



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



**Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research**  
**Annual Report**  
***2019/2020***

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

The Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research was officially launched in 2019 and this is the first annual report, covering the period September 2019 to December 2020.

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.

## TCMCR Strategic Objectives

The main objectives of this 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.

## TCMRC Membership

### Director

Professor Cecily Begley, Chair of Nursing and Midwifery

### Principal Investigators (PIs)

Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor in Mental Health Nursing

Professor Valerie Smith, Professor in Midwifery

Professor Joan Lalor, Professor in Midwifery

Professor Maria Brenner, Professor in Children's Nursing

Professor Deirdre Daly, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Professor Louise Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

### Other associated researchers (internal)

Professor Margaret Carroll, Associate Professor in Midwifery

Professor Colm Oboyle, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Professor Kathryn Muldoon, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Professor Vivienne Brady, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Professor Margaret Dunlea, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Professor Deirdre O'Malley, Assistant Professor in Midwifery

Ms Ashamole Clive, Clinical Tutor

### 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

Ms Paula Barry, Practice Development Co-ordinator, 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 Canny 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

### Other associated researchers (postdoctoral staff)

Dr Sunita Panda, Post-doctoral Researcher

Dr Francesca Wuytack, Research Fellow in Epidemiology

Dr Denise Alexander, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

## Other associated researchers (postgraduate students)

Ms Atiya Salim Alfurqani  
Ms Jill Atkinson  
Ms Lorraine Carroll  
Ms Lucy Corcoran  
Ms Lisa Corrigan  
Ms Elizabeth Culleton-Quin  
Ms Elizabeth Farsaci  
Ms Susan Hannon  
Ms Ciara Henderson  
Ms Katie Hill  
Ms Kate Masterson  
Ms Sofia O'Byrne  
Ms Malgorzata Stach  
Ms Jennifer Trainor

## Other associated researchers (research assistants)

Ms Jo Greene  
Ms Kathleen Hannon  
Ms Julie Horgan  
Ms Maggie O Donovan

## Other associated researchers (external)

Ms Niamh Healy, Antenatal Educator, Cuidiú, and Steering Committee member TCMCR  
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 with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC, Cork  
Dr Sara Leitão, Research Officer, National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, 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

## Research Activities

The five Flagship projects of the TCMCR are the MAMMI Study, REDUCE, COST Action 18211, TechChild, and the Evidence Synthesis in Maternity Care initiative.

### The MAMMI Study



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.

Over 3,000 women were recruited from three maternity hospitals in Ireland between 2012 and 2017, and the second baby and five-year follow-up studies are in progress.

Seven research students (PhD, MSc (Research and Taught)) have completed postgraduate studies on strands of the MAMMI study, with one more in progress. These strands include:

1. **Pelvic Girdle Pain Strand** (Francesca Wuytack (2012-2016). Funding: TCD PhD Student Stipend).
2. **Sexual Health Strand** (Deirdre O'Malley (2012-2018). Funding: HRB Healthcare Professional Clinical Research Training Fellowship).
3. **Caesarean Section Strand** (Sunita Panda (2016-2019). Funding: HRB Healthcare Professional Clinical Research Training Fellowship).
4. **Nutrition and Physical Activity Strand** (Jamile Marchi (2014-2019). Funding: Science Without Borders).
5. **Anxiety during pregnancy and at three months postpartum: prevalence, variations and associated factors in a cohort of nulliparous women** (Louise Rafferty (2014-2018). Funding: Rotunda Foundation).
6. **Reasons for and factors associated with maternal hospital readmission/re-attendance with three months postpartum** (Marcelina Szafranska (2016-2018)).
7. **Women's mental health five years after first-time motherhood** (Susan Hannon, PhD student (2019-2023). Funding: TCD Provost PhD Project Award (€16,000 stipend per year to PhD student, plus fees. Awarded to D Daly in 2019).

## MAMMI Study-related projects

The MAMMI study-related projects include:

|                |                                                                                                                |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | The MAMMI SIM (Second baby, Intervention development, Measurement of costs) study                              |
| <b>Team</b>    | Lead: Prof Cecily Begley<br>Post-doctoral researchers: Dr Déirdre Daly, Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board (HRB) Ireland ICE Award                                                                  |
| <b>Period</b>  | May 2017 to June 2021                                                                                          |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €910,147                                                                                                       |

|                |                                                                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | The MAMMI five-year follow-up study                                                 |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Déirdre Daly (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Prof Cecily Begley    |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Services Executive (HSE) (to complete preparatory work for the study set-up) |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2017-2022                                                                           |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €47,970.65                                                                          |

|                |                                                                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Public involvement in research initiative (PPI) (with the MAMMI study participants)           |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Déirdre Daly (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Dr Liz Newnham, Ms Susan Hannon |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Services Executive (HSE)                                                               |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2018 -2020                                                                                    |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €60,642.51                                                                                    |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM) (Massive Open Online Course (MOOC))                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Déirdre Daly (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Cinny Cusack, Sarah Bowman, Prof Cecily Begley                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Funding</b> | European Innovation Technology Health (EIT Health)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2019-2021 (Resources available at <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/mammi/mooc/session1/session1.html">https://www.tcd.ie/mammi/mooc/session1/session1.html</a> AND <a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-health-after-motherhood">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-health-after-motherhood</a> ) |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €100,000 (€60,000 to develop the MOOC in English and Spanish, and additional €40,000 awarded in August 2019 to develop the course in the Dutch language)                                                                                                                                                            |

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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Motherhood, Empowerment, Sustainable Self-help: Addressing Gaps in Education with Science (MESSAGES)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Déirdre Daly (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Sarah Bowman, Cinny Cusack.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Funding</b> | Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2019-2020 (Resources available (week 2's content at <a href="https://www.tcd.ie/mammi/mooc/session1/session1.html">https://www.tcd.ie/mammi/mooc/session1/session1.html</a> AND <a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-health-after-motherhood">https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/womens-health-after-motherhood</a> |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €44,692.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

|                |                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Towards Recovery After Childbirth through Knowledge (On-TRACK)                                                            |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Cecily Begley (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Prof Valerie Smith, Prof Agnes Higgins, Dr Déirdre Daly. |
| <b>Funding</b> | HRB Knowledge Exchange Development Scheme (KEDS)                                                                          |
| <b>Period</b>  | January 2019 to June 2020                                                                                                 |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €60,642.51                                                                                                                |

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Quality of life in pregnant and postpartum women with urinary incontinence: a systematic review, feasibility study, and mapping of standards of care |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Déirdre Daly (PI), Dr Francesca Wuytack, Dr Patrick Moran, Cinny Cusack, Prof Cecily Begley                                                       |
| <b>Funding</b> | Dean's Research Initiative Award 2017-2018                                                                                                           |
| <b>Period</b>  | May 2018 – June 2021                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €19,968.00                                                                                                                                           |

