

### Summer Newsletter

Summer seems to have flown by and we are also seeing the first signs of autumn approaching. We hope that you have been able to enjoy some of the sunny weather since the easing of national lockdown restrictions, get some deserved rest and recuperation, and maybe spend some time with friends and family again.



This was a particularly exciting summer for our team, as **Rachel Rowe, Head of UKMidSS**, was awarded the title of **Associate Professor** here at Oxford University. Rachel has been keen to acknowledge the contribution of others who have helped make her research happen. In this quote she doesn't explicitly mention UKMidSS, but we think we know who she's referring to!



"Being awarded the title of Associate Professor is of course very gratifying, as a recognition of my contribution to research, teaching and the wider academic community. Just as important though, I also see it as a recognition of the value of my research, and therefore of the contribution of all those who have helped make this research happen. We should all be very proud!"

**RACHEL ROWE**  
Associate Professor

Recently we've also had more exciting news! The results of the Neonatal Admission Study and the survey of midwifery unit admission criteria will be published in the next few weeks. We will send you details of these papers as soon as we can. We also have a new project starting soon, with more details on page 4. In this issue, we also have an update and reminders about progress on our PPH study and some guidance about data entry. But first... news of some sweet treats!

### UKMidSS Stars

As usual, it is very difficult for us to identify reporters for our awards as we know how much effort everyone puts in to support our studies and UKMidSS really could not work without the help of all of our reporters. This month, we decided to reward some of the reporters who have completed all their data entry, went back to check that their cases met our definition criteria and successfully managed to navigate IT issues. A big thank you to **Isobel Nichols** at the **Sanctuary Birth centre - Nottingham**, **Hannah Tizard** and **Sarah Traynor** at the **Fylde Coast Birth Centre - Blackpool** and last but not least **Suzanne Hobday** at the **Home from Home Unit - Belfast**. Some treats will be on their way to you soon.



## What else has the UKMidSS team been up to?



During the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UKMidSS team circulated a brief survey about the impact of Covid-19 on Midwifery-led Units. The report request was sent out to all the MLUs participating in our studies on the 1st of April 2020. We achieved an amazing 90% response and are now in the process of sharing these results with the Royal College of Midwives and thinking about a paper. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

## PPH Study Data Entry- Back to Basics

Lately we have had several queries about data entry and completeness. We also have several new reporters, so we thought it would be a good idea to remind you about the basics of data entry.

If you submit a monthly report including a case, you will be given a case number beginning with PH. We ask for detailed data about these cases, and for **one control for each case**. You need to enter these data in our database, OpenClinica. The PH number is the same for both the CASE and the CONTROL.

### Data entry

In OpenClinica you need to enter the data for **both the case and the control**. You need to click on the pen and paper symbol for both the case and the control to enter data. Data entry is not 'complete', until both case and control are complete. We send monthly email reminders about any incomplete data.

Event (Occurrence Number)	Start Date	Location	Status	Actions/CRFs (Name, Version, Status, Updated, Actions)
Case	01-Oct-2019		scheduled	UPHCS v2.0 [edit] [delete] [print]
Control	01-Oct-2019		scheduled	UPHCC v1.0 [edit] [delete] [print]

## PPH Study

We are aware that the Covid-19 outbreak and staff shortages have had an impact on most units, but we're making great progress on getting all the monthly reports and data entry in for the PPH Study. Response to monthly report requests is around 90% and data entry is complete for around 80% of reported cases so we just need one last push to complete outstanding monthly reports and data entry. If you have student midwives, healthcare assistants or maternity support workers who can help as reporters and would appreciate this development opportunity please let us know and we'll set them up as reporters to help get us over the line.

### Units with significant numbers of outstanding monthly reports

The following units still have two or more monthly reports outstanding for the PPH Study. Please contact us if you need help or guidance.

Alexandra Birth Centre, Watford General Hospital

Chesterfield Birth Centre, Chesterfield Royal Hospital

The Acorn Suite, Bedford Hospital

The Birth Centre, Whittington Hospital, Highgate

The Birthing Unit, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee

The Midwife Led Birth Centre, The Royal Oldham Hospital

The Midwifery Led Unit, Samuel Johnson Community Hospital, Lichfield

Wallingford Community Maternity Midwifery-led Unit

### Units with data entry for cases/controls not yet started

The following units have some cases/controls for which data entry has not yet been started. As we move towards data cleaning and analysis for this study we really need these data entered as soon as possible. If we can help in any way please let us know.

