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.

This month includes a number of important international events. For instance, International Day of the Girl (Oct 11), International Day of Rural Women (Oct 15) and Global Day of Action for Child Survival (Oct 16).

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.

Maternal and infant deaths in Liberia and Sierra Leone are set to rise above their current alarming rates as fear of Ebola keeps pregnant women away from hospitals and makes already-scarce health workers reluctant to deliver babies.

When Ebola broke out in Sierra Leone in May, and Liberia in August, the number of births attended by a health professional in Liberia dropped from 52 percent to 38 percent, while the number of women in Sierra Leone attending hospitals and health centres to give birth has dropped by 30 percent, according to the countries’ respective Health Management Information Systems.

Midwives are agents of change” Award winner's speech

The Dorothea M Lang Award was given to Sabera Turkmani during the 30th Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives. In her inspiring speech she expressed her gratefulness and shares the award with all Afghan women.

Listen to this inspiring midwife full of passion and commitment. You'll be uplifted and motivated for the rest of the week!!

See http://bit.ly/1rl2lnG

Lactation linked to reduced breast cancer risk

Women who have had children (parous women) appear to have an increased risk of developing estrogen receptor-negative breast cancer, the subtype that carries a higher mortality rate and is more common in women of African ancestry.

A similar relationship was found for triple-negative breast cancer. However, the association between childbearing and increased risk of estrogen receptor-negative and triple-negative breast cancer was largely confined to the women who had never breastfed. See more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140916112915.htm

Prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during childbirth

Many women across the world experience disrespectful, abusive or neglectful treatment during childbirth in hospitals and other facilities. This includes physical and verbal abuse, profound humiliation and coercive medical procedures such as sterilization. The following actions should be taken to promote the right of women and access to safe, timely, respectful care during childbirth. Read the WHO statement on preventing and eliminating disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth. See http://bit.ly/1psAWei
Viral infection may trigger childhood diabetes in utero

A likely trigger for juvenile diabetes before birth has been identified by researchers who have put forth evidence that the autoimmune disease is initiated in utero. Women who contract a viral infection during pregnancy transmit viruses to their genetically susceptible fetuses, sparking the development of type 1 diabetes, they propose.

See http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141003135419.htm

World's first child born after uterus transplantation

Seven Swedish women have had embryos reintroduced after receiving wombs from living donors. Now the first transplanted woman has delivered a baby – a healthy and normally developed boy.

See http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141007092110.htm

Did you know that a midwife has 7 core competencies?

The competencies are written in recognition that midwives receive their knowledge and skills through several different educational pathways. They can be used by midwives, midwifery associations, and regulatory bodies responsible for the education and practice of midwifery in their country or region. Check out the essential competencies for basic midwifery practice.

See http://internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/CoreDocuments/ICM%20Essential%20Competencies%20for%20Basic%20Midwifery%20Practice%202010.%20revised%202013.pdf
Global, regional, and national causes of child mortality in 2000—2013

Complications from preterm births and pneumonia are now the leading causes of death in children under five years, together responsible for nearly 2 million deaths in 2013, according to the latest estimates, published on October 2014 in The Lancet. Click the link to learn what authors of the study think could halve this number by 2030.


Essential interventions for maternal, newborn and child health

A supplement of five papers from BioMed Central and the Reproductive Health Journal aims to systematically assess and summarize essential interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health from relevant systematic reviews. See http://ow.ly/CaOKE

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 world-wide.

See http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/10/141013090237.htm
Do you want to be a member of Ethiopian Midwives Association?
For details please click [here](#).

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.*

*Arthur Ashe*

---

**Announcement and resources**

* Ethiopian Public Health Association would like to remind you to send your abstract for the upcoming 26th annual conference before the submission deadline, November 15, 2014. See [http://www.etpha.org/](http://www.etpha.org/)

* A free course for you on Childbirth: A Global Perspective is a free online class taught by Lynn Sibley of Emory University. See [https://www.coursera.org/course/pregnancychildbirth](https://www.coursera.org/course/pregnancychildbirth)

* The Global Health eLearning Center offers a menu of online courses that learners can use to expand their knowledge in key public health areas, and to access important up-to-date technical information should midwives know. See [http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/](http://www.globalhealthlearning.org/)

---

**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](#).

---

**About this Newsletter**

MNCH Bi-weekly Publisher: Dr. David Zakus, Director
Editor: Meseret Desta Haileyesus

This Newsletter is produced in collaboration with University of Alberta Global Health Office – DFATD-MNCH Ethiopia Project, a project undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development.