



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research

2024

ANNUAL REPORT





Trinity College Dublin
 Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
 The University of Dublin

Contents

1 Message from Director.....	2
2 Scope of the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR)	3
3 TCMCR Strategic Objectives	4
4 TCMCR Membership	5
5 Research Activities	8
6 TCMCR Outputs 2024	13
7 Research Impact	17
8 Future Opportunities	19
9 Key Challenges	20
10 TCMCR Highlights	21
11 PHD Students	26

1 Message from the Director

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2024 report from the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR). It was an exciting year with lots of successes and achievements.

I'm delighted to say that we now have representation from our three linked maternity hospitals (Rotunda Hospital, Coombe Hospital and Portlaoise Maternity Hospital), and representation from key members of the Schools Finance and Research teams.

The TCMCR aims to improve outcomes for women, their babies and children, partners and families in diverse social settings through all stages of the reproductive cycle. We can achieve this together when those in our care are central to research activities and all research conducted it with and for them, and we prioritise conducting research and other quality improvement initiatives with women and all our health and social care professional partners. Genuine collaboration will help us ask the right questions and answer the questions that respond to issues of local, national and global significance to childbearing women.

This 2024 report represents the achievements of many and has been co-produced by all our members. As you read through it, you will see that the TCMCR has achieved numerous outputs and outcomes spanning diverse topics using multiple research methodologies. A particular feature of 2024 was the start of our networking activities in October when we hosted a RoundTable Research Talks event with academics and health and social care professionals all of whom share a deep interest in improving services for women, children, and their families. Because of the busyness of work and life, our paths never cross over and the valuable findings from our research and initiatives never get shared across the sectors. This was the start of these conversations and the foundation for future research partnerships.

Professor Déirdre Daly



2 Scope of the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR)

The Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR) was established in 2019 and officially launched in September 2022. This is the fifth annual report, covering the period January to December 2024. The Centre is based in the School of Nursing and Midwifery and is the first academic centre to focus solely on the key issues facing pregnant and postpartum women, and their families.

Vision

The Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research is dedicated to achieving excellence in original maternity care research to help drive improvements in pregnancy, childbirth, early parenthood and early childhood care. The Centre prioritises research collaboration with women and families, clinicians in our partner maternity hospitals, national and international colleagues, and industry, to identify and respond to research questions of local, national and global significance to childbearing women.

Aim

To achieve enhanced quality of life and improved outcomes for women, their babies, partners and families through all stages of the reproductive cycle, in diverse social settings.

This aim is achieved through research and practice development, research education and research dissemination.



3 TCMCR Strategic Objectives

The People at the Centre of our Services



The main objectives of the Centre are to:

- conduct high-quality research, with and for women and families, that will have high impact and lead to improved care outcomes for parents, babies and families.
- generate and present research evidence on best practice for maternity care, in a user-friendly, publicly accessible format to address society-wide concerns about issues in relation to pregnancy, birth, early parenting and early childhood.
- assist in the development of evidence-based guidelines for maternity health service providers that are respectful of women's autonomy, needs and experiences and will inform practice.
- support clinicians to implement these guidelines to change and improve their practice.
- identify and form teams and collaborative links between clinical and academic staff in our partner maternity and children's hospitals, for the purpose of conducting practice-based research that will enhance the impact of research outcomes on maternal and family health and services.
- support and develop doctoral students' and early career researchers' knowledge and research experience.
- mentor clinical colleagues to conduct research projects as needed at local level.
- strengthen existing national and international interdisciplinary research links, and develop new international collaborations designed to increase and enhance research capacity in maternity care research.
- continue to lead the field in the involvement of women and their families, as service-users, in all aspects of research planning, design, development and implementation, as full collaborative research partners.

4 TCMCR Membership

Director

Professor Déirdre Daly, Professor in Midwifery.

TCMCR Executive Committee

Professor Deirdre Daly, Director of TCMCR.

Professor Joan Lalor, Professor of Maternal Health

Dr Louise Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor in Mental Health.

Ms Niamh Healy, Antenatal Educator and Consumer representative (resigned September 2024).

Dr Eilish Burke, Director of Research, Professor in Intellectual Disability Nursing .

Dr Mary Hughes, Associate Professor in Children's Nursing.

Dr Eleanor Hollywood, Assistant Professor in Children's Nursing.

Ms Annabel Walsh, School Financial Manager.

Dr Luciana Lolich, Research Impact Officer.

Dr Ekaterina Kozina, Research Projects Officer.

