NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration South London

KING'S College LONDON

Developing holistic approaches to address inequalities in maternity and perinatal mental health and care

Tuesday, 4 November 2025, 10.00am–5.30pm
Connect Room, ORTUS Conferencing and Events Venue, 82-96 Grove Lane, London, SE5 8SN

9.30–10am	**Arrival and registration**, with coffee and pastries
10.00–10.15am	**Welcome and introduction** with Professor Ingrid Wolfe, director of NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) South London
10.15–11.15am	**Improving care and outcomes for women with perinatal illness and social complexity**, chaired by Dr Abigail Easter, reader in perinatal mental health, King's College London and ARC South London, maternity and perinatal mental health theme co-lead
Speakers:	● Dr Sam Burton: Rates of perinatal mental health difficulties and access to services in south London ● Dr Abgail Easter: Attempted suicide in the perinatal period (ASPEN) study ● Kaat De Backer: Maternity experiences and perinatal outcomes of mothers separated from their babies due to social care proceedings (MUMS@RISC) study ● Louise Fisher: Effectiveness and implementation of maternal mental health services study ● Professor Colette Hirsch and Dr Brittannia Volkmer: Can we prevent perinatal anxiety? A randomised controlled trial of a web-based intervention for pregnant people at risk of escalating anxiety
11.15–11.45am	**Panel discussion: Creating meaningful change through partnership engagement**, chaired by Kaat De Backer, NIHR research fellow in maternal and perinatal mental health, King's College London
Panel members:	● Kirsty Kitchen, director of the Birth Companions Institute ● Brooklyn Masters, expert by experience ● Professor Donald Peebles, professor of maternal and fetal medicine, UCL and national clinical director for maternity, NHS England ● Maria Viner, CEO Mothers for Mothers
11.45–12.35am	**Addressing maternal health inequalities through public involvement, co-design, and peer research**, chaired by Zoe Vowles, NIHR doctoral clinical academic fellow, King's College London
Speakers:	● Vita Moltedo: From public involvement and engagement to peer research ● Vita Moltedo, Tania Sutedja and members of the peer research group for the maternity opportunities research engagement (MORE) Photovoice project
12.35–1.45pm	**Lunch and networking** (mezzanine) and **MORE project Photovoice exhibition** (Adamson Suite)
1.45–2.45pm	**Improving care, experience and outcomes for women and their babies with medical and social complexity**, chaired by Professor Jane Sandall, professor of social science and women's health, King's College London and ARC South London, maternity and perinatal mental health theme co-lead

Speakers:	● Dr Cristina Fernandez Turienzo: Models of maternity care for women living in areas of ethnic diversity and social disadvantage ● Dr Naomi Carlise: Investigating implementation of the preterm birth surveillance pathway ● Professor Jane Sandall: Open disclosure with women and families after unexpected harm in NHS maternity care ● Dr Rebecca Whybrow: Implementation of shared decision-making in pregnant women with hypertension, which included co-designed antihypertensive patient decision aids ● Dr Cristina Fernandez Turienzo: Community-based mentoring to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality in adolescent pregnancies in Sierra Leone (2YoungLives): a pilot cluster-randomised controlled trial
2.45–3.15pm	**Panel discussion: Working with innovation and implementation partners to sustain impact**, chaired by Dr Hannah Rayment-Jones, NIHR advanced research fellow, King's College London
Panel members:	● Zenab Barry, patient and public involvement partner and maternal health, health equity and mental health advocate ● Dr Natasha Curran, medical director at the Health Innovation Network and implementation and involvement lead, ARC South London ● Dr Kate Duhig, clinical senior lecturer at King's College London, and NHS England national speciality advisor for obstetrics ● Gemma Jones, head of programmes for King's Health Partners Women and Children's Clinical Academic Partnership ● Professor Eugene Oteng-Ntim, professor in obstetrics, King's College London ● Dominic Reilly, partnerships project lead, NHS South East London Integrated Care Board
3.15–4.15pm	**Looking to the future: maternal health systems and policy research at King's College London**, chaired by Dr Cristina Fernandez Turienzo, senior research fellow, King's College London
Research projects:	● Professor Jane Sandall: Defining, recognising and escalating maternal early deterioration (DREaMED): Decreasing inequality through improved outcomes ● Dr Abigail Easter: Support for mild to moderate perinatal mental health difficulties: What works for who, and in what circumstances? ● Dr Jenny Carter: Tommy's clinical decision tool to reduce placental disorders and preterm birth in pregnancy trial ● Dr Kate Duhig: Preventing severe maternal morbidity and mortality (PRiSMM) through a national programme of interventions
Fellowships:	● Dr Hannah Rayment-Jones: Improving maternal and child health and social inequalities for migrants with no recourse to public funds and irregular status
Doctoral researchers:	● Zoe Vowles: Experiences of pregnancy and midwifery care for women with multiple long-term conditions ● Michelle Anderson: Exploring the experiences of women who give birth under general anaesthetic ● Tisha Dasgupta: Impact of health-system shocks on care-seeking behaviour among pregnant women from under-served groups in south London ● Maggie Thurer: How advanced planning tools can be used most effectively to support women with a history of severe mental illness
4.15–4.30pm	**Closing comments** with Professor Jane Sandall
4.30–5.30pm	**Drinks reception**