



Maternal & Perinatal Health Bournemouth University

# Newsletter, Spring 2022

#### Introduction

Welcome to our latest Centre for Midwifery Maternal & Perinatal Health (CMMPH) newsletter. Midwifery and maternity care has had a lot of media attention recently with the publication of the Ockenden Review, describing the outcomes resulting from poor care women and babies received during their labour and birth. These are tragic events and it is essential that the voices of all involved are heard. Listening to women, their partners and families is an important part of our work in CMMPH with Patient Participant Involvement (PPI) informing our strategy and being a key feature of all of our research work.

As usual we have a mixture of news items and success stories. The end of March saw Professor Vanora Hundley step down from her role as Deputy Dean for Research and Professional Practice (page 2) and take a well earned sabbatical to concentrate on a number of research grant bids and projects. Other members of the midwifery academic team are also making changes with three members of staff, Prof. Sue Way, Dr Luisa Cescutti-Butler and Sue Mant retiring this academic year (pages 6+7). Dr Preeti Mahato is also leaving taking up a new post of Lecturer in Global Health at Royal Holloway (page 7).

Our students are yet again highlighted in the newsletter with newly qualified midwife Emma Hamilton having five journal articles published before she qualified, as well as being awarded SUBU Prize of the Year for her outstanding achievements (page 5). Clinical Academic Doctorate midwife Charlotte Clayton has also had a number of papers published as well as being awarded the Iolanthe Midwifery Research Fellowship to support her in the writing up phase of her doctorate (pages 2+6).

Susan Way	
Inside this issue:	CMMPH aims
Welcome	We promote the health and wellbeing of women, babies and their families by enhancing practice through education, research and scholarship.
Research	<ul> <li>Our strategy is to develop nationally and internationally recognised research that:</li> <li>Promotes the health and well-being of women, babies and their families</li> <li>Underpins clinical midwifery practice</li> <li>Informs policy making in relation to maternity care</li> <li>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</li> <li>Undertakes work across a wide methodological range.</li> </ul>
Research	
Education	
Practice	
News and Events	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:**

Prof Susan Way, Prof Edwin van Teijlingen & Prof Vanora Hundley

**Contact details:** Centre for Midwifery, Maternal & Perinatal Health, Bournemouth University, Bournemouth Gateway Building, St Paul's Lane, Bournemouth, BH8 8GP. **Tel:** 01202 961821 **Web:** <u>www.bournemouth.ac.uk/cmmph</u>

# **Research in CMMPH**

## **Refocusing on Midwifery: a time for reflection**



After eight years as Deputy Dean for Research and Professional Practice (DDRPP) Prof. Vanora Hundley has earned a well-deserved sabbatical. She will be focusing on her work in midwifery and maternal research, which includes her roles as an advisor to WHO, member of the steering group for the Chief Midwifery Officer's National Maternity Research Programme. and Specialty Lead for Reproductive Health in CRN Wessex. She is also working on research applications with colleagues in the UK, Nepal and Pakistan. During her time as DDRPP Vanora significantly grew research in the Faculty of Health & Social Sciences, building a pipeline for research within the 18 different disciplines in the faculty. This capacity building is evident in the growth in research income (from

 $\pounds$ 2.1m to  $\pounds$ 3.8m), full time doctoral students (from 19% to 52%), the majority of whom now have external funding, and completion of staff doctorates (from 38% to 65%).

Vanora also raised the profile of clinical research in Bournemouth University and introduced new systems of governance that have been adopted across the University. Using her strong links with professional practice she introduced the Clinical Academic Doctorate in 2014, which has been recognised as a model of excellent practice by the AUKUH. Her efforts have been recognised intramurally (VC award for work on the Clinical Academic Doctorate/Fusion), extramurally (selected to the REF Panel and a variety of other grant awarding panels) and internationally (selected for induction into the prestigious <u>Sigma Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame</u>).

On behalf of CMMPH members I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vanora for all her hard work in the role as DDRPP and recgonising that many of the achievements highlighted above have impacted positively on midwifery research at BU. I know Vanora will be very busy during her sabbatical and know that midwifery, women and babies will benefit enormously from this work.