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Midwives experiences of recruiting participants to research studies |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Déirdre Daly, Susan Hannon, Dr Vivienne Brady                    |
| <b>Funding</b> | Unfunded                                                            |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2017-2018                                                           |

|                |                                                                    |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Women's knowledge and experiences of pelvic floor muscle exercises |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Déirdre Daly (PI), Cinny Cusack, Prof Cecily Begley.            |
| <b>Funding</b> | Unfunded                                                           |
| <b>Period</b>  | April 2017- December 2017                                          |

## The REDUCE study

Maternal mortality and severe morbidity are doubled following CS compared with vaginal birth, and neonatal respiratory distress requiring oxygen is 2-7 times more common. CS costs €739 (elective) or €1180 (emergency) more than vaginal birth. This research team tested an intervention in Ireland, Germany and Italy ("OptiBIRTH", <https://nursing-midwifery.tcd.ie/OptiBIRTH/>) designed to increase vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC), thus reducing repeat CS in women who had CS before. The REDUCE study applies this knowledge to develop a similar intervention designed to reduce the number of unnecessary CSs in Ireland, which would have health benefits for mothers and babies. The REDUCE intervention has been developed using information from a review of 101 systematic reviews of trials, and evidence-based national guidelines, aimed at reducing CS rates, and 8 focus group interviews (FGIs) with women, their partners and clinicians. Testing for feasibility and acceptability is now in progress.

|                |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Reducing caesarean section rates in Ireland: a feasibility and acceptability study of an evidence-based intervention designed to reduce unnecessary caesarean section        |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Cecily Begley, Prof Valerie Smith, Prof Declan Devane, Prof Michael Turner, Prof Eugene Dempsey, Prof John Newell, Prof Louise Gallagher, Kathleen Hannon, Julie Horgan |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board DIFA Award                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2017-2021                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €558,689                                                                                                                                                                     |

The REDUCE study-related projects include:

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Developing an on-line course for first-time mothers: 'Journey to Birth'                                                                                                |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Cecily Begley, Prof Valerie Smith, Dr Deirdre Daly, Dr Krysia Lynch, Sarah Bowman, Lynsey Kavanagh, Iryna Pokhilo, Kathleen Hannon, Julie Horgan, Dr Sunita Panda |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board KEDS Award                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Period</b>  | January 2019 to September 2020                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €55,863                                                                                                                                                                |



## COST Action 18211: Perinatal Mental

### Health and Birth Related Trauma: Maximising Best Practice and optimal Outcomes

The DEVoTiON (DEliVery-related Trauma Outcomes Network) is a COST Action designed to bring together researchers and clinicians from diverse fields, that have an interest in birth-related trauma and the emotional and psychological outcomes for women, infants and families, meeting the COST excellence and inclusiveness policy regarding spreading excellence and widening participation. COST Vision and Strategic Goals outline three priorities for its positioning in the remaining part of Horizon 2020 and FP9, the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation: 1) Promoting and spreading excellence, 2) Fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science, 3) Empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators. DEVoTiON responds to these priorities. This network is made up of experts from a wide variety of disciplines at various stages in their careers, including, midwifery, obstetrics, psychology (various branches i.e. health, medical, prenatal, family studies, neuro, clinical, behavioural), psychiatry, paediatrics, neurology, neurobiology, social work, analytical chemistry, biochemistry, epidemiology, epigenetics, health economists, media and informatics.

|                |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Perinatal Mental Health and Birth Related Trauma: Maximising Best Practice and optimal Outcomes<br>(Website: <a href="https://www.ca18211.eu/">https://www.ca18211.eu/</a> ) |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Joan Lalor                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Funding</b> | COST Programme, EU Commission                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2019-2023                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €500,000                                                                                                                                                                     |

## TechChild - Just because we can, should we? An anthropological perspective on the initiation of technology dependence to sustain a child's life

TechChild is a five and half year programme of research, funded by the European Research Council. The aim of TechChild is to explore influences on the initiation of technological support which will be required long-term to sustain a child's life and to develop a theory to explain the initiation of technology dependence in the context of contrasting health, legal, and socio-political systems. The objectives are:

1. To conceptualise influences on the initiation of technology dependence in PICU.
2. To explore the formal and informal processes internationally that (REALLY) influences the initiation of technology dependence, from the perspective of those with the authority and ultimate power to make that decision.
3. To identify the greatest influences on the initiation of technology dependence.
4. To elicit consensus and understand influences on the initiation of technology dependence in the context of the contrasting health, legal, and socio-political systems.
5. To develop a theory of technology initiation in healthcare, explaining the interactions and context of the initiation of technology dependence.

|                |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | TechChild - Just because we can, should we? An anthropological perspective on the initiation of technology dependence to sustain a child's life. |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Maria Brenner (PI), Denise Alexander, Mary Quirke, Jo Greene, Carmel Doyle, Kate Masterson, Katie Hill                                      |
| <b>Funding</b> | European Research Council                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2019-2024                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €1,464,101                                                                                                                                       |

## Supporting Evidence Syntheses in Maternity Care

The TCMCR, through Prof Valerie Smith as a member of Evidence Synthesis Ireland and Cochrane Ireland and TCD's representative ESI Centre mentor, is actively supporting evidence synthesis in maternity care. In 2019-2020, through ESI sponsored Fellowships, Valerie has mentored one ESI Fellow to completion and is currently mentoring two further Fellows on maternity care evidence syntheses projects. The aim of this mentorship programme is providing training and guidance and to build capacity in evidence synthesis activity across the Island of Ireland.

### *ESI Mentorship projects*

|                |                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Physiological track-and-trigger/early warning systems for use in maternity care (Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Systematic Review) |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Valerie Smith, Dr Maria Noonan (ESI Fellow).                                                                                     |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board – Evidence Synthesis Ireland (HRB-ESI)                                                                          |
| <b>Period</b>  | November 2019 – January 2021                                                                                                          |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €8,000                                                                                                                                |

|                |                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Maternity care during COVID-19: a qualitative evidence synthesis of women's and maternity care providers' views and experiences |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Valerie Smith, Sarah Jane Flaherty SJ (ESI Fellow), Karen Matvienko-Sikar, Hannah Delaney                                  |
| <b>Funding</b> | HRB-ESI                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Period</b>  | October 2020 – November 2021                                                                                                    |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €8,000                                                                                                                          |

|                |                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Early warning systems in maternity care: a qualitative evidence synthesis of maternity care providers' views and experiences |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Valerie Smith, Dr Kumar Cithambaram (ESI Fellow), Prof Deirdre O'Malley.                                                |
| <b>Funding</b> | HRB-ESI                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Period</b>  | November 2020 – October 2021                                                                                                 |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €8,000                                                                                                                       |

