



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

Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research

2023

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 2023	11
7 Media Engagement and Interviews	19
8 Research Impact	20
9 Future Opportunities	21
10 Key Challenges	22
11 Research Centre Highlights	23
12 PHD Students	26

1 Message from the Director

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2023 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 2023 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 2023 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.

Associate 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 fourth annual report, covering the period January to December 2023. 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, Associate Professor in Midwifery.

TCMCR Executive Committee

Dr Deirdre Daly, Director of TCMCR.

Dr Louise Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor in Mental Health.

Professor Valerie Smith, Professor in Midwifery.

Ms Niamh Healy, Antenatal Educator and Consumer representative.

Dr Sharon O' Donnell, Director of Research and Associate Professor in Critical Care 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.

Principal Investigators (PIs)

Professor Agnes Higgins, Professor in Mental Health Nursing.

Professor Valerie Smith, Professor in Midwifery.

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

Dr Eleanor Hollywood, Professor in Children's Nursing.

Dr Vivienne Brady, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Dr Louise Gallagher, Assistant Professor in Midwifery.

Professor Joan Lalor, Professor in Midwifery.

Other associated researchers (internal)

Mr 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.

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/Assistants

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

Other associated researchers (postgraduate students)

[Information on Projects are on page 29](#)

Completed

Dr Lorraine Carroll

Dr Susan Hannon

Current

Ms Atiya Salim Alfurqani
 Ms Elizabeth Culleton-Quinn
 Ms Jennifer Michelle Johnson Trainer
 Ms Julika Johanna Hudson
 Ms Kathleen Hannon
 Ms Laura O' Shea
 Ms Louise Mc Culloch

Ms Louise Moore
 Ms Manar Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Sulimani
 Ms Nazia Alamri
 Ms Patricia Blee
 Ms Silvia Alós Pereñíguez
 Ms Sofia O' Byrne
 Ms Ursula Nagle

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, COST Action 18211 and the Evidence Synthesis in Maternity Care initiative.

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.





Principal Investigator
Professor Valerie Smith



Evidence Synthesis in Maternity Care Initiative

The TCMCR, through Professor Valerie Smith, as a member of the Executive Board of Evidence Synthesis Ireland (ESI) and as TCD's ESI Lead Partner, is actively supporting evidence synthesis in maternity care.

The primary aim of ESI is to build evidence synthesis knowledge, awareness, and capacity among the public, healthcare institutions, policymakers, clinicians, and researchers on the Island of Ireland. The secondary aim is to generate knowledge on methodological efficiencies in evidence synthesis, as well as make evidence syntheses more useable within health care policy and for clinical practice decision-making. ESI also includes Cochrane Ireland whose mission is to promote evidence-informed health decision-making by producing high-quality, relevant, accessible reviews and other research-synthesized evidence. ESI offers training workshops and webinars (<https://evidencesynthesisireland.ie/training/>), provides funding for studies within a review (SWAR) projects (<https://evidencesynthesisireland.ie/swar/>), hosts a Communicating with the Public mentorship scheme (<https://evidencesynthesisireland.ie/communicationmentorship/>), and hosts an ESI Fellowship scheme (<https://evidencesynthesisireland.ie/fellowships/>).

Through ESI-sponsored Fellowships awarded in 2021-2022, Valerie mentored two ESI Fellows to completion and is currently mentoring one further Fellow on maternity care evidence syntheses projects. The aim of the Fellowship Scheme is to provide Fellows the opportunity to learn about evidence synthesis in general, as well as develop the practical skills of how to plan, design, conduct, and report evidence synthesis, in addition to building capacity for evidence synthesis activity. During the Fellowships, successful Fellows receive structured theoretical training from ESI as well as one-one mentorship.

Prof. Smith, during 2023, alongside ESI Fellowship mentoring, has further supported evidence synthesis activity through education and training workshop facilitation, research supervision (MSc and PhD), and wider international Expert Advisory Group engagement and collaboration.



Principal Investigator
Professor Joan Lalor



Devotion Cost Action CA18211

<https://www.ca18211.eu/>

The main goal of DEVOTION CA18211 is to establish a multidisciplinary pan-European Research Network dedicated to minimising birth trauma and optimising birth experiences. Part of this objective is to focus on the prevalence of birth trauma and work towards universal standards of measuring, assessing and preventing birth trauma.