Unit	Not yet started	Started, but not complete	Complete
Abbey Birth Centre, St Peter's hospital, Chertsey	2	0	9
Alexandra Birth Centre, Watford General Hospital	4	10	0
AMU Midwifery Suite, Ayrshire Maternity Unit	15	0	0
Aylesbury Birth Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital	3	4	2
Barking Birth Centre, Barking community hospital	1	0	0
Bracken Birth Centre, Musgrove Park Hospital	6	0	0
Bradford Birth Centre, Bradford Royal Infirmary	3	15	1
Bronglais Midwife Led Unit, Bronglais Hospital	1	0	0
Brook Birth Centre, Ipswich Hospital (9)	12	1	0
Chippenham Birth Centre, Chippenham Community Hospital	1	0	0
Coastal Birthing Unit, Clacton and District Hospital	1	1	0
Cossham Birth Centre, Cossham Hospital	1	1	0
Llanidloes Birth Centre, Llanidloes War Memorial Hospita	1	0	0
Lotus Midwifery Unit, Leeds General Infirmary	4	0	0
New Beginnings, Southend Hospital	8	1	2
Penrice Birth Centre, St Austell Community Hospital	1	0	0
Primrose Midwifery-led Birthing Suite, Hinchingsbrooke	10	1	0
St Peter's Midwife led Unit, QEQM Hospital, Margate	7	0	0
Stroud Maternity Unit, Stroud Maternity Hospital	10	0	0
Tair Afon Birth Centre, Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr	3	1	0
The Birth Centre, Birmingham Women's Hospital	8	1	1
The Birth Centre, St Helier Hospital, Carshalton	7	0	0
The Birthing Room, St Mary's Hospital, Isles of Scilly	1	0	0
The Birthing Unit, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	5	0	0
The Birthing Unit, County Hospital, Stafford	2	0	0
The Birthing Unit, East Surrey Hospital, Redhill	2	1	9
The Birthing Unit, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	2	0	0
The EGA Birth Centre, UCLH, London	12	0	0
The Heath Birth Centre, Royal Free Hospital	2	1	7
The Home from Home Unit, Ysbyty Dolgellau	1	0	0
The Mary Rose Birth Centre, Queen Alexandra Hospital	21	5	0
The Midwife Led Birthing Unit, Peterborough City Hospital	1	0	0
The Midwife Led Unit, Leighton Hospital, Crewe	18	3	0
The Midwife Led Unit, Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy	15	1	3
The Midwifery Led Birth Unit, University Hospital of Wales	2	3	12
The Midwifery Led Unit, Altnagelvin Area Hospital	5	1	3
The Midwifery Led Unit, Cowal Community Hospital	1	0	0
The White Horse Birth Centre, Great Western Hospital	1	0	16
The Willow Suite, Birmingham Heartlands Hospital	1	0	0
Tirion Birth Centre, Royal Glamorgan Hospital	2	0	3
Withybush Midwife Led unit, Withybush Hospital	1	0	0
Wrekin Midwife Led Unit, Princess Royal Hospital	2	0	0
Wycombe Birth Centre, Wycombe Hospital	3	1	3

## New Study – A Call for Guidelines

COMING SOON...

How risky is labouring and birth in a pool for obese women who are otherwise “low-risk”? Would being in a birthing pool increase the number of obese women achieving normal birth? We think these questions are worth answering.



Claire Litchfield, a midwife at Wexham Park Hospital, is undertaking her PhD at Oxford Brookes University in collaboration with UKMidSS. Using a mixed methods approach, Claire aims to understand the accessibility, safety, and acceptability of immersion in water for obese women, and whether this might improve normal birth rates, reducing the need for medical interventions.

### What does this project involve?

One UKMidSS reporter in each freestanding and alongside midwifery unit will receive an email from UKMidSS asking them to complete a very brief survey and send us their current unit waterbirth guideline and any other guidelines relating to intrpartum care for obese women. We want to explore variation in practice across the UK in what is being advised or offered to obese women, in midwifery units and hospital obstetric units. All responses and findings will be anonymised.

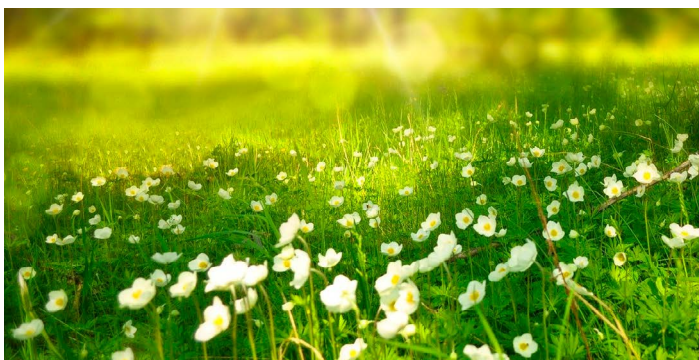
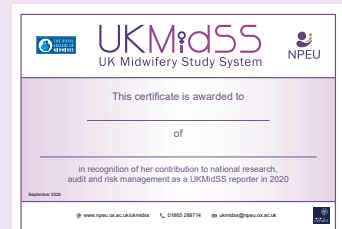
Claire will also be analysing data already submitted to UKMidSS as part of the Severe Obesity Study, exploring outcomes for obese women who used immersion in water, in particular whether they had a normal birth.

Finally, Claire will be interviewing midwives and obese women about their views, experiences and attitudes to the use of immersion in water for obese women in labour.

As always, the UKMidSS team is looking forward to getting all reporters on board with this new and exciting study! We'll keep you posted about the results as they emerge.

## CPD certificates

If you require a CPD certificate for your revalidation, please get in touch! Being an UKMidSS reporter means that you are contributing to national audit and research. You can drop us an email at [ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ukmidss@npeu.ox.ac.uk)



## Update contact details

Is one of your reporters leaving? Is the lead midwife for the MLU going on maternity leave? Is your Head of Midwifery taking a sabbatical? If yes, please do let us know. We rely on updated contact details to communicate news as well as collecting data for our studies.

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