## Other Research Projects

|                |                                                                                                      |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Education and training for recruiters to neonatal trials: a pilot embedded randomised trial          |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Valerie Smith, Prof Declan Devane, Sandra Galvin, Shaun Treweek, Carrol Gamble, Hannah Delaney. |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board Ireland (HRB-TMRN-2017-1-Pilot)                                                |
| <b>Period</b>  | January 2018 – December 2021                                                                         |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €349,735                                                                                             |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | An online survey to determine the antenatal education needs of primigravid women attending the CWIUH to inform a programme of antenatal education offered by midwives. |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Vivienne Brady (PI), Sheppard M., McSweeney F., Whelan C. and Walsh A.                                                                                            |
| <b>Funding</b> | Unfunded                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2020-Current                                                                                                                                                           |

|                |                                                                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | A survey to determine the frequency and volume of colostrum (first breast milk) secretions during pregnancy |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Vivienne Brady (PI), Darcy C, Shanahan H. and Lavery M.                                                |
| <b>Funding</b> | Unfunded                                                                                                    |
| <b>Period</b>  | April 2019-March 2020                                                                                       |

|                |                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | The impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women's clinical and experiential outcomes – a before and after study with an alongside qualitative design. |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Valerie Smith, Prof Deirdre O'Malley, Paula Barry, Nora Vallejo, Sunita Panda                                                             |
| <b>Funding</b> | Office of the Dean of Research TCD COVID-19 Response Fund                                                                                      |
| <b>Period</b>  | June 2020 - December 2020                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €13,115                                                                                                                                        |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | An Investigation into the need for Birth Reflection Clinics in the Irish Maternity Services as an aid to recovery after birth trauma                                                                                   |
| <b>Team</b>    | Sinéad McAteer (Laidlaw Scholar), Prof Déirdre Daly (Supervisor)                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Funding</b> | Laidlaw Undergraduate Research & Leadership Scholarship<br><a href="https://www.tcd.ie/Careers/Students/Awards/Laidlaw/Laidlaw-Trinity.Php">https://www.tcd.ie/Careers/Students/Awards/Laidlaw/Laidlaw-Trinity.Php</a> |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2020 – 2021                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Grant</b>   | Student stipend                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                |                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Development and testing of the Irish version of the Clinical Learning Environment, Supervision and Nurse Teacher (CLES+T) Evaluation Scale |
| <b>Team</b>    | Bronagh O'Farrell Byrne, Prof Joan Lalor (Supervisor)                                                                                      |
| <b>Funding</b> | Health Research Board                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Period</b>  | Summer 2020                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Grant</b>   | Student stipend                                                                                                                            |

|                |                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Factors influencing decision-making for caesarean section |
| <b>Team</b>    | Dr Sunita Panda                                           |
| <b>Funding</b> | HRB Knowledge Exchange Dissemination Scheme (KEDS) award  |
| <b>Period</b>  | 2020 – 2021                                               |
| <b>Grant</b>   | €25,482.75                                                |

|                |                                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b> | Respectful and disrespectful care in the Czech Republic: an online survey of clinicians' and women's views |
| <b>Team</b>    | Prof Cecily Begley, Dr Déirdre Daly, Natalie Sedlicka                                                      |
| <b>Funding</b> | Unfunded                                                                                                   |
| <b>Period</b>  | Jan 2018-September 2021                                                                                    |

## TCMRC Outputs 2019 - 2020

### Journal Articles

Between September 2019 – December 2020, 38 **journal articles** were issued by the TCMCR.

1. Al-Yateem N., Arsyad Subu M., Al-Shujairi A., Alrimawi I., Mohd Ali H., Hasan K., Peer Dad N. & Brenner M. (2020) Coping among adolescents with long-term health conditions: a mixed-methods study. *British Journal of Nursing* **29**(13). <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2020.29.13.762>.
2. Alexander D., Eustace-Cook J. & Brenner M. (2020) Approaches to the initiation of life-sustaining technology in children: a scoping review of changes over time. *Journal of Child Health Care* **2020**, 1-14. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1367493520961884>.
3. Bartels H.C., Mulligan K.M., Lalor J., Higgins M.F. & Brennan D.J. (2020) A life changing experience: An interpretative phenomenological analysis of women's experiences of placenta accreta spectrum. *European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology Reproductive Biology* **254**, 102-108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejogrb.2020.09.014>.
4. Begley K., Begley C. & Smith V. (2020) Shared decision-making and maternity care in the deep learning age: Acknowledging and overcoming inherited defeaters. *Journal of Clinical Evaluation in Practice* **2020**, 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jep.13515>
5. Begley K., Daly D., Panda S. & Begley C. (2019) Shared decision-making in maternity care: Acknowledging and overcoming epistemic defeaters. *Journal of Evaluation of Clinical Practice* **25**(6), 1113– 1120. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jep.13243>.
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25. Murphy Tighe S. & Lalor J.G. (2020) Concealed pregnancy Lessons to be learned world of Irish Nursing INMO May 28 4
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<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-020-03442-5>.

## Conference Presentations

The Centre issued 25 **conference presentations** between September 2019 and December 2020.

1. Alexander D., Quirke M., Eustace-Cook J. & Brenner M. (2020) 'What are the influences on the initiation of technology dependence in children? A systematic review of reasons.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
2. Brady V., Hynes G., May P., Lombard-Vance R. & Corry M. (2020) 'Findings of an Evaluation of the Introduction of Schwartz Rounds in Ireland.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
3. Carroll L., Gallagher L. & Smith V. (2020) 'A systematic review and meta-analysis of pregnancy, birth and neonatal outcomes associated with reduced fetal movements in pregnancy.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.

4. Cusack C., Moran P., Wuytack F., Hannon K., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Maternity hospital/unit-based services on urinary incontinence during pregnancy and postpartum in Ireland; a scoping survey.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
5. Daly D., Donaldson N., Newnham E., Wuytack F., Moran P., Hannon S. & Begley C. (2020) 'What maternal health-related research matters to women in the first year postpartum?' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
6. Daly D., Hannon S. & Brady V. (2020) 'Midwives' experiences of recruiting participants to clinical research, RCSI Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery.' *39th Annual International Nursing & Midwifery Research and Education Conference*. Dublin, 26-27 February.
7. Darcy C., Shanahan H., Lavery M., McDonagh D. & Brady V. (2020) 'A Survey to Determine the Prevalence, Frequency and Volume of First Breast Milk Secretions during Pregnancy.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2020 (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
8. Delaney H., Hunter A., Devane D. & Smith V. (2020) 'Education and training interventions for recruiters to trials in healthcare; A Qualitative Content Analysis.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2020 (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
9. Farsaci L., Oboyle C. & Newnham E. (2020) 'Cut up and drugged: women's experiences of non-consent and control in contemporary Irish maternity services.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
10. Gallagher L., Smith V., Carroll M., Hannon K. & Begley C. 'Antenatal and intrapartum interventions for reducing caesarean section, promoting vaginal birth, and reducing fear of childbirth: an overview of systematic reviews.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2020 (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
11. Henderson C., Lalor J. & Laragy G. (2020) 'What lies beneath: burial and belonging in Ireland.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
12. Marchi J., Kearney J., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Pre-pregnancy and pregnancy predictors of maternal dietary patterns during pregnancy in Ireland.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
13. McEvoy E., Hannon S., Hannon K., Moran P., Wuytack F., Newnham E., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Unleashing social activism and achieving results - women's participation in maternal health research.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
14. Moran P., Daly D., Wuytack F., Carroll M., Turner M., Normand C. & Begley C. (2020) 'Economic implications of reducing caesarean section rates – analysis of two health