#### Clinical Academic Doctorate student Charlotte Clayton co-authors research paper with ORCHA colleagues

Charlotte has taken on a consultancy role as Clinical Lead at the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Application (ORCHA) in the Maternity and Women's Health department. ORCHA work with over 50% of NHS Trusts, local au-

thorities and education sectors by assessing digital health apps compliance with digital health regulations to ensure only the best apps are used by the public to treat and manage their health. They curate app libraries of apps which have passed their robust assessment process, which health and care professionals can then access and 'prescribe' to the public based on their need. Basically it's ensuring that only the safest apps are used by the public to monitor and manage their health. Alongside being involved in multiple projects with the company, Charlotte

BMJ Open Web-based internet searches for digital health products in the United Kingdom before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: a time-series analysis using app libraries from the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Applications (ORCHA)

Simon Leigh O, 1 Rob Daly, 1 Sebastian Stevens, 1 Luka Lapajne, Charlotte Clayton, 2 Tim Andrews, 1 Liz Ashall-Payne1

reviews apps for their clinical safety. The research paper came about after their research department conducted a time series analysis of the increase in app distributions from the ORCHA library before and after the first COVID-19 lockdown. Charlotte provided clinical expertise and contributed to the final write up of the paper.

As a result of Charlotte's work with ORCHA, she was approached to become a member of <u>NHSx Digital Shared Decision</u> <u>Making Council</u> NHSX, as a joint unit of NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Department for Health and Social Care, commissions and oversees a portfolio of digital transformation programmes. The activity is driven by the priorities of the NHS and the care sector. Charlotte is working with nurses, midwives and AHPs informing a national strategy in the digital space. Charlotte says, '*I am bringing my skills in research, maternity care and digital health work with ORCHA to this work stream*'. If you want to know more about Charlotte's journey into research you can find more information on the <u>RCM Website: Career framework</u> where Charlotte has been asked write a short piece.

### **Research study collaboration with UHD**

Dr Malika Felton and Prof Vanora Hundley have re-opened recruitment for a study in collaboration with UHD investigating 'effects of slow and deep breathing on reducing obstetric intervention in women with pregnancy-induced hypertension: A feasibility study'. The research was originally started in 2020, but was soon paused due to the coronavirus pandemic. Dr Felton has now received internal BU pump-priming funding to re-start the study, and Visiting Fellow Steph Grigsby is supporting recruitment from St Mary's Maternity Unit at Poole Hospital A more detailed account of the progress of the study will be available in the next edition.

# **Research in CMMPH**

#### Prof van Teijlingen writes about his 20 years as book review editor



In April Professor van Teijlingen celebrated 20 years as Book Review Editor for the international journal *Sociological Research Online*. He was asked to write a one-page piece reflecting on his experiences which was published in the latest quarterly issue of *Network*, the newsletter of the BSA (British Sociological Association). The articles takes you on a journey through Professor van Teijlingen's early days as a reviewer to be the longest serving book editor at the journal. Reflections also include a time from when he was receiving advice through to writing and publishing advice for budding scholars asked to write a book review.

#### Prof Susan Way invited to speak at the Maternity and Midwifery Forum



Last November Prof Susan Way was invited to speak at the Maternity & Midwifery Forum, Educating Midwives – *Meeting Future Challenges*. One of the aims of the conference was to look ahead to the new skills for lecturers and new opportunities for research and specialism. The topic of Sue's talk was, '*Can you remain a clinical midwife and have a career in research?*' Working on the assumption that the answer was ,'yes', the presentation discussed why research competency is important and how a number of

organisations such as the RCM, Council of Deans of Health and the NMC have made it a priority in their policy work. The presentation then went on to identify what the practising midwife could do in order to enhance their research skills such as apply for funding awards similar to those offered by the Iolanthe Midwifery Trust, Wellbeing of Women Entry Scholarship and NHS England Integrated Clinical Academic Career programme: Internship. Each of the examples were showcased by research that midwives who have studied at BU have completed. The presentation concluded with the pioneering work started by Professor Vanora Hundley implementing the Clinical Academic Doctorates at BU with further midwives' research being highlighted in this area.

