Welcome to the 18th Edition of our Mother and Child Health Newsletter. 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!

International Day of the Midwife

International Day of the Midwife takes place every 5 May. This is a time to recognize the important work of midwives around the world and show your support. The day, which has been observed since 1991 is organized by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) to raise awareness of the important job midwives do and the care they provide in your community. ICM call on all midwives in the world and their Member Associations to come together this year on IDM to highlight the importance of having midwives involved in the development of the new era.

Take a few moments this week to appreciate yourself, each other, and the world-changing work you do, one birth at a time! Click http://www.internationalmidwives.org/events/idotm/international-day-of-the-midwife-2015/ to read more.

Respiratory Safety in Women Following Childbirth

Although obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is less common in young women, sleep apnea was found in 4.9 percent in a cohort of pregnant women. In addition, OSA worsens as pregnancy progresses and is likely to persist into the early postpartum period. An elevated upper body position might improve respiratory safety in women early after childbirth without impairing sleep quality, a new study concludes. Read more

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150428171408.htm
New Technologies Will Help Prevent Preterm Labor

Preventing preterm labor with light, and inducing labor using a side effect-free drug are two new technologies based research that is heading to the marketplace.

The first technology being licensed under the new agreement is a light-emitting device that shines a brief blue light into the eyes of a sleeping pregnant woman to lower melatonin levels, suppress contractions and delay birth. In 2009, FSU College of Medicine Associate Professor James Olcese recognized that many women go into labor at night when melatonin is at its peak. Additional research through a partnership with late term pregnant volunteers at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) found that when women were exposed to bright light for one hour during the night their melatonin levels dropped, suppressing contractions and potentially delaying labor.

The second technology being licensed is a new labor-inducing pharmaceutical that combines melatonin with the current mainstream drug oxytocin at a much lower dose. The patented combination is predicted to produce the same labor-inducing effect as regular oxytocin but without the common side effects such as increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure and hemorrhaging.

Read more http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150429100919.htm

World Malaria Day: Invest in the future, defeat malaria

On April 25th people across the globe took part in a wide range of activities to mark World Malaria Day. For half the world every day is malaria day - a day to keep up the fight against this killer disease. Malaria in pregnancy often contributes to dangerous health consequences for the mother and her unborn baby such as severe anemia, low birth weight, even death. At least three quarters of malaria deaths occur in children under 5. Yet in 2013, only about 1 in 5 African children with malaria received effective treatment for the disease, 15 million pregnant women did not receive a single dose of the recommended preventive drugs, and an estimated 278 million people in Africa still live in households without a single insecticide-treated bednet. However, intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy (IPTp) sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net (ITN) can change that. Advice given by antenatal clinics can improve those statistics. Advice on the importance of sleeping under an ITN and starting IPTp early in the second trimester, can help to prevent malaria. Read more here: http://www.worldmalariday.org/archives/13567

World Immunization Week: "Close the immunization gap"

World Immunization Week celebrated in the last week of April (24-30) aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. Today, vaccines are protecting more children than ever before. But 1.5 million more could be saved each year if we close the gap by reaching the most disadvantaged children: http://uni.cf/1NR3ZdF

What strategies are cost-effective in improving health care for women and their newborns?

There is considerable diversity in the strategies used to improve MNCH care. However, it is possible to identify some common themes among the strategies, and these are presented in relation to the continuum of care and the level of the health system. Some strategies to improve maternal and newborn health care in low-income settings that can be cost-effective include:

- the use of women’s groups to promote maternal and newborn health care and health practices
- home-based newborn care using community health workers and traditional birth attendants
- extending routine antenatal care to deliver additional life-saving interventions
a facility-based quality improvement initiative to enhance compliance with care standards
• the promotion of breastfeeding in maternity hospitals

This research summarizes the cost-effectiveness literature available and highlights the extent to which the evidence focuses on community-based strategies and care for MNCH intervention. To read click here: http://ideas.lshtm.ac.uk/news/what-strategies-are-cost-effective-improving-health-care-women-and-their-newborns-research

Pollution Linked to Lower Birth Weight

Exposure to high levels of pollution can have a significant impact on fetal growth and development, researchers conclude. Their study found that women who were pregnant during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when pollution levels were reduced by the Chinese government, gave birth to children with higher birth weights compared to those who were pregnant before and after the games. Read more: www.sciencedaily.com/news/health_medicine/pregnancy&childbirth/

Resources

• New Study Details Simplified Antibiotics to Treat Neonatal Bacterial Infections, The Lancet
• Religious Leaders Pledge to Fight Maternal Mortality in Kenya, UNFPA
• Newborn health research priorities beyond 2015
• Every Newborn Series
• Global Call to Action to Increase National Coverage of Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria in Pregnancy
• Post-2015: Saving women's lives with post-abortion care

Call for Abstracts

Abstract submissions for the 2015 Global Maternal Newborn Health Conference are now open! Submit yours and help us spread the word by sharing this link! http://buff.ly/1yjHS31

Invitation for YOUR Contribution

We would like to invite all Senior Midwives Tutors to share your Dreams for overall maternal and newborn health. We will share it in the next issue. Please submit your Dream directly to Meseret Desta Haileyesus. It's wonderful to see your Dreams from all over our Senior Midwives Tutors united for mothers and their babies. Keep the Dreams coming!

Picture of the Week
“Every women has the right access to skilled care during and immediately after childbirth”

#IDM2015 #Dreams4birth #Midwives