- systems.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
15. Moran P., Korducki J., Carroll M., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Factors associated with weight changes up to 12 months postpartum; findings from the MAMMI prospective cohort study.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  16. Murphy-Tighe S. & Lalor J. (2020) 'The psychology of concealed pregnancy: understanding the difference between agency and autonomy.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  17. Newnham E., Moran P., Carroll M., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Comparison of outcomes between nulliparous women who used epidural analgesia in labour and those who did not: a prospective cohort study.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  18. O'Byrne S., Gallagher L. & Lalor J. (2020) 'Key issues for staff in the implementation, compliance and audit of the use of IMEWS tool.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  19. Panda S., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Factors associated with planned caesarean section among first-time mothers: findings from a multicentre cohort study in Ireland.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  20. Panda S., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Strategies to reduce caesarean sections – perspectives of Irish clinicians.' *39th Annual International Nursing and Midwifery Research and Educational Conference*. RCSI, Dublin, Ireland, 27 February.
  21. Panda S., Begley C., Corcoran P. & Daly D. (2020) 'Pre-labour and labour interventions and mode of birth – findings from a multicentre cohort study.' *15th International Normal Labour and Birth virtual conference*. Hyderabad, India, 2-4 December.
  22. Quirke M., Alexander D., Eustace-Cook J. & Brenner M. (2020) 'Exploring the concept of technology in children from a multidisciplinary perspective.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March
  23. Smith V., Daly D., Lundgren I., Eri T., Begley C., Gross M.M., Downe S. & Devane D. (2020) 'Development of a core set of salutogenic intrapartum outcomes.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  24. Stach M. (2020) 'Negotiating responsabilisation: women's voices on appropriate use of caesarean section.' *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.
  25. Szafranska M., Carroll M., Begley C. & Daly D. (2020) 'Factors associated with maternal readmission to hospital, attendance at emergency room or visits to general practitioners

within three months postpartum.’ *Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2020)*. School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin, 4-5 March.

## Invited talks

The Centre issued 11 **invited talks** between September 2019 - December 2020.

1. Begley C. (2020) ‘Promoting normality versus over-use of technology.’ *All-Ireland Maternity & Midwifery Festival 2020*. Croke Park, Dublin, 11 February. <https://vimeo.com/390779361>
2. Begley C. (2020) ‘Vaginal birth after caesarean section: exploding the myths with the OptiBIRTH study.’ Invited Masterclass. *15th International Normal Labour and Birth virtual conference*. Hyderabad, India, 2-4 December.
3. Brady, V. (2019) Book Launch: ‘Spirituality, Culture, and Motherhood’ (Routledge) by Noelia Molina. Spirituality in Society and the Professions 17 May 2019. Waterford Institute of Technology: O’Connell Bianconi Health Sciences Building, Cork Road, Waterford, Ireland.
4. Daly D. & McEvoy E. (2020) ‘A researcher on their PPI journey and a public contributor’s personal experience of being part of a research team.’ *Health Research Board (HRB) Public Participation in Research seminar*. [Online] 16 December.
5. Daly D., McLoughlin M., Wuytack F., Moran P., Bowman S., Cusack C., Hannon S., Hannon K., Begley C., McEvoy E., Donaldson N., Martin Y., Cox B. & Nordwind M. (2020) ‘Translating maternal health research into maternal health resources.’ *All Ireland Maternity and Midwifery Festival 2020*. Croke Park, Dublin, 11 February.
6. Daly D. (2020) ‘The MAMMI study.’ *Antenatal Educators Midwifery Forum*. 30 November.
7. Daly D., Cusack C., Wuytack F., Moran P., Hannon S., Hannon K., Bowman S., Begley C., McEvoy E., Donaldson N., McLoughlin M., Martin Y., Cox B. & Nordwind M. (2020) ‘A suite of resources on women's health after motherhood.’ *Rotunda GP Educational Study Evening, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin*, 22 October.
8. Daly D. (2020) ‘Translating maternal health research into maternal health resources.’ *Directors of Midwifery Forum, National Maternity Hospital, Dublin*, 13 February.
9. Daly D., Wuytack F., Moran P., Bowman S., Cusack C., Hannon S., Hannon K., McEvoy E., Donaldson N., McLoughlin M., Martin Y., Cox B. & Nordwind M. (2020) ‘Co-creating MESSAGES.’ *Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Programme Partnership meeting*. Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin, 11 February.
10. Smith V. (2020) ‘COVID-19: Caesarean section and other interventions.’ *IME conference Maternity Services after COVID-19 Recovery, Resilience. Sustainability and Rights*. Online conference, 9-11 September.
11. Smith V. (2019) ‘Childbirth Risk, litigation and midwifery practice – shades of grey.’ *The Risky Miracle of Childbirth Seminar*. The Galmont Hotel, Galway, 8 March.

## *Educational Workshops*

A full-day educational workshop was held for all members in 2019, to launch the TCMCR. Topics included: 'Funding opportunities and expected call dates'; 'How to win research funding'; 'A successful COST Action bid'; 'Producing research outputs with little/no funding.' A brainstorming session was also held, to plan the next year's strategy.

Unfortunately, the educational day planned for June 2020 could not be held, due to Covid-19. Two half-day workshops were provided in November 2020 instead, on how to write a successful proposal for funding an International Training Network, run by Halbert Ltd.