Dr Elizabeth Farsaci, Research Fellow, Centre for Health Policy and Management.

Ms Ursula Nagle, Advanced Midwifery Practitioner, Perinatal Care Mental Health, Rotunda Hospital.

Ms Nora Vallejo, Advanced Midwifery Practitioner, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital.

Ms. Anne Kelly, Advanced Midwifery Practitioner, Portlaoise Midlands Hospital.

Ms Emma Crosby, Advanced Midwifery Practitioner, Portlaoise Midlands Hospital.

Ms Tara Durkin, Cuidiú Antenatal Ireland educator (from October 2024).

Principal Investigators (PIs)

Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor in Mental Health Nursing.

Dr Mary Hughes, Associate Professor in Children's Nursing.

Dr Eleanor Hollywood, Assistant Professor in Children's Nursing.

Dr Vivienne Brady, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Dr Louise Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Professor Joan Lalor, Professor of Maternal Health.

Other associated researchers (internal)

Dr Colm O'Boyle, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Ms Kathryn Muldoon, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Dr Vivienne Brady, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Dr Margaret Dunlea, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Dr Sunita Panda, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Ms Ashamole Clive, Clinical Tutor.
 Ms Laura O'Shea, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.
 Ms Emily Moffat, Teaching Fellow in Midwifery.
 Ms Jean Rooney, Teaching Fellow in Midwifery

Other associated researchers (linked hospitals)

Ms Patricia Hughes, Adjunct Assistant Professor.
 Ms Ann MacIntyre, Director of Midwifery and Nursing, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital.
 Dr Sharon Sheehan, Consultant Obstetrician, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital.
 Professor Fergal Malone, Master and Consultant Obstetrician, Rotunda Hospital.
 Ms Cinny Cusack, Physiotherapy Manager, Rotunda Hospital.
 Ms Mary Deering, Practice Development Co-ordinator, Rotunda Hospital.
 Ms Fiona Hanrahan, Director of Midwifery and Nursing, Rotunda Hospital.
 Ms Ciara Roche, Clinical Midwife Manager, Rotunda Hospital.
 Dr Deirdre O'Malley, Lecturer in Midwifery, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT).

Research Fellows

Dr Susan Hannon, Research Fellow
 Dr Olivia Longe, Research Fellow



Other associated researchers (external)

Ms Niamh Healy, Antenatal Educator and consumer representative, Cuidiú, and Steering Committee member.

Ms Krysia Lynch, Chairperson, Association for Improvement of the Maternity Services Ireland.

Professor Declan Devane, School of Nursing and Midwifery, NUI Galway.

Professor Charles Normand, Edward Kennedy Professor of Health Policy & Management, TCD.

Professor Michael Turner, National Lead for the HSE Clinical Programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Dr Paul Corcoran, Senior Lecturer in Perinatal Epidemiology, National Perinatal.

Epidemiology Centre and the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC, Cork.

Dr Sara Leitão, Research Officer, National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre, UCC, Cork.

Professor Mechthild Gross, Hannover Medical School, Germany.

Professor Ingela Lundgren, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Professor Marie Berg, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg.

Professor Koen Putman, Interuniversity Centre for Health Economics (I-CHER), Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium.

Professor Andrew Weeks, University of Liverpool, UK.

Ms Gill Gyte, Consumer Representative, Cochrane Collaboration, UK.

Ms Karen Guilliland, CEO, New Zealand College of Midwives, NZ.

Dr Lesley Dixon, Practice Development Officer, New Zealand College of Midwives, NZ.

Professor Yvonne Hauck, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

Dr Liz Newnham, Griffith University, Australia.

Professor Christine Rubertsson, Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Professor Stephanie Brown, Professor and NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Intergenerational Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia.

Dr Deirdre Gartland, Research Fellow, Intergenerational Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Melbourne, Australia.

Dr Elin Naurin, Senior lecturer and Assistant Professor, Marie Curie Fellow Multidisciplinary Opinion and Democracy Research Group (MOD), Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Ms Marcelina Szafranksa, Clinical Skills Tutor, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin, Dublin.

Dr Pat Moran, Health Economics Researcher, Department of Health.

5 Research Activities

The three flagship projects of the TCMCR are the MAMMI Study, HAP3 and CONTENT projects.