### **Match-funded studentships**

CMMPH has been successful in securing three match funded studentships:

1. A comparative study of a midwife-led, integrated smoke free pregnancy pathway with standard care—University Hospitals Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (four year, full time, Clinical Academic Doctorate)

## Funded PhD & MRes studentships

The perfect way to expand your horizons

- 2. *Personalised care for women of advanced maternal age*—University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust (four year, full time, Clinical Academic Doctorate)
- 3. *What factors influence Consultant Practitioners meeting the programme outcomes and pathways of care?* NHS Health Education England, South East region. (three year, full time, doctorate)

Interviews will be taking place soon for students to start in September 2022. If anyone is interested in supporting match-funded studentships please contact Prof. Susan Way, <a href="mailto:sueway@bournemouth.ac.uk">sueway@bournemouth.ac.uk</a>

#### Prof van Teijlingen presents at Dementia Research Conference

You may wonder why Edwin would be presenting at the Qatar-based conference about dementia but his topic focused on research methods: *'Introducing Qualitative methods'*. Bournemouth University has developed a research relationship with Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar, the University of Huddersfield, the Gulf Medical University in United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in East Anglia.



# **Education in CMMPH**

#### Newborn Infant Physical Examination for BU undergraduate students



Dr Luisa Cescutti-Butler has been instrumental in driving forward the opportunity for undergraduate student midwives to qualify as NIPE practitioners alongside their BSc (Hons) Midwifery qualification. As Luisa is retiring this year (see page 7) it felt fitting for her to write about her journey to making this a success. Examination of the Newborn (EXON), mostly referred to in practice as Newborn Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) has traditionally been viewed by the midwifery profession as an innovative and enhanced role, and only available to post-registered midwives at a senior level. However, in September 2013, I was approached by a then 3rd year student midwife, who wanted to qualify with EXON/NIPE skills and competencies. This informal discussion led to the development and initiation, in conjunction with Professor Susan Way and with the support of local Heads of Midwifery

(HoMs), of a pilot project, which enabled up to five undergraduate students per year to access learning with qualified midwives on a CPD unit EXON course. At BU The timing of the request was important. The midwifery team were already halfway through the design phase for a new curriculum to be implemented in September 2014 and discussions were in progress to incorporate examination of the newborn into the curricula.

I was conscious though, that the pilot projects did not promote equality of opportunity for all our learners as capacity to include approximately 90 midwifery students on each CPD unit (x3 per year) was limited to only five per intake. We therefore decided that the proposed new 2014 curriculum would include theory only, spread throughout the undergrad-uate programme (levels 4, 5 & 6) without the practice element, as professional capacity within the clinical area to provide our students with practical experience was lacking. This was evident from informal student evaluations.

This lack of exposure for all 90+ of our students to access practical experience around EXON skills spurred me on to develop a 'Fast Track Day', again with the consent of our HoMs, and the Lead Midwife for Education (LME) at BU. The option was open to any 3rd year student who wanted to obtain the skills prior to qualification. There were certain conditions to be met, for example, they could not be a student who was falling behind in their EU numbers and they had to secure the agreement of their HoM and identify a NIPE trained midwife who could support their practice. Since this option was introduced into the curriculum in 2017, at least 27 students have graduated with the skills adding to the growing numbers of NIPE midwives in practice.

Feedback from each Fast Track Day has always been positive and I am pleased that the students found the learning beneficial. Finally, after all these years, I have managed to have included in our new 2021 curriculum, a dedicated new-born infant physical examination module. The module is timetabled early in their third year (2024) in order to give students the best opportunity to achieve the skills and competencies throughout their final year. I am sad that I will not be there to facilitate learning however it is a good legacy to leave behind. I am proud that our BU midwifery students will gualify with the skills and competencies in EXON at the point of their registration.

