The Ebola crisis has left health systems reeling, increasing threats to pregnant women. Throughout the three most-affected countries – Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – health facilities are gravely understaffed, and in many, health workers lack the personal protection equipment required to keep them safe from exposure.

Many women are refusing to seek care from health centres, and some overwhelmed, Undersupplied health facilities are turning away those who arrive. Read the full story http://www.sciencemag.org/content/336/6076/1652.

“We hope to stop the transmission in six to nine months”. Margaret Chan
Evaluation of midwives’ communication skills in Iran

Communication is the core clinical skill in primary health care. Diagnostics, treatment, and prevention always take place within a context of communication. The aim of this study was to evaluate midwives’ communication skills in relation to their demographic characteristics. See more http://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/abs/10.12968/ajmw.2013.7.1.19

Competencies of midwives in providing care for Premature babies

During the week leading up to World Prematurity Day we focus on the role of the midwife in newborn care, which also applies for premature babies. ICM has defined Essential Competencies of the midwife for example: the skill and ability to give appropriate care including kangaroo mother care to the low birth weight baby, and arrange for referral if necessary. See http://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/CoreDocuments/ICM%20Essential%20Competencies%20for%20Basic%20Midwifery%20Practice%202010,%20revised%202013.pdf

Probiotics protect children, pregnant women against Heavy metal poisoning

Yogurt containing probiotic bacteria successfully protected children and pregnant women against heavy metal exposure in a recent study. Canadian and Tanzanian researchers created and distributed a special yogurt containing Lactobacillus rhamnosus bacteria and observed the outcomes against a control group. See more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141007092356.htm
What is the evidence for pushing positions?

Researchers hypothesize that pushing in an upright position is beneficial for multiple reasons. In an upright position, gravity can assist in bringing the baby down and out. Also, when a woman is upright, there is less risk of compressing the mother’s aorta and thus a better oxygen supply to the baby. See more [http://evidencebasedbirth.com/what-is-the-evidence-for-pushing-positions/](http://evidencebasedbirth.com/what-is-the-evidence-for-pushing-positions/)

Overall risk of birth defects appears low for women taking antiretrovirals During early pregnancy

Among pregnant women infected with HIV, the use of antiretroviral medications early in pregnancy to treat their HIV or to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV does not appear to increase the risk of birth defects in their infants, according to a new study. See [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141110211017.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141110211017.htm)

World Pneumonia Day 2014

World Pneumonia Day was established in 2009 to raise awareness about pneumonia; to promote interventions to protect against, prevent, and treat pneumonia; and to generate action in combatting pneumonia. Pneumonia disproportionately afflicts the most marginalised and the poorest children, accounting for the deaths of almost 1 million children under five each year, according to UNICEF’s latest estimates. For more information about World Pneumonia Day, facts and figures and activities, Please visit [www.worldpneumoniaday.org](http://www.worldpneumoniaday.org).
Kangaroo Mother Care saves mother’s life

One of the main reasons low birth weight babies are at greater risk of illness & death is that they lack the ability to control their body temperature. A cold newborn stops feeding & is more susceptible to infection. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is an effective, low-cost intervention to transfer body heat from mother to child for a prolonged & continuous period both in the hospital & after early discharge. Learn more about KMC & how it can be implemented at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2003/9241590351.pdf

Nearly 10,000 babies safely delivered in Ethiopia


Resources

Family Planning progress highlights 2013-2014

Association between hospital-level obstetric quality indicators and maternal and neonatal morbidity
http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1915608&resultClick=3

Little-reported incidence of disfigurement and lingering health effects in undertreated maternal cases around the world http://www.humanosphere.org/science/2014/10/visualizing-maternal-morbidity/

Upcoming Events

- SMTTP Research Symposium in Ethiopia November 26-29, 2014
- 10th International Conference on Kangaroo Mother Care in Kigali November 17-19, 2014
- Amref Health Africa Conference in Nairobi November 24-26, 2014
Do you want to be a member of Ethiopian Midwives Association?
For details please click here.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Attending births is like growing roses. You have to marvel at the ones that just open up and bloom at the first kiss of the sun but you wouldn’t dream of pulling open the petals of the tightly closed buds and forcing them to blossom to your time line."
— Gloria Lemay

Announcements

Discussion on Ebola Virus Disease
The Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and Ethiopian Academy of Sciences are kindly inviting you to attend a half day discussion on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) which will be conducted on Wednesday, November 19/2014 at Ghion Hotel. Please confirm your attendance before November 18, 2014 to mand@ephamembers.net.

World Prematurity Day
What if one day millions of people around the world joined together to show how much they care about protecting the health of babies? That’s the idea behind World Prematurity Day. On November 17, join in creating a surge of awareness around the critical problem of premature birth. Get involved http://on.fb.me/1zdmb9V.

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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