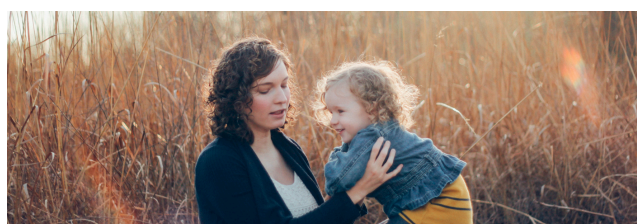
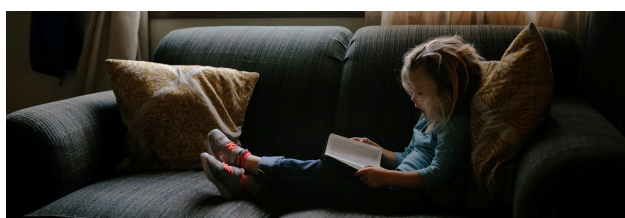
The MAMMI Study

<https://www.tcd.ie/mammi/>



The Maternal health And Maternal Morbidity in Ireland (MAMMI) study is a longitudinal cohort study exploring the health and health problems experienced by first-time mothers in Ireland. The study began in 2012, with 3000 nulliparous mothers recruited across three maternity hospitals. Data collection for the five-year follow up study was completed in 2022, while the development of the ten-year follow-up study survey is currently in progress.

The MAMMI SIM (Second baby survey, Intervention to improve urinary incontinence outcomes and Measuring costs) follow up was completed in 2021. This strand explored the health and health issues of women after the birth of their second baby. The five-year follow-up study continued to explore women's health five years after their first baby's birth and data collection was completed in 2023.



Healthy Adaptation to Pregnancy, Postpartum and
Parenthood HAP 3 project
<http://www.hap3.eu/>



Professor Joan Lalor
Principal Investigator



Professor Anne-Marie Brady
Co Principal Investigator

Background: Large gaps remain between knowledge and practice regarding the two most common complications - obesity and mental health problems - during the prenatal and postnatal periods. Effective care is hampered by (1) fragmented services across providers; (2) limited multicomponent screening and interventions; and (3) poor reach of vulnerable groups due to access barriers and homogeneous research samples.

General research aim of this Marie Curie Joint Doctoral Network project: To understand predictors and mechanisms of the common and intertwined complications of obesity and mental health problems in women, partners and offspring during pregnancy, postpartum and early parenthood and to develop, test and implement the integrative online HAP3 intervention for families and care providers to ultimately prevent transmission of complications across generations.

Methods: systematic reviews, national register studies, longitudinal cohort study analysis, prediction modelling, multi-country randomized controlled feasibility trial, qualitative studies: co-creation methodology, stakeholder panels, interview studies, nominal group studies.

In more detail, 11 PhD students will each focus on one of the following research topics:

- 1: predictors and mechanisms of childhood obesity.
- 2: biological and psychosocial mechanisms related to family health & parenting
- 3: dynamic interplay between obesity & mental health during transition to parenthood
- 4: family app/dashboard for prevention of obesity during transition to parenthood
- 5: family app/dashboard for prevention of mental health problems during transition to parenthood
- 6: feasibility of the Family app/dashboard and outcomes related to obesity
- 7: feasibility of the Family app/dashboard and outcomes related to mental health
- 8: feasibility of the Family app/dashboard and outcomes related to obesity in offspring
- 9: facilitators, barriers and implementation strategies for the introduction of the Family app
- 10: facilitators, barriers and implementation strategies for the introduction of the Dashboard
- 11: facilitators, barriers and implementation strategies at health policy level

The overarching goal is to provide transdisciplinary training to the PhD students enabling them to develop as “Perinatal Care Innovators”, who can create innovative solutions to address complex challenges in obesity, mental health and early parenting.

Consent for Medically Indicated Interventions in Childbirth
CONTENT project



Professor Joan Lalor
Principal Investigator



Dr Andrea Mulligan
Co Principal Investigator



Dr Desmond Ryan
Project Collaborator



Professor Linda Hogan
Project Collaborator

Background: Consent to medical treatment has two key components: information and voluntariness. Valid consent requires that a person is provided with all the information they need to make a decision and that the decision is truly voluntary, meaning that it is free from coercion of any kind. Consent for interventions during labour and birth is subject to precisely the same requirements as any other medical treatment. However, consent in labour and birth is sometimes seriously inadequate. Poor consent practices can lead to bad birth experiences, and negative birth experiences are correlated with poor outcomes including postpartum depression. The objective of this project is to investigate the divergence between the legal requirements for consent to birth interventions and the reality of consent practices in Irish maternity services. The overarching research question is: are the legal requirements for informed and voluntary consent to birth interventions being met in Irish maternity practice?

