* 328, 1237-1239.

Kennard C. (2004) Not 'just' a student midwife during clinical placements. *British Journal of Midwifery* 12 (9), 550. \*

Kennard C. (2005) EDD: September 2005. *Midwifery Matters* Spring, Issue 104, 5. \*

Leamon J. (2004) Review of: Callister L, Making meaning: women's birth narratives. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 14 (4), 458-459.

Leamon J. (2004) Sharing stories: what can we learn from such practice? *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 14 (1), 13-16.

Lewis P. (2002) An analysis of the role and responsibilities of the NMC. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 12 (4), 454-457.

Lewis P. (2002) Protecting the public through professional standards. *The Practising Midwife* 5 (4), 4-5.

Lewis P. (2003) Confidentiality – The NMC Code of Professional Conduct. *The Practising Midwife* 6 (5), 34.

Mcleod D, Benn C, Pullon S, Viccars A, White S, Cookson T, Dowell A. (2003) The midwife's role in facilitating smoking behaviour change during pregnancy. *Midwifery* 19, 285-297.

McLeod D, Pullon S, Benn C, Cookson T, Dowell A, Viccars A, White S, Green R, Crooke M. (2004) Can support and education for smoking cessation and reduction be provided effectively by midwives within primary maternity care? *Midwifery* 20 (1), 37-50.

New S. (2004) Giving birth the Swedish way. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 14 (4), 439-446. \*

Pullon S, McLeod D, Benn C, Viccars A, Cookson T, Dowell A, Green R. (2003) Smoking cessation in New Zealand: education and resources for use by midwives for women who smoke during pregnancy. *Health Promotion International* 18 (4), 315-325.

Pusey N. (2004) Student caseloading. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 14 (2), 164-165. \*

Sedgwick J. (2003) If only. *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* 13 (4), 445-447. \*

## Further Related Work

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Prof. Peter Thomas has had major involvement in the development of a health and hormones scale for older women (a funded study) and in a birth cohort study looking at early life predictors of adult asthma. Over a number of years he has also been developing a study to explore psychological predictors in early life of later chronic disease.

### **Some related published literature**

Rhodes HL, Sporik R, Thomas PW, Holgate ST, Cogswell JJ. (2001) Early risk factors for adult asthma: a birth cohort study of subjects at risk. *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* 108, 720-725.

Rhodes HL, Thomas PW, Sporik R, Holgate ST, Cogswell JJ. (2002) A birth cohort study of subjects at risk of atopy: 22 year follow-up of wheeze and atopic status. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 165, 176-180.

## WOMB Group Members' Editorial Board Membership

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### **Details of current editorial board membership and similar**

- *International Journal of Nursing Studies*: Associate Editor – Jo Alexander
- *Midwifery*: International Editorial Board member – Jo Alexander
- *British Journal of Midwifery*: Editorial Board member – Paul Lewis
- MIDIRS update panel for Informed Choice leaflets for parents and healthcare professionals – Anne Viccars
- *Midwifery Practice* series of books (Macmillan Press): Foundation and Joint Editor – Jo Alexander [three of these books have been translated into Polish, one into Indonesian and three are also published by a Canadian publishing house].

## WOMB Group Members' Publications (a selection)

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## WOMB Group Meetings

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The first WOMB Group meeting was held at the end of July 2003 and a list of areas of interest and related skills among those present was generated and circulated. Following this meeting a children's competition was run to create a logo for the group.

Since then, meetings have been held approximately quarterly. Almost every meeting has included a presentation and the intention has been to facilitate networking. The details of the meetings are as follows:

- 17.12.03: *'I'm worried – is there anyone there to help? A demonstration of the DIPEx website (www.dipex.org).'* Prof. Jo Alexander.  
Following this, a number of possible sub-groups of WOMB were identified and Dr Jen Leamon offered to lead one around evaluating the pre-registration midwifery curriculum.
- 17.3.04: *'Public participation in research – 3Rs: Recruitment, Retention and Remuneration.'* Philippa Yeeles, the Research Involvement Officer for INVOLVE (www.invo.org.uk) spoke about INVOLVE (formerly known as Consumers in NHS Research) – an organisation funded by the Department of Health with the aim of promoting public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research.
- 14.7.04: *'The Emotional Processing Scale.'* Professors Roger Baker and Peter Thomas spoke about the EPS which they developed and its potential relevance to childbearing women.
- 17.11.04: *'Enhancing the quality of attachment of first time mothers.'* Rebecca Haworth and Liz Hickson, clinical psychologists based with family services in Poole, gave a presentation about their proposed study.  
There was also an update on the proposed action research project evaluating elements of the pre-registration midwifery 2001 programme.
- 23.2.05: *'Utopian birth: the mismatch between women's accounts of operative deliveries and the natural birth.'* Dr Catherine Pope (University of Southampton) and Dr Julia Frost (University of Bristol) gave a talk about their study: Murphy DJ, Pope C, Frost J, Liebling RE. (2003) Women's views on the impact of operative delivery in the second stage of labour: qualitative interview study. *British Medical Journal* 327, 1132-1135.

- 24.5.05: *'Clinical mentorship: more than sitting with Nellie.'* Dr Rosalind Bluff presented a seminar based on her PhD study about work-based learning and apprenticeship. Working alongside a role model, the learner received instructions on how to perform skills but not about the theory to support their practice. The role model could pass on good/bad habits or habits that were never intended to be copied. In addition, some aspects of practice, such as obstetric emergencies, might never be witnessed and so learning about these did not take place. In the current educational climate, learning the role of midwife is more than just sitting with Nellie.
- 5.10.05: *'Exploring the emotion work of midwives.'* Prof Billie Hunter (University of Swansea) presented the findings of her important study on the emotion work of midwives, details of which can be found in the following publications:
  - Hunter B. (2004) Conflicting ideologies as a source of emotion work in midwifery. *Midwifery* 20 (3), 261-272.
  - Hunter B. (2005) Emotion work and boundary maintenance in hospital-based midwifery. *Midwifery* 21 (3), 253-266.
- 13.4.06: *'Transgressing the skin: a phenomenological study into the transition to first motherhood.'* Dr Jo Hartley presented findings from her recently completed PhD research: Hartley J. (2005) *A Phenomenological Study of Transition to Motherhood*. Unpublished PhD thesis. Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University.
- 3.5.06: Sue Tully, Liz Davey and Dr Kath Ryan gave papers that they were to present at the annual Royal College of Midwives conference in Torquay the following week.
- 10.5.06: *'The cry and the covenant.'* Prof Gill White (sabbatical visitor from Massey University, New Zealand) gave a presentation concerning the difficulties of achieving evidence-based practice and how to overcome them.
- 19.5.06: *'Breastfeeding in Sweden and parental leave.'* Dr Clara Aarts, Senior Lecturer, Uppsala University, Sweden gave an excellent overview from a country where, unlike the UK, breastfeeding is now the cultural norm.
- 27.6.06: *'Stranger in the Birth Room.'* A seminar led by Kathryn Gutteridge (consultant midwife and psychotherapist) exploring the impact of childhood abuse on women in childbirth and as new mothers. This was jointly hosted by WOMB and Dorset Action on Abuse.