## Online communication and engagement

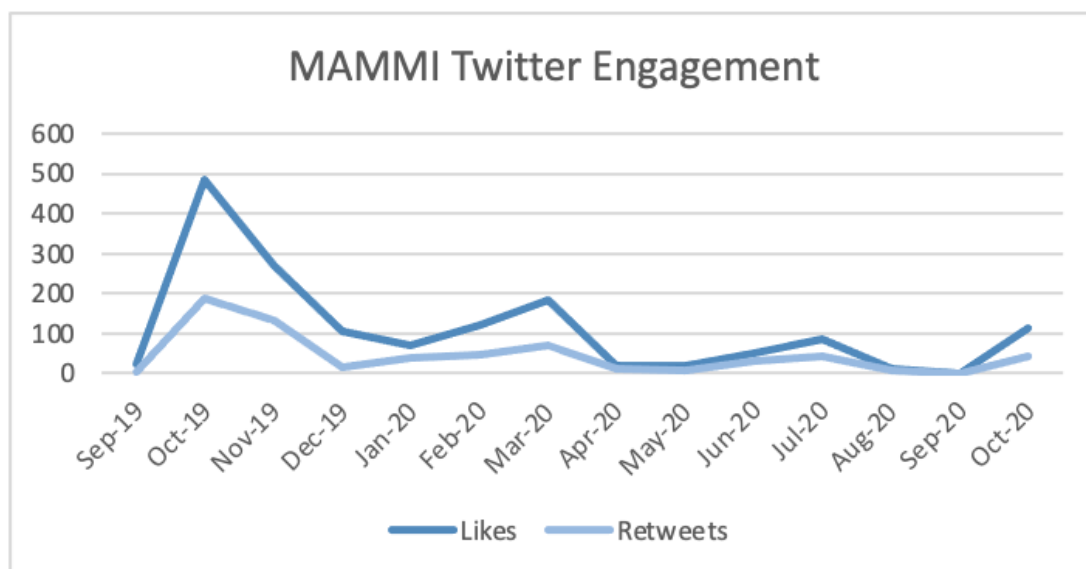
### Social Media platforms

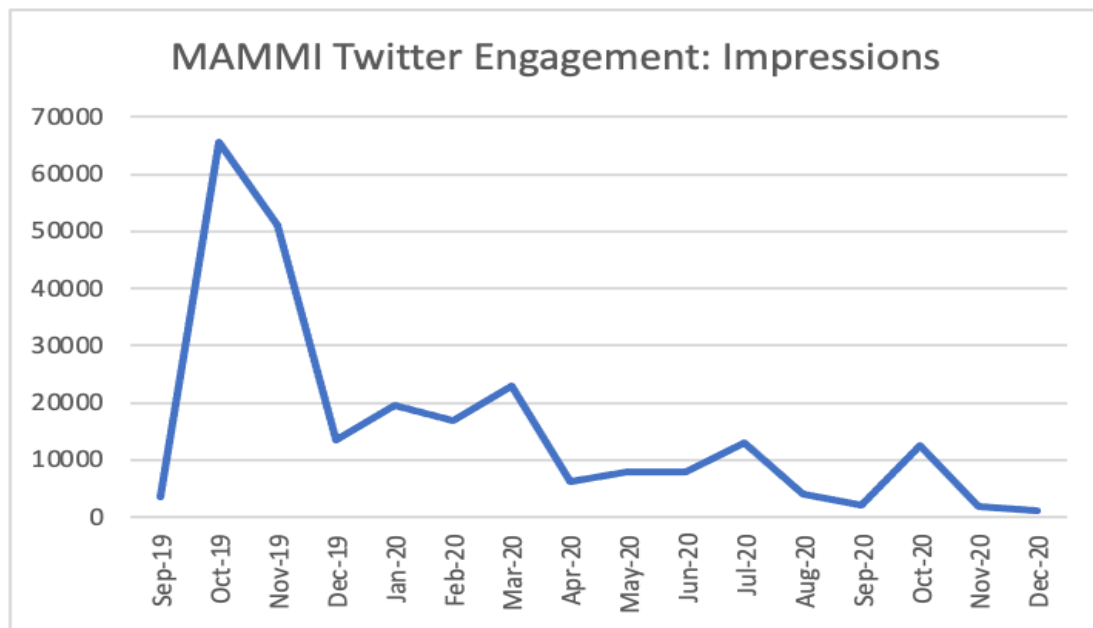
The TCMCR Twitter account was set up in May 2021. The Twitter handle is [https://twitter.com/TCD\\_TCMCR](https://twitter.com/TCD_TCMCR). The MAMMI Study is active on Twitter ([@mammi\\_tcd](https://twitter.com/mammi_tcd) with 687 followers) and on Instagram (@the\_mammi\_study\_tcd, with 942 followers). The MAMMI Study is active on Instagram ([the\\_mammi\\_study\\_tcd](https://www.instagram.com/the_mammi_study_tcd)) with 942 followers and has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mammistudy/>) with 629 likes and 674 followers as of April 2021.

The DEVOTION COST Action study joined Twitter in October 2019 ([@CA18211](https://twitter.com/CA18211)) and currently has over 400 followers, as of April 2021.

### Engagement

Between September 2019 – December 2020, @mammi\_tcd had 249,500 impressions, 1,559 likes and 646 retweets.





For its January 2020 meeting announcement, the COST Action 18211 had 2,540 impressions, and 138 engagements.

Jan 2020 - 31 days

#### TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

##### Top Tweet earned 2,640 impressions

The schedule for the 3-day meeting of COST Action @ca18211 that will take place in Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam from 29th to 31st January 2020 has been released. We look forward to seeing you all there!  
[pic.twitter.com/KuiZugYwgK](https://pic.twitter.com/KuiZugYwgK)

1.30pm – 2.15pm: Working Group 4 “Deepening our understanding of the intergenerational transmission of trauma through biomedical and epigenetic research”  
 2.15pm – 3pm: Working Group 5 “Health Economics Analysis”  
 3pm – 3.15pm: Tea break  
 3.15pm – 3.45pm: Prof Soe Douine  
 3.45pm – 4pm: Prof Julie Jameton  
 4pm – 5pm: Discussion – Key questions for WG leaders to take into their sessions or at the MC meeting  
 5pm: room available for further discussions

##### Day 2: Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January:

9am – 1pm (with tea break from 10.45am to 11am): Working Groups – Agenda set by Working Group leader  
 1pm – 2pm: Lunch break  
 2pm – 3.30pm: Working Groups (continue from morning session)  
 3.30pm – 3.45pm: Tea break

👤 5 ❤️ 13

##### Top mention earned 138 engagements

The schedule for the 3-day meeting of COST Action @ca18211 that will take place in Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam from 29th to 31st January 2020 has been released. We look forward to seeing you all there!  
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 3.30pm – 3.45pm: Tea break

👤 5 ❤️ 13

#### JAN 2020 SUMMARY

Tweets  
15

Profile visits  
567

New followers  
60

Tweet impressions  
15K

Mentions  
98

## TCMRC's top Twitter stories

## October 2019

Only one week until the Women's Health After Motherhood course begins! Created FOR and WITH women, this course explores postnatal physical, sexual and mental health. Register today@ <http://bit.ly/30Oprb8WHAM>

[#postpartum](#)

[#womenshealthaftermotherhood](#)

[#mammistudy](#) [#messagesformothers](#)

The MAMMI study @mammi\_tcd



421 engagements

## December 2019

The MAMMI team are delighted for and offer a huge congratulations to Dr Sunita Panda on successfully defending her PhD thesis at viva! She is an amazing midwife, researcher, colleague and friend!

The MAMMI study @mammi\_tcd



79 likes, 12 retweets

## January 2020

### Top media Tweet

earned 899 impressions

The Management Committee (MC) meeting is just about to start here in Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Pictured here are the group of collaborators in COST Action [@ca18211](#). It was a wonderful meeting of minds with great plans made already [@joanlalar2907](#) [@DrAntjeHorsch](#) [@COSTprogramme](#) [pic.twitter.com/OR9CLKAY4d](http://pic.twitter.com/OR9CLKAY4d)



11 11

## June 2020

Developed by researchers from @TCD\_SNM, 'Journey to Birth' launches on the 29th June. Funded by the Health Research Board (HRB), this free, 6-week, online course provides evidence-based information for pregnant women across the world, to help them prepare for labour and birth.