Focus: The Project focus is on interventions after 36 completed weeks' of pregnancy, encompassing choices as to place of birth, mode of birth, induction of labour, caesarean section, episiotomy and vaginal examination. The Project will employ both qualitative and quantitative research methods to investigate what information women are provided with and whether they feel the choices that they made in pre-labour, in-labour and birth were free and voluntary. Importantly, the Project will also use qualitative research methods to explore how health care practitioners ("HCPs") frame their own consent practices. We believe that it is essential to seek the views of both women and HCPs to enable us to understand if there are inadequacies in consent, and if so why. Ultimately this research will enable us to influence policy to improve consent practices.

Other Research Projects

Ongoing research projects

Successful Applications

Funding Agency	Title	Value	Duration (Months)
TCD Internal, Seed Funding call	Caesarean birth audit using Robson's Ten Group Classification System – An evaluation of the pathway of care	€7,500	12
TCD Internal, Seed Funding call	The Use of Technology in the Management of Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) in the primary school environment: The Experiences of Irish school-aged children and their parents	€1,900	12
CityWide	Evaluation of postnatal hubs	€82,102	12
Coombe Hospital, NMPDU	Supporting Advanced Midwife Practitioners to conduct research and advance maternity and women's health services	€29,371	12
Spark Legal and Policy Consulting	EU Study on the profession of midwife	€1,100	6

Awaiting Outcome Applications

Funding Agency	Title	Value	Duration (Months)
International Board lactation of Consultants Examiners	An investigation of IBCLC's views on the motivations, challenges and opportunities associated with working as an IBCLC	€46,495	12
Irish Research Council, COALESCE	MAMMI and the workplace: Enhancing female equity, parental resilience, and maternal health in the workplace	€109,998	24

Research Projects

TCMCR Funding 2024 (1st January – 31st December), by value and numbers

TCPHI Funding	Successful	Unsuccessful	Awaiting outcome	Grand Total Applied for
Value	€121,973	€0	€156,493	€278,466
Number	5		2	7

There are 7 funding applications in year 2024 from January 2024 – December 2024



6 TCMCR Outputs 2024

Publications/Journals Articles

This section lists 7 peer-reviewed papers published by TCMCR members in high-impact scientific journals in 2024.

Chua, J. Y. X., Choolani, M., Lalor, J. G., Chong, Y. S., & Shorey, S. (2024). Insights of healthcare professionals regarding waterbirths and water immersion during labour: A mixed studies review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 80(6), 2156-2166. [DOI](#)

Culleton-Quinn, E., Bø, K., Fleming, N., Cusack, C., & Daly, D. (2024). Prevalence and Experience of Urinary Incontinence Among Elite Female Gaelic Sports Athletes. *International Urogynecology Journal*, 1-9. [DOI](#)

Buyukcan-Tetik, A., Seefeld, L., Bergunde, L., Ergun, T. D., Dikmen-Yildiz, P., Horsch, A., Garthus-Niegel, A., Osterman's., Lalor, J. & Ayers, S. (2024). Birth expectations, birth experiences and childbirth-related post-traumatic stress symptoms in mothers and birth companions: Dyadic investigation using response surface analysis. *British Journal of Health Psychology*, 29(4), 925-942. [DOI](#)

Daly, D., Sedlicka, N., Švanderlíková, K., Kovaříčková, P. A., Wilhelmová, R., & Begley, C. (2024). An online survey of women's views of respectful and disrespectful pregnancy and early labour care in the Czech Republic. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 24(1), 370. [DOI](#)

Horsch, A., Garthus-Niegel, S., Ayers, S., Chandra, P., Hartmann, K., Vaisbuch, E., & Lalor, J. (2024). Childbirth-related posttraumatic stress disorder: definition, risk factors, pathophysiology, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. [DOI](#)

Leutenegger, V., Wieber, F., Daly, D., Sultan-Beyer, L., Bagehorn, J., & Pehlke-Milde, J. (2024). Study protocol of a breathing and relaxation intervention included in antenatal education: A randomised controlled trial (BreLax study). *Plos One*, 19(10), e0308480. [DOI](#)

McCarthy, E., de Vries, J., & Gallagher, L. (2024). Women's perspectives on the role and impact of breastfeeding support groups in Ireland. *Midwifery*, 139, 104181. [DOI](#)

Conference Presentations

This section highlights 16 conference presentations by TCMCR members

Alòs-Pereñíguez, S., O'Malley, D., & Daly, D. (2024). Women's experiences of augmentation of labour with oxytocin in Ireland: a qualitative study. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Alòs-Pereñíguez, S., O'Malley, D., & Daly, D. (2024). Augmentation of labour with synthetic oxytocin: women's experiences in Ireland., V Congreso de la Associació Catalana de Llevadores y XXII Congreso de la Federación de Asociaciones de Matronas de España, Lleida, Spain, Spain, 17-19 October, 2024.