Unlike other sources of trauma, perinatal or birth-related trauma is relatively unrecognised. Evidence suggests up to 30% of women describe their birth experience as traumatic and experience some symptoms of intrusion, avoidance or hyper-arousal.

In 2016, 5.11 million babies were born in Europe. This means that up to 1.5 million mothers may have had sub-optimal birth experiences. Further, this suggests that over 200,000 mothers and up to 200,000 fathers may have developed PTSD as a result of a traumatic birth.

Developmental research has firmly established that the quality of infant-parent relationships is a critical factor in early and later childhood development, consequently, a family-centred approach to any investigation of birth-related trauma is critical, as trauma can be transmitted within the family system. Given the enormous economic burden it places on women, health systems, and particularly children, relatively small improvements in services to prevent, detect and treat this problem can benefit society significantly.

This COST Action will establish an international multidisciplinary network of researchers, clinicians, NGOs and SMEs to consolidate and disseminate current evidence and coordinate a joint effort to seek ways to prevent, minimise and resolve birth-related trauma, and to optimise emotional and psychological outcomes for parents and families and CA18211 will work to accelerate the translation of that knowledge into best practices that can be shared across Europe to reduce the societal and economic burden arising from birth-related negative/traumatic experiences.

Other Research Projects

Ongoing research projects

Successful Applications

Funding Agency	Funding stream	Title	Value	Duration (Months)
Research Deaf Services, Capital Funding Grant	Capital Funding Grant	Capital grant funding application	€40,172	12
Rotunda Foundation	Application To Rotunda Foundation For Research Funding	Supporting advanced practitioners to conduct research and advance services for women	€72,423	24
HSE	NMPDU funding support for Nursing and Midwifery Service Improvement Innovation Initiatives in 2023	Portlaoise midwifery Funding	€41,924	12
HSE	Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services	An Evaluation of the Community Children's Programme for Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services (MWRSS).	€10,000	12

Awaiting Outcome Applications

Funding Agency	Funding stream	Title	Value	Duration (Months)
Flanders Research Foundation (FWO)	Junior Research Project Fundamental Research	The missing link in understanding postpartum weight retention: towards a standardized set of outcomes that matters to the mother, partner and baby - PPWR-COS project	€24,000	48
Rotunda Foundation	Application To Rotunda Foundation For Research Funding	Outcomes for women and women's experiences of the Rotunda Hospital's Next Birth After Caesarean Section (NBAC) services	€16,984	4
EU	MSCA Doctoral Networks	HAP3: Healthy Adaptation to Pregnancy, Postpartum and Parenthood	€763,968	60
IRC	COALESCE	The CONTENT Study - Consent for Medically Indicated Interventions in Childbirth	€109,994	24
IRC	COALESCE	MAMMI and the Workplace: Enhancing Female Equity in the Workplace by aligning with Maternal Health	€109,965	24

|

TCMCR Funding January 2023 - December 2023, by value

TCMCR Funding	Successful	Unsuccessful	Awaiting outcome	Grand Total Applied for
01.2023-12.2023	€154,519	€9,900	€1,024,911	€1,189,330

TCMCR Funding January 2023 - December 2023, by number of applications

TCMCR Funding	Successful	Unsuccessful	Awaiting outcome	Grand Total Applied for
01.2023-12.2023	3	2	5	10

There are **10** funding applications from January 2023 to December 2023.



6 TCMCR Outputs 2023

Publications/Journals Articles

This section lists 23 peer-reviewed papers published by TCMCR members in high-impact scientific journals in 2023.

