Our regular newsletters are an easy way to keep up-to-date with all our new developments and interesting scientific research on Maternal Neonatal and Child Health care. It keeps you informed, so you never miss out.

Do you have an idea or a success story to share? Maybe you’ve heard of an upcoming event? Did you have a solution that you’d like to suggest to others? Send us your ideas so we can learn from each other!

If you have comments about our newsletter or any suggestions for improvement, please let us know by emailing Meseret at: mesidesta@gmail.com.

We hope that you benefit and enjoy reading.

Suspected Ebola patient died of Malaria, says Ethiopia

An Ethiopian patient suspected to have been suffering from Ebola died in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Wednesday. The patient, who recently returned from Sierra Leone, one of the worst-hit West African countries, was quarantined following his arrival at Addis Ababa Airport two weeks ago after showing Ebola-like symptoms.

However, Ethiopian health minister Dr. Keseteberhan Admassu on Thursday has dismissed speculation the patient had died of Ebola, saying tests had confirmed he was not infected with the virus. Read more http://www.ethiosports.com/2015/01/17/moh-says-suspected-ebola-patient-died-of-malaria/
**Inter-professional collaboration, the only way to Save Every Woman and Every Child**

Midwives you are not alone! Midwives are most effective when integrated into the health system and working in teams with other medical staff and with properly trained support staff. The need for collaboration and integrated care along the continuum is evident, says the Lancet Series. See more [http://www.thelancet.com/series/midwifery](http://www.thelancet.com/series/midwifery)

*Source ICM*

**Giving midwives the respect they deserve**

Midwives are skilled, knowledgeable, and compassionate individuals who care for childbearing women, newborn infants, and families. They provide care across the continuum, throughout pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, birth, the post partum period and during the early weeks of life. Let’s give midwives the respect they deserve. See more [http://girlsglobe.org/2014/11/21/giving-midwives-the-respect-they-deserve/](http://girlsglobe.org/2014/11/21/giving-midwives-the-respect-they-deserve/)

**Improving birth and pregnancy outcomes through registries in southern Ethiopia**

Many people wonder if it is possible for trained community health workers to measure maternal mortality in rural communities.

Read this blog, written by Yaliso Yaya with the Centre for International Health at the University of Bergen, Norway and the teaching staff at Arba Minch College of Health Science, Ethiopia for an interesting perspective.

Link [here](#) to read the blog post.
Doctor warns against 'keepsake' ultrasounds

Expectant parents should avoid the use of ultrasounds for nonmedical reasons, according to maternal-fetal medicine experts. "Ultrasound is a valuable tool when done for medical purposes by trained professionals," said one physician. "But this technology should not be used for entertainment purposes to see an image of a baby or to identify gender." Experts say that ultrasounds may heat tissues and that the long-term effects of this are not well understood. For more information, please see http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150107140752.htm.

Women who experience 'postpartum' depression before giving birth may face greater risk

Postpartum depression (PPD) may have a diverse clinical presentation and this has critical implications for diagnosis, treatment and understanding of the underlying biology of the illness, a new study finds. "Clinicians should be aware of the diverse presentation of women with postpartum depression," said a corresponding collaborator of the study. "A thorough assessment of a woman's history is necessary to guide appropriate clinical and treatment decisions." More information is found in the article available at the following link http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150115152849.htm.

Potential cause for 40 per cent of pre-term births identified by scientists

Scientists have identified what they believe could be a cause of pre-term premature rupture of the fetal membrane (PPROM), which accounts for 40 per cent of pre-term births, and is the main reason for infant death worldwide. According to the study, it is possible that stretching of the amniotic membrane leads to an increase in the production of a particular protein that reduces the strength of the membrane and can lead to early rupture. This study provides new information about why some women who experience early contractions may also rupture their membranes early. For more information, please see http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141013090237.htm.
Challenges of providing obstetric care during an Ebola epidemic

Obstetric interventions during an Ebola epidemic are deeply challenging say two new commentaries. Ebola is highly infectious and is spread through contact with human bodily fluids. Women are a high risk group in terms of possible exposure to the virus and subsequently transmitting it due to their predominant caregiver role. In addition, health care workers report having difficulty distinguishing between women in labour and women with Ebola like symptoms at the time that they present to the health center. The nature of obstetric intervention also increases the risk of Ebola transmission. For more information see the following link http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150113204408.htm.

Key substance that protects against pre-term birth identified

Hyaluronon (HA) has been identified by researchers as a critical substance made by the body that protects against premature births caused by infection. Hyaluronon is a natural substance found in many tissues, and is both a lubricant and a beneficial component of eyes, joints, and skin. It has long been thought to play an essential role in increasing the cervix’s flexibility during the birth process. See more here http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/01/150112141236.htm.

Resources

- **Evaluating midwife-led antenatal care: Choice, experience, effectiveness, and preparation for pregnancy**
- **Midwifery and quality care: findings from a new evidence-informed framework for maternal and newborn care**
- **Improvement of maternal and newborn health through midwifery**
- **WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist**
- **Perceptions of the Risk for Ebola and Health Facility Use Among Health Workers and Pregnant and Lactating Women — Kenema District, Sierra Leone, September 2014**
- **Women’s health beyond 2015: challenges and opportunities for global health governance (pages 149–151)**
- **Surgical task shifting in Sierra Leone: a controversial attempt to reduce maternal mortality (page 155)**
Do you want to be a member of Ethiopian Midwives Association?
For details please click here.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It really is the heart of midwifery to support a woman to do what a woman knows she can do. It isn’t that our view of her birth is what prevails.”

Lesley Cragen, Certified Nurse Midwife

“Uplifting the Whole People” — University of Alberta

Did you hear? The first Ebola clinic for pregnant women opens in Sierra Leone

A new clinic is giving some of the most vulnerable Ebola patients a better chance at surviving the virus. The facility is the first care center created specifically for pregnant women since the current outbreak began, Reuters reported. There is currently one patient in the clinic, which is perched on a hill in the compound of a disused Methodist boys high school in the Sierra Leone capital. It is operated by Doctors without Borders, a leading charity in the fight against Ebola. "Pregnant women (with Ebola) are a high-risk group so they have less chance than the rest of the population," Esperanza Santos, one of the organization's field coordinators, is cited in the Huffington Post.

A key reason for the need for a specialist unit is the risk the women can pose to the health workers treating them. Delivering babies is particularly dangerous. Experts say the viral load of Ebola in both the placenta and the fetus, as well as the surrounding fluids, is extremely high - even if the woman herself has recovered. More on the risk and facts in the BBC article.

Source ICM and BBC news

Senior Midwife Tutor Story Corner—Tell us what's in yours!

Do you have an idea or a success story to share? Maybe you've heard of an event that we should all support. Did you just find a solution you'd like to suggest to others? Please send us your news, events and postings for future editions. There are so many interesting experiences to share and opportunities to learn in our newsletter.

Please submit your stories directly to Meseret Desta Haileyesus.

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