Alsulimini, M., Gallagher, L., & Hughes, M. (2024). Factors influencing Exclusive breastfeeding among working mothers: a critical review. ACLI Breastfeeding Conference 09 March, 2024.

Clive, A., Brady, V., Dunlea M., Panda S., & Eustace-Cook J. (2024). Partners and support persons experiences of maternity care during the Coronavirus Pandemic: A qualitative systematic review. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Daly, D., Hannon, S., Hannon, K., Newnham, E., Wuytack, F., Johnson, L., & McEvoy, L. (2024). Positive postpartum well-being: what works for women. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Daly, D., Hannon, S., Poushali, K., & Crossan, D. (2024). From Research to Action: Improving Perinatal Mental Health for Women in Ireland, 1 May, 2024, Trinity College Dublin. Hosted and organised by Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR) and National Women's Council (NWC).

Daly, D., Lynch, T., Meehan, G., & Leeson, L. (2024). Deaf women's experiences of navigating the maternity services in Ireland, Irish Deaf Research Network (IDRN), Dublin, 25 October, 2024.

Dunlea, M., Brady, V., Begley C., & Murphy-Lawless, J., (2024). Change and Entrenchment in Irish Maternity Care Policy and Antenatal Practice: An Institutional Ethnography. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6 March, 2024.

Hannon, S., Higgins, A., & Daly D. (2024). Physical health and comorbid anxiety and depression among first-time mothers in the perinatal period in Ireland (MAMMI study): A longitudinal population-based study. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Lalor J. (2024). Policy, service and training provision for women following a traumatic birth: an international knowledge mapping exercise. Symposium on behalf of the DEVOTION Cost Action, dedicated to minimising birth trauma and optimising birth experiences. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Lalor, J., & Mulligan, A. (2024). Uncharted Territory: Investigating the Right to Conscientious Objection in Termination of Pregnancy in Ireland, Denver USA, 6-9 June, 2024.

Malik J., O'Connell, R., & Panda, S. (2024). Developing vaginal birth after caesarean (VBAC) birth services to promote physiological birth using action research, Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

McCulloch, L., Brady, V., & Comiskey C. (2024). A systematic review of women's experiences of motherhood and addiction recovery, Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

O'Malley, D., & Daly, D. (2024). Factors that influence sexual and emotional satisfaction with intimate relationships twelve months after the birth of the first baby, Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Lalor, J., Mulligan, A., & Hogan, L. (2024) Conscientious Objection in Termination of Pregnancy in Ireland: Balancing Rights and Ensuring Service Provision. EAHL, Warsaw, September 2024.

Panda, S., Barry, P., O'Malley, Vallejo, N., Cazzini, H., & Smith, V, (2024). Midwives' views and experiences of maternity care during COVID-19 in Ireland: A qualitative descriptive study, Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024), Trinity College Dublin, 6-7 March, 2024.

Poster Presentations

Alòs-Pereñíguez, S., O'Malley, D., & Daly, D, (2024). Augmentation of labour with synthetic oxytocin: prevalence and associated factors., V Congreso de la Associació Catalana de Llevadores y XXII Congreso de la Federación de Asociaciones de Matronas de España, Lleida, Spain, Spain, 17-19 October, 2024. [URL](#)

Invited Talks

Daly, D., & Hannon, S. (2024). Women's health before and during pregnancy and up to one year postpartum. National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) Annual Study Day, Portlaoise, 19 January, 2024.

Panda, S. (2024). Breastfeeding research: bringing evidence into practice, Breastfeeding week celebration, SUM College of Nursing, Odisha, India, 2 August 2024, 2024, SUM College of Nursing, Odisha, India.

Panda, S. (2024). Innovative nursing educational strategies for greener future, International Conference, Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences, Odisha, India, 27 July 2024, 2024, Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences, Odisha, India.

Engagement with policy makers

Daly, D., & Hannon, S. (2024). Perinatal Mental Health in Ireland, North/South Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (NSIPA), Dundalk, Ireland, 27 September, 2024, Oireachtas and Northern Ireland Assembly.

