The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a twice-monthly summary of some recent publications, events and news. Our goal is to keep you informed on Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Care in Ethiopia, in Africa and beyond.

If you have comments about our newsletter or any suggestions for improvement, please let us know by sending an email to zakus@ualberta.ca or mesidesta@gmail.com.

Please visit our new website for more Newsletter archives http://www.med.ualberta.ca/communities/globalhealth/projects/ethiopia-mnch.

We hope you will enjoy reading what we have put together for you.

**New Lancet Series finds major progress in improving survival for Ethiopia’s babies**

By 2025, Ethiopia could save as many as 76,800 mothers and babies each year if it continues its aggressive efforts to develop and implement effective strategies to improve maternal and newborn health. These estimates were released on November 24 in Addis Ababa at the Ethiopia launch of The Lancet Every Newborn Series 2014 and the Every Newborn Action Plan.

The authors of the Series say that while Ethiopia is one of the 10 countries with the highest numbers of neonatal deaths, it is currently ranked fifth in the world as having the greatest potential to save maternal, perinatal and neonatal lives by 2025. Click here to read more.
Partnership between women and midwives

Midwives work with women, supporting their right to participate actively in decisions about their care and empowering women to speak for themselves on issues affecting their health and that of their families in their society. Click here to read the full statement made by International Confederation of Midwives.

New study examines effect of timing of folic acid supplementation during pregnancy

Taking folic acid before conception significantly reduces the risk of small for gestational age at birth, suggests a new study. Folic acid supplementation has already been shown to reduce the risk of neural tube defects, such as spina bifida, and it is recommended for women to start folic acid supplementation pre-conceptually. However, uptake is low, state the authors, and previous studies have suggested rates of pre-conceptual uptake to be between 14.8% and 31%, with lower uptake in younger age groups and ethnic minorities. See more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141125205859.htm

Significantly increased risk of stillbirth in males

Boys are more likely to be stillborn than girls, a large-scale study has found. The study reviewed more than 30 million births globally, and found that the risk of stillbirth is about ten percent higher in boys. This equates to a loss of around 100,000 additional male babies per year. See more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141127082348.htm

Moms with rheumatoid arthritis more likely to give birth prematurely

Babies of women with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) or pre-clinical RA the period prior to symptoms are 1.5 times more likely to be born prematurely in Denmark. Findings indicate that body measurements of the baby at birth were only slightly lower in children exposed to maternal or preclinical RA compared to those with no exposure to the disease. See more [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141113075123.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141113075123.htm)

Women's fertility linked to detox element in diet

For the first time, research has shown how much of a critical role the natural antioxidant selenium plays at the earliest stages of a woman's fertility. "Selenium is an essential trace element found in protein-rich foods like red meat, seafood and nuts. It is important for many biological functions, such as immune response, thyroid hormone production, and acts as an antioxidant, helping to detoxify damaging chemicals in the body," one researcher says. See more [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141117111008.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141117111008.htm)
African Union launches ground breaking data site – African Health Stats

Advocacy International is proud to announce the launch of African Health Stats, a ground-breaking data site from the African Union built in partnership with Advocacy International, African Strategies for Health, AUSAID, USAID, MamaYe, MSH, UKAID and UNFPA.

African Health Stats hosts 33 indicators showing data on Reproductive Maternal Neonatal and Child Health, HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, and Health Financing. There are plans to incorporate additional indicators in the next phase of site development.


Resources


Oral contraceptive use and mortality after 36 years of follow-up in the Nurses’ Health Study: prospective cohort study http://www.bmj.com/content/349/bmj.g6356

WHO Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence: A clinical handbook http://t.co/S8crJjvPVm

New video from the White Ribbon Alliance says every woman has the right to respectful maternity care http://buff.ly/1vNnHxF

Cuba has the lowest birth rate in Latin America. What are they doing to encourage women to give birth? http://buff.ly/1EZN7tb

Ending preventable child deaths: addressing the high-risk days after birth http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X%2814%290333-X/fulltext


Effects of perinatal mental disorders on the fetus and child http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61277-0/fulltext

Non-psychotic mental disorders in the perinatal period http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61276-9/fulltext


Maternal Age and Risk of Labor and Delivery Complications http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10995-014-1624-7

Indirect causes of maternal death http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X%2814%290297-9/fulltext/version=printerFriendly
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

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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