#### Newly qualified midwife Emma Hamilton has five articles published including an 'article of the month'

Before qualifying as a midwife, Emma Hamilton was prolifically writing for *The Practising Midwife* and *All4Maternity*, the online platform of *The Practising Midwife*. Emma's contributions have ranged from blogs, articles and a poem written as a personal tribute to her father who recently died in July 2021. Emma has creatively adapted several assignments for publication:

1. Hamilton, E. 2021. Personal philosophy of Care. *All4Maternity* (adapted from Caseload unit assignment)

2. Hamilton, E. 2021. Lockdown. All4Maternity. (dedicated to Emma's father)

3. Hamilton, E. 2021. Multidisciplinary working: A reflection on a service improvement project. *All4Maternity*. (adapted from the Service Improvement unit assignment)

4. Hamilton, E. 2021. Challenges faced in maternity care for women with hearing loss. *The Practising Midwife*. \*Article of the month.

5. Hamilton, E. 2022. Health Leadership and Innovation. *All4Maternity*. (adapted from the Health, Leadership and Innovation unit).

Recognising Emma's achievements and her contribution to the work of SUBU, she was awarded SUBU Prize of the year.

#### NHS Midwifery Ambassadors at University Hospitals Dorset NHS Trust

Visiting Faculty colleague Jilly Ireland and co-worker Jane Morley-Smith, (BU graduate) have volunteered to be NHS Midwifery Ambassadors. The <u>NHS Ambassadors programme</u> aims to attract the future healthcare workforce by getting young people interested in different roles and professions within the NHS. Midwifery Ambassadors role model midwifery as a confident, credible profession to enter. Each NHS maternity service is tasked to recruit two midwives to be active frontline ambassadors for midwifery. Jilly's key role relates to the staff wellbeing workstream and Jane has been active in the workstream related to schools and further education. She has



been attending online sessions with would-be midwives in schools, offering virtual work experience with colleges in London and working with a Pan Dorset workforce delivery project. The picture shows Jane enjoying offering the work experience aspect. UHD are in the process of recruiting one further Ambassador, Suzie Wright, who will be based in the community. Director of Midwifery, Lorraine Tonge has been very supportive of Jilly and Jane is getting the role up and running.

#### Suzanne Cunningham, Director of Midwifery at UHS retires



After a long and distinguished midwifery career having an impact in practice, education, leadership and policy Suzanne retired at the end of April. Suzanne has had a long association with Bournemouth University and came to talk to our third year group of students about her career in midwifery and in particular her leadership roles. She highlighted one of the most proudest and challenging moments of her career was to steer the maternity service through the pandemic. Previously, Suzanne has been recognised for her contribution to midwifery by being awarded an OBE **2010**. Suzanne was a lecturer at Bournemouth University in the early 1990's and developed one of the first post registration courses, which could be viewed as being ahead of it's time. It offered modules preparing for caseload practice, neonatal examination and evidenced-based care, all of which are topical today. Suzanne left BU to take up one of the first Consultant Midwife post in the UK at Southampton where her influence and impact continued building a culture of trust and respect in which midwives

worked with their obstetric colleagues in true partnership for the benefit of women and their babies.

While remaining in her Consultant Midwife role, Suzanne took on many other roles embedding evidenced-based maternity care across Wessex and developing policy with the Department of Health. When retired from the NHS, Suzanne will not be giving up midwifery altogether and will continue to use her expertise in helping other maternity units transform their services. You can read more about Suzanne's career <u>here</u>. Emma Northover now takes over the baton.

## Dr Rachel Arnold on the plight of women and midwives in Afghanistan

In recent weeks as the war in Ukraine continues and intensifies, the plight of pregnant women and newborn infants has been traumatic news to hear and comprehend. Women and their families in Afghanistan are also facing a humanitarian disaster through the collapse of the economy and lack of access to healthcare for women highlighted by Dr Rachel Arnold in her interview with Radio Solent.