Media Engagement and interviews

Daly, D. (2024) Perinatal depression, The Irish Independent newspaper, Irish Independent, 2024. [URL](#)



7 Research Impact

Since its establishment in 2022, the Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research (TCMCR) has demonstrated a consistent and productive research trajectory, generating over 83 Scopus-indexed outputs. These include 60 journal articles, 1 book chapters, 2 conference papers, 3 letters, and 18 reviews. Together, these scholarly contributions provide a strong foundation for future influence across maternity healthcare, academia, and public policy.

While bibliometric data alone cannot fully capture research impact, it offers valuable insights into the uptake and reach of scholarly outputs. A range of measurable outcomes—often important precursors to broader societal impact—illustrate the Centre’s growing academic and professional engagement, indicators of influence. These include:

- **Academic Citations:** TCMCR’s outputs have been cited over 500 times (Scopus). The most cited article, Horsch et al. (2020), has received 38 citations, underscoring its significance in maternity care scholarship.
- **Media Uptake:** Altmetric data indicates that 81 of the Centre’s publications have received over 919 mentions across social media platforms.
- **News Coverage:** The Centre’s research has been featured 59 times in international and national news outlets, including *Meteored Chile*, *The Medical News*, *Germanic News*, *El Comercio*, *The Daily Herald*, *Houston Chronicle* and *The Conversation*.
- **Blogs and Online References:** Outputs have been referenced in over 9 blogs, including citations in *Trinity News and Events*, *ZME Science*, and *MedicalReserach.com* and YouTube, further supporting public and professional engagement.
- **Policy Citations:** Three publications have been cited in 9 (Altmetric) policy documents spanning 3 countries. Citing bodies include the Canada’s Drug Agency, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, OECD, World Health Organisation, Government of Ireland and the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guidelines (Altmetric and Overton data). These citations span Canada, the United States, Ireland, and intergovernmental organisations.
- **Clinical Guidelines:** one TCMCR output has been cited in a clinical guideline in the United States, signalling emerging translational value (Overton).

Research impact is broadly defined as demonstrable benefits to society, the economy, culture, public policy, health, or the environment. While impact often materialises over time, TCMCR is already contributing to key areas with potential for long-term societal benefit.



One such area is the development and implementation of chatbots—digital programs that interact with users through voice, text, or animation—to support preconception, pregnancy, and postpartum care. TCMCR is contributing to the international evidence base regarding effective chatbot design for improving the health and well-being of parents and parents-to-be. The Centre’s research highlights the importance of providing informational, socioemotional, and psychological support through these tools. Looking ahead, strong collaborative efforts among healthcare providers, technology developers, chatbot users, and researchers will be essential to ensure the creation of sophisticated, evidence-based chatbots that can complement maternity care services.

An example of this work is Chua et al. (2023), which has been cited in Canada’s Drug Agency clinical guidelines *Chatbots in Health Care: Connecting Patients to Information*. The article outlines the potential for chatbots to enhance health outcomes by delivering information and psychological support. It also stresses the importance of engaging users in the design process to ensure cultural appropriateness and responsiveness to community needs.

References:

Chua, J. Y. X., Choolani, M., Chee, C. Y. I., Chan, Y. H., Lalor, J. G., Chong, Y. S., & Shorey, S. (2023). Insights of parents and parents-to-be in using chatbots to improve their preconception, pregnancy, and postpartum health: a mixed studies review. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, 68(4), 480-489.

Horsch, A., Garthus-Niegel, S., Ayers, S., Chandra, P., Hartmann, K., Vaisbuch, E., & Lalor, J. (2024). Childbirth-related posttraumatic stress disorder: definition, risk factors, pathophysiology, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. *American journal of obstetrics and gynecology*, 230(3), S1116-S1127.

8 Future Opportunities



Our future is exciting, with numerous opportunities to build on the well-established positive relationships and partnerships with women and their families, clinicians and health and social care professionals.

Our goals in 2025 include developing ways to engage with civic society. We are reviewing our Steering Committee's membership and structure to ensure regular engagement with the TCMCR's wider membership. This will ensure that the voices of all those with a deep interest in maternity care research are heard and their research priorities are central to our activities. We also look forward to extending and developing our relationships with others in the primary care setting and the wider community.

Alongside this, we will continue to apply for research funding to support the growth and development of research teams that will progress maternal health research and maternity services improvements in Ireland.

9 Key Challenges

Whilst challenges with securing funding will always exist, we know from engaging with and listening to others, women and their families, health and social care practitioners and various professionals, that there is a real need for support to conduct research - working in research teams together recognises everyone's expertise and can achieve much more than any of us can achieve by working on our own.

