Welcome to the 14th Issue of our Newsletter

Welcome to the 14th Edition of our Mother and Child Health Newsletter. We are trying a new format with this edition, one that we hope will be easier to navigate and to share. If you have any comments about this or any other issues, please feel free to contact the Project at etmnch@ualberta.ca or contact our editor Meseret at mesidesta@gmail.com.

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In this issue we include updates from the workshops, technical guidelines, and some recent publications and news. Our goal is to keep you informed on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Care in Ethiopia, in Africa and beyond.

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

Ethiopia–Canada MNCH Project Senior Midwives Tutor Training –2015

The second round of the Senior Midwifery Tutor Training Program was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at St. Paul’s Millennium Medical College from February 2 – 27, 2015. The training is being implemented to upgrade the pedagogical and clinical skills of midwifery tutors in order to enhance the quality of care for maternal and child health. Read more about Senior Midwives Tutor Training here: http://www.med.ualberta.ca/communities/globalhealth/projects/ethiopia-mnch/smttp.

Birth method, gestation duration may alter infants’ gut microbiota

International researchers have found that environmental factors may affect how infants’ gut bacteria mature. Results suggest that infants with a longer gestation before birth and who were...
Vaginally delivered tended to develop a more mature gut microbiota more quickly and reach a typical body fat by the time they are 18 months. To read more click [here](http://www.internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=224).

**ICM Logo**

International Confederation of Midwives is proud to present their logo for [ICM 2015](http://www.internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=224).

**Smoking while breastfeeding puts children at risk of obesity later in life**

Children of mothers who smoke while breast feeding are more likely to develop serious health problems such as obesity, hypothyroidism, diabetes and cardiovascular disease later in life, according to new research. The study results suggest that even short exposures cause resistance to the hormone leptin, which tells us when to stop eating and a decrease in thyroid hormone levels. New mothers require more information on the long-term effects of nicotine exposure on their children's health. To read more, please click [here](http://www.internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=224).

**International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**

February 6, 2015 marked the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation #FGM. The International Confederation of Midwives called on all of their members and #midwives to end this extreme form of violence against women and girls around the world. Read more to understand why we must all commit ourselves to this issue. Let's make this the generation where FGM ends! [http://www.internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=224](http://www.internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=224).

**Previously unknown effect of vitamin A identified**

A previously unknown effect of vitamin A in human embryonic development has been identified by researchers, indicating that vitamin A affects the formation of blood cells. Although Vitamin A is required for a normal pregnancy, too much Vitamin A can cause damage to the fetus, with the risk of fetus malformation and miscarriage. Results from this new study show that high doses of Vitamin A may have negative effects on embryonic blood development and suggest a further reason why pregnant women should limit consumption of foods that are high in Vitamin A, such as liver. See more here: [http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150224091753.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150224091753.htm).
How Ebola affects Midwives in Liberia and Sierra Leone

The Ebola epidemic is still greatly affecting midwives in Liberia and Sierra Leone in their work to care for pregnant women, mothers & their babies. With health systems severely strained, efforts to improve maternal and newborn health have been undermined. Midwives require more comprehensive training for the handling of body fluids and the proper use of personal protective equipment. This is important in order to protect the few health care workers that are available to support pregnant and delivering mothers from contracting the deadly virus. Read more here: http://bit.ly/1EGnRd2

The Midwifery Lancet Series

Did you know that the Lancet Series on Midwifery identified 56 outcomes improved by midwifery care? These outcomes include: Less preterm birth; Reduced interventions in labor; Increased birth-spacing, contraceptive use; Increased breastfeeding, initiation and duration; Shorter hospital stays. Check it out here: http://bit.ly/T2GwuS

EMwA

For more information about the Ethiopian Midwives Association, or to become a member, check out their new website: http://midwives.org.et/
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
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