**The MAMMI study** @mammi\_tcd



## Normal body changes during pregnancy

75 comments

Pregnancy is a time when our bodies change in many different ways. It can be a good time to revisit your lifestyle and make

**34 likes, 15 retweets**

## October 2020

We're delighted to share two recent publications from the MAMMI study. Sincere thanks to all of the women who took/are taking part - none of this would be possible without their enormous commitment to the study and desire to advance our knowledge and understanding.

[pic.twitter.com/45aarJ4bWD](https://pic.twitter.com/45aarJ4bWD)

**The MAMMI study** @mammi\_tcd



Women and Birth

Available online 11 September 2020

In Press, Corrected Proof



Comparison of labour and birth outcomes between nulliparous women who used epidural analgesia in labour and those who did not: A prospective cohort study

Elizabeth C. Newnham <sup>a, b, ✉</sup>, Patrick S. Moran <sup>b</sup>, Cecily M. Begley <sup>b</sup>, Margaret Carroll <sup>b</sup>, Deirdre Daly <sup>b</sup>

[Show more](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2020.09.001> [Get rights and content](#)

**72 likes, 23 retweets**

The Devotion COST Action supports Mental Health Day 2020

**Top media Tweet** earned 1,018 impressions

#Midwives can be affected when they witness improper care during #Birth. Get the Facts about Birth Related Trauma and its effect on Mental Health  
[youtu.be/i7oshd3LK8I](https://youtu.be/i7oshd3LK8I)  
 #WMHD2020 #WorldMentalHealthDay  
 #BirthTrauma #MentalHealth  
[pic.twitter.com/ggVL8lgWgY](https://pic.twitter.com/ggVL8lgWgY)



COST Action 18211 is raising awareness of Birth Related Trauma. The High Emotional impact of Potential Traumatic Events (PTE) can result in Clinicians leaving practice or developing defensive practices. We need to work towards developing education and support programmes to

## Media

| <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>Link</b>                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 'Variations in oxytocin use 'inexplicable' – Irish study.<br><i>Irish Medical Times</i> , 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020.                                | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Why mums are not latching on to breastfeeding.'<br><i>Irish Examiner</i> , 28 August 2020.                                                              | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Free Expert-Led Online Antenatal Course: Find Out How To Join'.<br><i>EveryMum</i> , June 2020.                                                         | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Antenatal course help women around the globe navigate a Covid-19 pregnancy.'<br><i>Irish Examiner</i> , 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.                     | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'New online antenatal course launched.'<br><i>Irish Health</i> , 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.                                                             | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Navigating pregnancy in a global pandemic, Trinity researchers supporting women.'<br>Trinity News and Events, 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.               | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Nowadays, no maternal service should be designed without a direct contribution from the woman who uses these services.'<br>Dupanastere.ro., March 2020. | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Resources launched to improve post-partum health for women.'<br>Trinity News and Events, 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.                                | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Women's Health After Motherhood.'<br><i>KCLR Radio</i> , 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.                                                                 | <a href="#">Click here to listen</a> |
| '3 ways WHAM is helping new mothers across Europe.'<br><i>EIT Health UK-Ireland</i> , 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.                                     | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Sex post-childbirth: everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask'.<br><i>Irish Independent</i> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.                 | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'Recovery after childbirth.'<br><i>Ireland AM (Virgin Media Television)</i> , Ireland AM, Virgin Media Television. 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2019.       | <a href="#">Click here to watch</a>  |
| 'Expect the unexpected: what happens to your body after a baby.'<br><i>Independent</i> . 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2019                                   | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |
| 'What I wish I had known.'<br>RTE Radio One (The Ray D'Arcy Show), 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019.                                                        | <a href="#">Click here to listen</a> |
| 'Online course about Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM).'<br><i>Irish Medical Times</i> , 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019.                             | <a href="#">Click here to read</a>   |

|                                                                                                                                                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p>'MAMMI study launches online resource.'</p> <p>World of Irish Nursing &amp; Midwifery Journal of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation, November 2019</p> | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM).'</p> <p><i>Pelvic Roar</i>. 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                                                         | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'Messages for new mothers: help is at hand.'</p> <p><i>The Irish Times</i>. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019.</p>                                                  | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'MAMMI Study launches online resources for mothers.'</p> <p><i>Trinity News and Events</i>. 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                                  | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'I wanted someone to validate my loneliness, not dismiss it'.</p> <p><i>Independent</i>, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                                     | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'New online resources for mothers: Aim to help women look after own health.'</p> <p><i>Irish Health</i>, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                     | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'Nursing and Midwifery School Launches Online Resources for Women, Mothers'.</p> <p><i>University Times</i>. 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                 | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'New mothers 'suffering in silence' over health problems.'</p> <p><i>Irish Independent</i>. 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>                                  | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |
| <p>'I felt lonely and stupid': New mothers' health problems often 'ignored or dismissed'.</p> <p><i>The Journal</i>. 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p>            | <a href="#">Click here to read</a> |



Dr Déirdre Daly, Moira McLoughlin and Ellen McEvoy at the RTÉ Television Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019.

## New Grants awarded in 2019-2020

| <i>Project and date grant awarded</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>Principal Investigator</i>                     | <i>Funding Agency and amount</i>                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COST Action 18211: Perinatal Mental Health and Birth Related Trauma: Maximising Best Practice and optimal Outcomes (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Prof Joan Lalor                                   | COST Programme, EU Commission<br>€500,000                                                                  |
| Development of Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM) (Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)) in Dutch (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dr Déirdre Daly                                   | EIT Health<br>€40,000                                                                                      |
| Women's mental health five years after first-time motherhood (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dr Déirdre Daly<br>(Susan Hannon, PhD student)    | TCD Provost PhD Project Award<br>€48,000 (€16,000 stipend per year to PhD student), plus fees              |
| Motherhood, Empowerment, Sustainable Self-help: Addressing Gaps in Education with Science (MESSAGES) (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Dr Déirdre Daly                                   | Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)<br>€44,692                                                                |
| TechChild: Just because we can, should we? An anthropological perspective on the initiation of technology dependence to sustain a child's life (2019)                                                                                                                                                                                          | Prof Maria Brenner                                | European Research Council<br>€1,464,101                                                                    |
| The impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women's clinical and experiential outcomes – a before and after study with an alongside qualitative design (2020)                                                                                                                                                                                           | Prof Valerie Smith                                | Office of the Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin COVID Response Fund<br>€13,115                      |
| Understanding and responding to the need for spiritual safety in parenthood when new-borns are hospitalised in intensive care (2020)                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dr Vivienne Brady<br>(Lucy Corcoran, PhD student) | TCD Provost PhD Project Award<br>€48,000 (€16,000 stipend per year to PhD student), plus fees              |
| Physiological track-and-trigger/early warning systems for use in maternity care; Maternity care during COVID-19: a qualitative evidence synthesis of women's and maternity care providers' views and experiences; Early warning systems in maternity care: a qualitative evidence synthesis of maternity care providers' views and experiences | Prof Valerie Smith                                | Health Research Board – Evidence Synthesis Ireland (HRB-ESI)<br>€24,000 (3 project awards, each of €8,000) |

## Awards to TCMCR team members in 2019-2020

Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM) MOOC was recognised by the 2020 Health Service Excellence Awards as “an exemplary project contributing to health and social care services.”