A lot of wonderful research has been conducted by the Centre's members to date. However, we know that the real challenge is ensuring that the evidence-based findings are translated into practice so that women and their families benefit.

We will continue to seek every opportunity to translate research activities into frameworks for policy development to improve maternal and child health services and outcomes.



10 TCMCR Highlights

INVITED SPEAKERS

Prof Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar, Senior Clinical Academic from the University of Birmingham talking on multimorbidity & pregnancy.



Prof Deirdre Daly, Associate Professor in Midwifery in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, & Dr. Susan Hannon, both from Trinity College Dublin, will present insights from the MAMMI study.

Dr. Mas Mahady Mohamad, Consultant Psychiatrist, Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Team, from University Maternity Hospital Limerick discussing perinatal mental health.



Dr. Laura Cronin, Historian of Early Modern Medicine from University College Cork, will take us on a historical journey, delving into the 16th century post-partum depression.



NPEC Study Day

Professor Deirdre Daly and Dr Susan Hannon speaking at NPEC's Study Day. The study day's theme was on "From pre-pregnancy to postpartum: understanding maternal adverse outcomes"

Celebrating International Day of the Midwife 2024

Staff, students and partners joined us to shine a light on the study and profession of Midwifery. They did this by revealing their pride in being a midwife, telling us about the midwives who have inspired them and speaking to this year's theme for International Day of the Midwife. See link below.

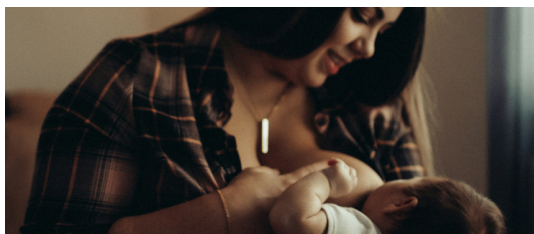
<https://shorturl.at/lZ8yz>



Perinatal Mental Health Explored at the Ninth Plenary of the North/South Inter-Parliamentary Association

On Friday 27 September, Prof Deirdre Daly, Director, and Dr Susan Hannon presented at the ninth plenary session of the North/South Inter-Parliamentary Association (NSIPA) as guest speakers on perinatal mental health in Ireland. See link below

<https://shorturl.at/clwgg>



National Breastfeeding Week 2024

A recent study from the School of Nursing & Midwifery has found that Breastfeeding Peer Support Groups help to normalise breastfeeding through social support, with breastfeeding supporters providing other breastfeeding women with knowledge, empathy, and understanding. See link below

<https://shorturl.at/azfXQ>



Research Showcase at the School of Nursing & Midwifery

Researchers from TCMCR participated in a unique showcase event which highlighted their groundbreaking research across the lifespan. See link below

<https://shorturl.at/JU7sT>



REACH Deaf Conference 2024

The Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research recently presented findings and resources developed as part of the project 'SIGN - making maternity experiences positive for deaf women' which was funded by Reach Deaf Services. See link below

<https://shorturl.at/ACyaG>



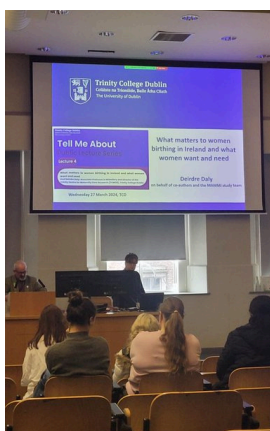
Birth Trauma Symposium

Prof. Joan Lalor and TCMCR PhD students Ms Ursula Nagle and Ms Julika Hudson presented at the Birth Trauma Symposium at THEconf2024 at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD.



TheConf 2024

The annual School THE conference was held on the 5-7 of March 2024. Strands provided over the two days were run by TCMCR, four on maternal health and three on child and family health. The conference took place face to face in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD.



Tell me about Public Lecture Series

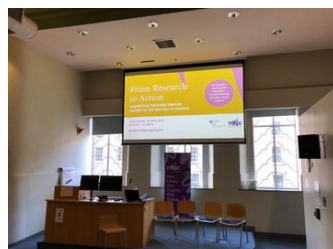
Professor Deirdre Daly presented at the School of Nursing and Midwifery 'Tell Me About' public lecture series entitled "What matters to women birthing in Ireland and what women want and need"



School of Nursing and Midwifery Seed funding Initiative

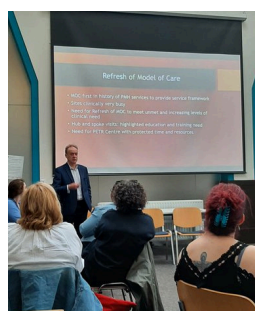
Congratulations to Dr Sunita Panda who was awarded funding from the new SNM Seed-Funding Initiative.