A few weeks before the Taliban took Kabul (Aug 2021) Rachel had a video call with a senior Afghan midwife. She reported that women in Taliban control areas had been told to stay at home when they had their babies and be helped at home. The uncertainty around women being allowed out in public made it highly unlikely that women would seek help outside the home. It also made the position of midwives precarious whether travelling to work in a clinic, or to support women in their homes. Dr Arnold did three interviews with radio Solent during this time answering questions about life under the Taliban in the nineties, the progress of the last two decades and 'what now?' She found it tough, trying to find clear, informative 'sound bites' for the audience - to neatly summarise a catastrophe that profoundly affects millions of people.

The midwives and female doctors she knows are courageous and determined. Most grew up knowing nothing but conflict, disrupted education, life as a refugee. Some worked for months in hospitals and clinics without essential supplies, electricity or salaries during times of fighting. For 20 years with support from the international community these Afghan doctors and midwives have worked for a better future for women and their families. This is not the future that they worked for. I know that they will still risk a lot to go to women who need them, to use their knowledge and skills to continue saving lives Rachel says, unfortunately, there is little we can do to support them now but hope and pray.

# **Congratulations, news and events**

### Congratulations to Prof. Susan Way on her forthcoming retirement

All good things must come to an end, but the CMMPH team will be sad to see Sue retire later this year. Sue has always been passionate about being a midwife and about making a difference to the profession of midwifery. She has contributed greatly to midwifery and maternal & newborn health at local, national and international levels.

Prof. Way did her midwifery training locally, at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth. She says that when she teaches in some of the classrooms at Portsmouth, she is fondly reminded of her own training there. Sue started as a midwife teacher at the Dorset and Salisbury School of Midwifery & Nursing, which merged with BU in 1992. By that time, she had completed a postgraduate certificate in adult education and became course leader to one of the first direct entry midwifery programmes in the UK (photo right – no laughing!).

came course leader to one of the first direct entry midwifery programmes in the UK (photo right – no laughing!). The next phase in Sue's career was working for eight years at the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting in 2001,



which evolved into the current NMC, and where she was influential as a midwifery education advisor.

In 2009 Sue returned to BU as the Lead Midwife for Education, but she continued to have a number of national roles including as NMC Visitor, NMC Investigating Committee panellist, Chair of the Lead Midwives for Education, RCM Board Member, Chair of the RCM Board and currently RCM Committee member. Sue has been recognised for her lead-ing role in midwifery education, being awarded the Advanced HE as a National Teaching Fellow; becoming a Fellow of the RCM and a UKCGE Recognised Research Supervisor.

Gill Walton, CEO of the RCM, added her congratulations on Sue's retirement " Sue has done so much for midwives, midwifery and women and families. Her huge commitment including to the RCM will have a long lasting impact on the future of midwifery and safe, high quality care"

#### BU's research links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Back in February Prof van Teijlingen was invited as an Associate editor for BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth to write a few



Blog Network

paragraphs about the links between his research and the United Nations SDG. Prof van Teijlingen's research work means he collaborates with many different research teams, however, the main SDGs are probably 3, 5, and 17. SDG 3 'Good Health and Well-being' is at the core of his work as sociologist of health and illness, closely followed by SDG 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' which is key in all health fields, and especially in his post as Professor of Reproductive Health Research studying maternity and midwifery. You can read the

full blog <u>here.</u>

#### New job for Dr. Preeti Mahato—success while at BU

Congratulations to Dr. Preeti Mahato on her new permanent post of Lecturer in Global Health at Royal Holloway



(University of London). Preeti started as a PhD student in CMMPH where she was supervised by Dr. Catherine Angell and Prof. Edwin van Teijlingen in close collaboration with BU Visiting Faculty Prof. Padam Simkhada as her third external supervisor. Since the start of her PhD with us Preeti has published nearly 20 academic papers, with several BU colleagues, and gave birth to two babies! We wish her all the best in her new post and hope to continue working with her on a range of exciting research projects.