Congratulations to Dr Deirdre Daly and team.

## Future Opportunities

- The MAMMI Study 5-year follow up is currently ongoing and will continue until 2022. This study will help to provide information on the long-term health and prevalence of morbidities that women are experiencing 5 years after the birth of their first baby.
- Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on pregnant women's clinical and experiential outcomes.

## Key Challenges

- The impact of COVID-19 on research activities and our ability to conduct on-site studies involving participants. We will continue to conduct remote working and adapt to these ongoing challenges.
- The need to establish the position of TCMRC within Trinity and on a national level, as an emerging centre of maternal health research.
- Translating research activities into frameworks for policy development to improve maternal and child health services and outcomes.

## Research Centre Highlights

### Minding Mothers with Morbidities II conference

The 2<sup>nd</sup> MAMMI-SIM conference, *Minding Mothers with Morbidities*, funded by the HRB, was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. Following public health guidelines, the conference took place online, with 210 attendees from 14 countries taking part. Plenary speakers included Angela Dunne and Dr Peter McKenna, Directors of the National Women and Infants Health Programme, Petra ten Hoopen-Bender, Technical Adviser Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at the UNFPA, and Professor Richard Greene, Director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) and Professor of Clinical Obstetrics. The half-day, international conference was followed by a workshop with key stakeholders, including maternal health researchers, women and policymakers, to discuss future action on improving maternal health outcomes and service provision.

### Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2022; Maternity Care strand

The annual School THE conference was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, with the plenary address on 'Maternity Care Research' given by Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the President Emeritus of Malta.



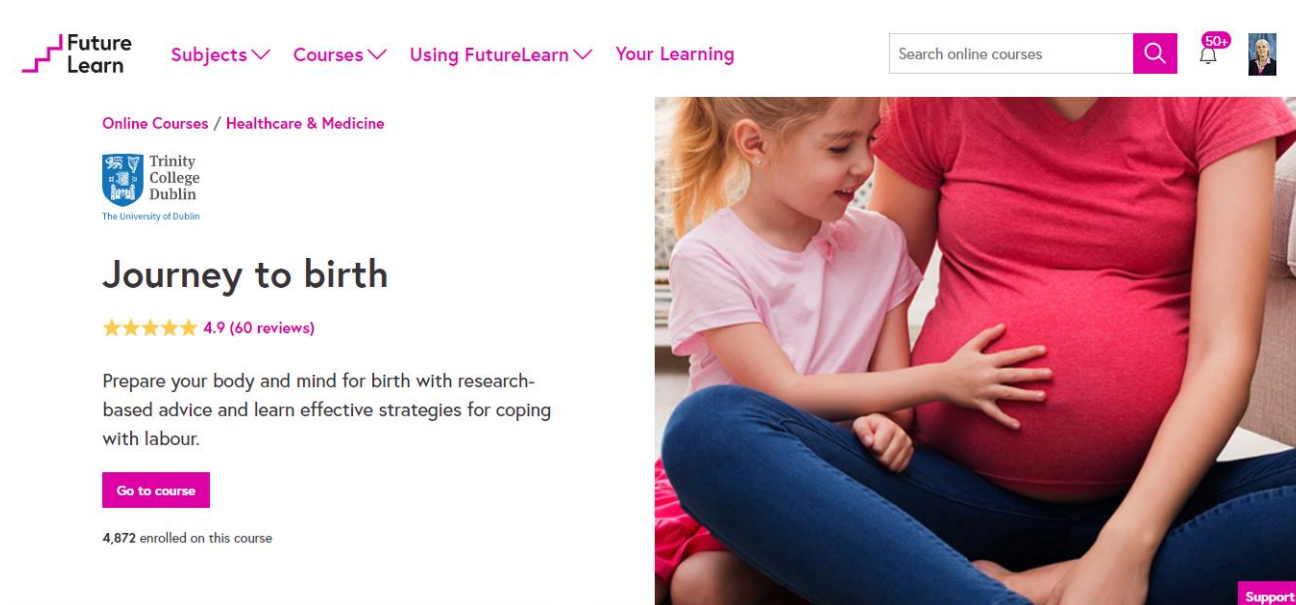
*Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, the President Emeritus of Malta.*

<https://www.facebook.com/mlcp.mt/posts/it-is-shameful-that-the-proportion-of-mothers-who-do-not-survive-childbirth-in-d/2607160416232946/>

Six of the 18 full/half-day concurrent strands provided over the two days were run by TCMCR, four on maternity care, and two on child healthcare. Prof Valerie Smith also ran two half-day pre-conference workshops, for 26 people on an Introduction to Meta-analysis and, for 25 people, on an Introduction to Meta-synthesis.

## Journey to Birth

Funded by the HRB, through a KEDS award, and developed by maternal health researchers, in partnership with midwives and women's organisations, the Journey to Birth course provides vital information to support women, and their partners, as they learn how to labour and birth their child. This free antenatal course was launched during June of 2020, when face-to-face antenatal classes were cancelled in Ireland and abroad, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing women with much needed information and resources.



The screenshot shows the FutureLearn website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Subjects', 'Courses', 'Using FutureLearn', and 'Your Learning'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features the course title 'Journey to birth' by Trinity College Dublin, with a 4.9 star rating from 60 reviews. A description states: 'Prepare your body and mind for birth with research-based advice and learn effective strategies for coping with labour.' A 'Go to course' button is visible, along with the text '4,872 enrolled on this course'. To the right of the text is a large image of a pregnant woman in a red shirt sitting on a couch, with a young girl in a pink shirt sitting next to her, touching her belly. A 'Support' button is in the bottom right corner of the image area.

The content covers a range of issues, including creating a birth-plan, how to detect early labour, and coping strategies to help during labour and birth to lower stress levels and anxiety, and includes 20 videos and 44 articles. The course has over 4,600 learners to date (May 2021), with an overall 4.8/5 ranking. (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/journey-to-birth-tcd>)

## Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM) online course

The Women's Health After Motherhood (WHAM), a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC), was launched in October 2019. Co-designed and developed with mothers and maternal health experts, WHAM aims at bridging women's knowledge gaps, breaking the silence around embarrassing or sensitive health issues, and enabling women to self-assess and feel empowered to take action for their health. Funded by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT), the course is on its 3<sup>rd</sup> run with over 8,000 enrolled. Access to the course was changed in 2020 to ensure that the programme would be free and accessible to everyone, at any time. WHAM was recognised by the [2020 Health Service Excellence Awards](#) as an exemplary project contributing to health and social care services.

