

Study Day 2024 - Programme

11th March 2024 - The Studio, 7 Cannon Street, Birmingham B2 5EP

9:30	Registration & tea/coffee/pastries on arrival	
10:00	Welcome	Mervi Jokinen, Professional Advisor, RCM
10:15	UKMidSS: evidence and impact	Rachel Rowe, Head of UKMidSS, NPEU Alessandra Morelli, UKMidSS Research Midwife, NPEU
	Postpartum haemorrhage in midwifery units Women with diabetes in midwifery units Future UKMidSS studies	
11:15	Mid-morning break with tea/coffee	
11:30	Developing research in midwifery	Chair: Hannah McCauley, Consultant Midwife, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
	Your priorities for future research	
	RCM Research Prioritisation Project	Jenny Cunningham & Jude Field, Research Advisors, RCM
12:30	Lunch and drop-in research clinic: bring your research ideas and questions - get advice from our experts	
13:45	Listen2Baby: improving fetal monitoring for women having uncomplicated labour	Rachel Rowe Megan Douthwaite, Listen2Baby Researcher Jen Maclellan, Listen2Baby Researcher
14:30	Afternoon break with tea/coffee	
14:45	Evidence to support women's choices around immersion in water during labour	Chair: Rachel Plachcinski, Parent Patient and Public Involvement Consultant
	Water immersion for women with raised body mass index	Claire Litchfield, Consultant Midwife, Oxford University Hospitals NHs Trust
	My (Big) Body, My Choice	Amber Marshall, Founder of bigbirthas.co.uk
	Pool Study results: establishing the safety of waterbirth for mothers and babies	Julia Sanders, Professor of Clinical Midwifery, Cardiff University
	Panel discussion	
16:00	Closing remarks	
		Mervi Jokinen, Professional Advisor, RCM

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speaker profiles



UKMidSS Study Day Speaker Biographies



Jenny Cunningham is one of the part time Research Advisors at the RCM. Prior to this she was a clinical midwife, a research midwife, and a midwife researcher in the South West of England. Jenny was also the RCM Learning Rep at her local hospital Trust. Since working for the RCM, she has led on the development of the RCM's Research and Development strategy and am really motivated to help midwives get involved in research and for the RCM to be able to support them on their journey. As part of this role, Jenny co-lead the RCM's Research Prioritisation Project. She started a part time PhD at Kingston University in 2020 and is focusing on weight stigma in pregnancy.



Megan Douthwaite joined the NPEU in May 2023 as a Researcher on the Listen2Baby study. Megan has an undergraduate degree in Social Anthropology, and an MSc in Medical Demography from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Megan has over 25 years of international research experience in the field of sexual and reproductive behaviour and the social determinants of risk, working in multi-disciplinary teams. She has held research positions with the LSHTM, the Population Council, and MSI Reproductive Choices. Her academic interest is applied, field-based research, with a focus on the design and evaluation of targeted, community-based sexual and reproductive health interventions. She has expertise in using both qualitative and quantitative methods.



Jude Field is one of the part time Research Advisors at the RCM. Prior to this she was a clinical midwife and a midwifery lecturer. Jude completed a PhD about the offer of planned home birth in 2018. Currently, her other half time employment is as a qualitative research assistant on a NIHR funded perinatal mental health RCT. Jude's work for the RCM involves implementation of the RCM Research and Development strategy. Jude co-leads the RCM's Research Prioritisation Project with her job share colleague Jenny Cunningham.



Jennifer MacLellan is a nurse/midwife with experience in public health and research delivery. Jen's Phd explored vulnerability and identity in childbirth using narrative analysis. She now works as a qualitative researcher on the Listen2Baby study at NPEU while running her own funded research using participatory methods with women who have experience of challenges accessing healthcare.

Amber Marshall founded BigBirthas.co.uk in 2011. The website and Facebook group supports and advocates for higher BMI pregnancies, helping people to understand and contextualise the available data in order to make truly informed, evidence based choices.

She contributes as a lay member to clinical guidelines for NICE and RCOG, and assists a number of Universities through guest lecturing, oversight committees, and PPI involvement in research.



Alessandra Morelli is a research midwife working with UKMidSS. She is also a Clinical Midwifery Fellow at the Royal College of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists, and an Associate Lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.



Rachel Plachcinski is a lay member on the UKMidSS steering group, as well as being lay co-lead for parent, patient and public involvement at the Policy Research Unit for Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care at NPEU. She is a former NCT antenatal teacher and now works as a freelance PPI consultant on a variety of maternity research projects, including the POOL study. She has very fond memories of the midwives who helped her access the maternity care she wanted and needed.



Rachel Rowe is a Senior Health Services Researcher in the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU). She leads research about the safety and quality of maternity care, particularly focussing on women who are healthy with straightforward pregnancies and on midwifery-led care. This includes leading the UK Midwifery Study System (UKMidSS), a national research infrastructure supporting national observational studies and surveys of practice in midwifery units across the UK, which she set up in 2015; a stream of work within the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care (PRU-MNHC), for which she is a co-investigator; and Listen2Baby, an NIHR-funded project using experience-based co-design to improve the safety and quality of fetal monitoring for women having uncomplicated labour.

Alongside her research Rachel leads the NPEU's Parent, Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement activities. She also led a project to develop an award-winning stage play, after birth, which uses emotion, humour and drama to engage the public with research about maternal mental health produced by the PRU-MNHC, MBRRACE-UK and the NPEU.



Julia Sanders is based in Cardiff University and has many years' experience in the design and conduct of maternity research. Julia is currently involved in many clinically focused studies covering diverse topics including implementation of midwifery continuity of carer, intermittent auscultation, waterbirth, postpartum haemorrhage and breastfeeding. Her methodological expertise is within randomised trials and the use of routine health and other data for research purposes. Julia led the recently completed NIHR funded POOL study investigating the safety of waterbirth for mothers and babies using routine NHS data.