## **Congratulations to PGR student Charlotte Clayton**

Charlotte has been awarded the Iolanthe Midwifery Research Fellowship for her PhD, '*The public health role of caseloading midwives in advancing health equity in women and babies in socially deprived areas in England: The Mi-CARE study*'. The

🕹 The Iolanthe Midwifery Trust

award is given to assist a midwife in the final stages of completing their doctorate and will support Charlotte during the writing of her thesis.

# **Congratulations, news and events**

#### **Retirement of colleagues**



The end of this academic year sees the retirement of two midwifery colleagues: Dr Luisa Cescutti-Butler and Susan Mant. They have been longstanding members of the midwifery academic team and will be sorely missed. They have contributed enormously to the midwifery community at BU and beyond. As noted on page 4, Luisa's expertise includes neonatal care, having spent much of her career involved in this area of practice. Luisa has worked in NICU in Poole and Salisbury both as a Lecturer Pracitioner and a full time midwifery lecturer. Luisa champions for equality for women and is an active member of BU's Women's Academic Network. Luisa also has a strong interest in ethics and was a member of the BU Science, Technology and Health Research Ethics Committee until April 2022 as well as the NHS Health Research Authority (Frenchay).

Sue has never shied away from a challenge and was one of the first in the midwifery team to actively use the concept of the 'flipped classroom' in her teaching and has continued to engage with this style of student learning. Sue was also

integral in the development of on-line marking, helping to pilot various devises before it was a feature of Brightspace. Dorset County Hospital has been Sue's clinical link area where she has worked closely with the Head of Midwifery, Jo Hartley for many years. Jo says "*I have worked with Sue for many years and seen her support many students through their training. She has always been focused on the wellbeing of the students and on supporting them to "bring their best selves" to the role. Together we have managed some tricky situations and Sue has always worked tirelessly to ensure that her students are well represented and that every opportunity is provided for them to complete their training. Her kindness, her vast experience, and her gentle approach to guiding students through their training, will be hugely missed. Thank you Sue for all you have done for the future of midwifery and the student s at DCH*".



### **Congratulations to CMMPH professors on their recent book launch**

Professors Vanora Hundley and Edwin van Teijlingen co-edited *Academic Writing and Publishing in Health and Social Sciences*. The book serves as a guide to those attempting any kind of writing on social science or

health science. Whether an MSc or PhD student, a health professional, a researcher, an academic or an editor, the book is packed with practical tips, expert advice, and examples to develop skills and build confidence. Each chapter addresses a different aspect of the art and science of writing and publishing. Written in a most accessible style, the book will be a particularly handy tool for budding academics who want to see their work in print.

The volume has been put together by editors with a long and wide-ranging experience as journal editors, peer reviewers, book authors and authors of papers published in scientific journals across the globe. The Kathmandu-based publisher Social Science Baha organised a book launch in Nepal on 13 April 2022. The event in Kathmandu was attended by several chapter contributors.



### Dr Fotini Tsofilou's collaboration with NNEdPro Global Centre

This group aims to improve nutrition-related health outcomes by training professionals, strengthening research, implementing solutions and addressing inequalities, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025. Led by cutting-edge research, the

group looks to benefit vulnerable families/communities, as its education programmes train frontline healthcare and nutrition professionals throughout the world. The group are interested in Fotini's work related to Mediterranean diet and the positive effects it can have on people's health and wellbeing. Currently Fotini's interests include if a modified Mediterranean diet can improve the mental health of perinatal women who suffer from anxiety and low mood.



#### NNEDPRO GLOBAL CENTRE FOR NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Advancing and implementing nutrition knowledge to improve health, wellbeing and society

#### 2021-2022 publications

- **Bartholomew, V.,** 2021. The RETHINK Study Protocol: to determine if pregnant women who pain catastrophise are more likely to attend hospital during the latent phase of labour. *Evidence Based Midwifery*. <u>Post-print online December</u> 2021. **T**
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Thank you to all contributors. If you have a story linked to CMMPH you want to share in the next edition, or would like to be on our mailing list please email **Leah on HSSFacultySupportAdministrator@bournemouth.ac.uk**