Project Title: Caesarean birth audit using Robson's Ten Group Classification System. An Evaluation of the pathway of care.



From Research to Action

Excellent co-production between TCMCR and the National Women's Council highlighting "Improving Perinatal Mental Health for all Women in Ireland" It was a safe space for sharing life experiences amongst the NGO sector.



Specialist Perinatal Health Services Roundtable event

TCMCR welcomed Dr Colm Cooney (National Clinical Lead SPMHS) and invited guests from partner HSPs for a Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services; "Our Future" Roundtable Event.



Spanish National Congress of Midwifery

Congratulations to TCMCR PhD student Silvia Alós Pereñíguez on being awarded best poster presentation at the Spanish National Congress of Midwifery.



2023-2024 Award for Excellence in Supervision of Research Students for the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Congratulations to Prof. Mary Hughes on the 2023-2024 Award for Excellence in Supervision of Research Students for the Faculty of Health Sciences TCD.

11 PhD Students

Sincere congratulations to all of those who completed their PhD research

Julika Johanna Hudson

Project: Women's Understanding of the Maternal and Fetal Dyad and its implications for maternal autonomy.

Supervisors: Professor Joan Lalor, Professor Andrea Mulligan and Professor Soo Downe.

Sofia O'Byrne

Project: Emotional consequences of limiting family size as a result of traumatic birth.

Supervisor: Professor Joan Lalor and Professor Soo Downe.

Silvia Alós Pereñíguez

Project: Intrapartum synthetic oxytocin administration among women with spontaneous onset of labour.

Supervisors: Professor Deirdre Daly and Dr Deirdre O' Malley.

Jennifer Michelle Johnson Trainer

Project: Cultural perceptions of pregnancy and birth; a global comparison.

Supervisors: Dr Fintan Sheerin and Dr Vivienne Brady.



There were 10 PhD students associated with the Centre in 2024.

Atiya Salim Alfurqani

Project: Introducing and implementing group antenatal care in Oman, using an action research approach.

Supervisors: Dr Vivienne Brady, Professor David Newnham and Dr Elizabeth Coghlan.

Elizabeth Culleton-Quinn

Project: Promotion of pelvic floor strength and continence in elite athletes/ senior county camogie players

Supervisors: Professor Deirdre Daly, Dr Neil Fleming and Professor Kari Bø.

Kathleen Hannon

Project: Development of a model for supporting PPI in clinical trials for maternal and neonatal care.

Supervisors: Professor Deirdre Daly and Professor Valerie Smith.

Laura O' Shea

Project: Exploring the views and experiences of maternity care providers in screening for and caring for women who are experiencing domestic violence during pregnancy in Ireland.

Supervisor: Professor Deirdre Daly and Dr Melissa Corbally

Louise Mc Culloch

Project: The experience of concurrently parenting and focusing on addiction recovery.

Supervisors: Dr Vivienne Brady and Professor Catherine Comiskey.

Louise Moore

Project: A mixed methods study evaluating care for women with autoimmune rheumatic disease during pregnancy.

Supervisors: Professor Joan Lalor and Professor Anne-Marie Brady.

Manar Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Sulimani

Project: Factors that impact breastfeeding practice among working mothers in Saudi Arabia.

Supervisors: Dr Mary Hughes and Dr Louise Gallagher.

Nazia Alamri

Project: Fathers' experiences and perspectives attending childbirth in Bahrain: A Mixed Method Study.

Supervisors: Professor Valerie Smith and Dr Sunita Panda.

Patricia Blee

Project: Women with Intellectual Disabilities and Barriers to Sexual Health Education: A Participatory Research.

Supervisors: Dr Vivienne Brady and Dr Eilish Burke

Ursula Nagle

Project: The impact of perinatal trauma on Mothers: A mixed-methods study investigating and exploring the prevalence, women's experiences and related factors associated with birth trauma in an Irish maternity setting.'

Supervisor: Professor Joan Lalor





Coombe Hospital

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland



Rotunda Hospital



**Portlaoise Midlands
Regional Hospital**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research,
School of Nursing & Midwifery
Trinity College Dublin
24 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
D02 T283

Email: TCMCR@TCD.IE

Website: <https://www.tcd.ie/tcmcr>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/TCD_TCMCR