WHAM includes resources from the following projects:

- MESSAGES (Motherhood, empowerment, sustainable self-help: addressing gaps in education with science)
- ON-TRACK (Towards Recovery After Childbirth through Knowledge)

The screenshot shows the FutureLearn course page for 'Women's Health After Motherhood'. The page features the FutureLearn logo, navigation links for Subjects, Courses, and Using FutureLearn, and a search bar. The course is listed under 'Online Courses / Healthcare & Medicine' and is co-delivered by Trinity College Dublin and Universitat de Barcelona. The course title is 'Women's Health After Motherhood', with a 4.9 star rating from 45 reviews. The description states: 'Learn how to take care of your physical and mental health after giving birth and feel supported during the postpartum period.' A 'Join course for free' button is visible, along with the text '8,073 enrolled on this course'. The course details section at the bottom indicates a duration, weekly study time, 100% online delivery, and extra benefits. A large image on the right shows a woman holding a baby against a teal background.

The Women's Health After Motherhood course was launched in October 2019 and has over 8,000 enrolled learners as of May 2021.

## MESSAGES

Funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), MESSAGES aimed at increasing women's engagement with scientific knowledge by using self-help educational resources that share scientific knowledge. The resources received positive feedback in evaluation groups held with women and women's representative groups across Ireland in October 2019. The project was launched at the MESSAGES FOR MOTHERS seminar on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2019.

## ON-TRACK

Funded by HRB KEDS (Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme), ON-TRACK provides guidance, information and support through nine on-line self-help educational videos addressing definitions of anxiety, sexual health issues and pelvic girdle pain. A seminar was held on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 to launch the resources formally. The videos have been viewed, through the WHAM course, a total of 745 to 978 times each. Six of them are also available on YouTube and have been viewed up to 1,500 times.



MESSAGES launch, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## Completed taught MScs in Midwifery 2019-2020

|                     |                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>         | Mariapia Dadò                                                                                                   |
| <b>Dissertation</b> | Women's Experiences of Water Immersion during Labour and Childbirth in a Hospital Setting in Ireland [May 2020] |
| <b>Supervisor</b>   | Prof Valerie Smith                                                                                              |

|                              |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | Nazia AlAmri                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Title of Dissertation</b> | Evaluating the impact of fetal movement counting on women's psychological and emotional outcomes: A systematic review [August 2020] |
| <b>Supervisor</b>            | Prof Valerie Smith                                                                                                                  |

|                              |                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | Emma Feely                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Title of Dissertation</b> | Women's experiences of becoming a mother when their preterm babies are hospitalised in the neonatal intensive care unit [August 2020] |
| <b>Supervisor</b>            | Dr Vivienne Brady                                                                                                                     |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | Ilenia Mazzoli                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Title of Dissertation</b> | Outpatient versus inpatient cervical ripening with Propess® in term pregnancies on maternal, neonatal and birth outcomes: A systematic review [May 2020] |
| <b>Supervisor</b>            | Dr Deirdre O'Malley                                                                                                                                      |

## PhD Students

|                   |                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Dr Sunita Panda (HRB Fellowship)                                                                                       |
| <b>Project</b>    | Maternal Health and maternal morbidity in Ireland (MAMMI): Caesarean Section Strand. <i>Completed in December 2019</i> |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Deirdre Daly & Prof Cecily Begley                                                                                   |

|                   |                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Dr Jamile Marchi Dacach Fernandez<br>(Science Without Borders Scholarship)                                                  |
| <b>Project</b>    | Food behaviours that contribute to risk factors during pregnancy and lactation in Ireland. <i>Completed in January 2020</i> |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Deirdre Daly & Prof Cecily Begley                                                                                        |

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Ms Malgorzata Stach                                                                                           |
| <b>Project</b>    | Deceptive promises: women's understandings of technology in maternity care. <i>Completed in December 2020</i> |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Agnes Higgins                                                                                            |

|                   |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Ms Elizabeth Farsaci                                                                                                         |
| <b>Project</b>    | Women's lived experiences of access to alternative birth options within the context of Ireland's National Maternity Strategy |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Colm Oboyle & Dr Elizabeth Newnham                                                                                        |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Lisa Corrigan                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Project</b>    | Protocol development and feasibility study of a pregnancy yoga intervention for stress reduction and improved quality of life and birth outcomes. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr. Deirdre Daly                                                                                                                                  |

|                   |                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Atiya Salim Alfurqani                                                                                                |
| <b>Project</b>    | Attitude of health care providers and Omani Antenatal women about group-based antenatal care – An Exploratory Study. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Vivienne Brady                                                                                                    |

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|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Lorraine Carroll                                                                    |
| <b>Project</b>    | Risk factors for and outcomes associated with reduced fetal movements in pregnancy. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof. Valerie Smith                                                                 |

|                   |                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Ciara Henderson                                                                                                           |
| <b>Project</b>    | Out of Sight – A grounded theory study of lived experiences of perinatally bereaved mothers 1940-2010. (1252 Scholarship) |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Joan Lalor                                                                                                           |

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Susan Hannon                                                                                               |
| <b>Project</b>    | Women's mental health and mental resilience five years after first-time motherhood: a mixed methods study. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Deirdre Daly and Prof Agnes Higgins                                                                     |

|                   |                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Elizabeth Culleton-Quinn                                                                                                   |
| <b>Project</b>    | Prevalence and Experiences of Urinary Incontinence, and Pelvic Floor Muscle Training and Function In Elite Female Athletes |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Deirdre Daly                                                                                                            |

|                   |                                                                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Sofia O'Byrne                                                                    |
| <b>Project</b>    | The lived experience of limiting family size as a result of traumatic childbirth |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Joan Lalor                                                                  |

|                   |                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Jill Atkinson (HRB Research Fellowship)                                                                          |
| <b>Project</b>    | Perspectives of Partners of Mothers who experience Mental Distress in the Postnatal Period (PMD Partners' Study) |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Agnes Higgins & Prof Valerie Smith                                                                          |

|                   |                                                                  |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Jennifer Trainor                                                 |
| <b>Project</b>    | Cultural Perceptions of pregnancy and birth: A global comparison |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Dr Vivienne Brady                                                |

|                   |                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Katie Hill                                                                                                    |
| <b>Project</b>    | The meaning given to care delivery for children with complex care needs in PICU during the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Maria Brenner & Dr Denise Alexander                                                                      |

|                   |                                                                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>       | Kate Masterson                                                                   |
| <b>Project</b>    | The voice of the PICU nurse at the point of initiation of long term ventilation. |
| <b>Supervisor</b> | Prof Maria Brenner & Prof Catherine McCabe                                       |

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Address:** The Gas Building,  
24 D'Olier Street,  
Dublin, D02 T283

**Email:** [hannonka@tcd.ie](mailto:hannonka@tcd.ie)

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

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/TCD\\_TCMCR](https://twitter.com/TCD_TCMCR)