Ayers, S., Horsch, A., Garthus-Niegel, S., Nieuwenhuijze, M., Bogaerts, A., Hartmann, K., Karlsdottir, P., Oosterman, M., Tecirili, G., Turner, J., & Lalor, J. (2023). Traumatic birth and childbirth-related post-traumatic stress disorder: International expert consensus recommendations for practice, policy, and research. *Women and Birth*. [DOI](#)

Bartels, H. C., Horsch, A., Cooney, N., Brennan, D. J., & Lalor, J. G. (2023). Living with a diagnosis of Placenta Accreta Spectrum: Mothers' and Fathers' experience of the antenatal journey and the birth. *Plos One*, 18(5), e0286082. [DOI](#)

Carroll, L., Gallagher, L., & Smith, V. (2023). Pregnancy, birth and neonatal outcomes associated with reduced fetal movements: A systematic review and meta-analysis of non-randomised studies. *Midwifery*, 116, 103524. [DOI](#)

Chua, J. Y. X., Choolani, M., Chee, C. Y. I., Yi, H., Chan, Y. H., Lalor, J. G., Chong, Y.S., & Shorey, S. (2023). 'Parentbot—A Digital healthcare Assistant (PDA)': A mobile application-based perinatal intervention for parents: Development study. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 114, 107805. [DOI](#)

Chua, J. Y. X., Choolani, M., Lalor, J. G., Chong, Y. S., & Shorey, S. (2023). Insights of healthcare professionals regarding waterbirths and water immersion during labour: A mixed studies review. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. [DOI](#)

Chua, J. Y. X., Choolani, M., Lalor, J. G., Yi, H., Chong, Y. S., & Shorey, S. (2023). Perceptions of healthcare professionals regarding labour induction and augmentation: A qualitative systematic review. *Women and Birth*. [DOI](#)

Cunningham, O., & Brady, V. (2023). Women's views and experiences of pregnancy yoga. A qualitative evidence synthesis. *Midwifery*, 127, 103857. [DOI](#)

de Wet, M., Hannon, S., Hannon, K., Axelin, A., Uusitalo, S., Bartels, I., Eustace-Cook J., Escuriet, R., & Daly, D. (2023). Systematic review of ethical issues in perinatal mental health research. *Nursing Ethics*, 2023;30(4):482-499. [DOI](#)

Dykes, C., Ny, P., Hauck, Y. L., Kuliukas, L., Gallagher, L., Brady, V., & Rubertsson, C. (2023). Women's perceptions of factors needed to encourage a culture of public breastfeeding: a cross-sectional study in Sweden, Ireland and Australia. *International Breastfeeding Journal*, 18(1), 49. [DOI](#)

Feely, E., & Brady, V. (2023). Experiences of becoming mothers when preterm babies are hospitalised in the NICU. *Practising Midwife*, 26(4). [DOI](#)

Fort, D., Deforges, C., Messerli-Bürky, N., Michael, T., Baud, D., Lalor, J., Rimmele, U., & Horsch, A. (2023). Tackling childbirth-related intrusive memories with a single-session behavioural intervention involving a visuospatial task: protocol for a single-blind, waitlist-controlled randomised trial. *BMJ open*, 13(5), e073874. [DOI](#)

Gallagher, L., Brady, V., Kuliukas, L., Dykes, C., Rubertsson, C., & Hauck, Y. L. (2023). Australian, Irish, and Swedish women's comfort levels when breastfeeding in public. *BMC Public Health*, 23(1), 2535. [DOI](#)

Gregory, S., Caffrey, L., & Daly, D. (2023). "It could not have been more different." Comparing experiences of hospital-based birth and homebirth in Ireland: A mixed-methods survey. *Women and Birth*, 36(4), e445-e452. [DOI](#)

Hannon, K., Eustace-Cook, J., Daly, D., & Smith, V. (2023). Stakeholder's perspectives and experiences of patient and public involvement (PPI) in clinical trials in maternal and neonatal healthcare: protocol for a qualitative evidence synthesis. *HRB Open Research*, 6(30), 30. [DOI](#)

Hannon, S., Higgins, A., & Daly, D. (2023). Women's perspectives on resilience and research on resilience in motherhood: A qualitative study. *Health Expectations*. [DOI](#)

Hannon, S., Gartland, D., Higgins, A., Brown, S. J., Carroll, M., Begley, C., & Daly, D. (2023). Physical health and comorbid anxiety and depression across the first year postpartum in Ireland (MAMMI study): A longitudinal population-based study. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 328, 228-237. [DOI](#)

Konsam, M., D'Souza, S. R., Praharaj, S. K., Nayak, B. S., Shetty, J., Bhat, S. Noronha, JA., & Panda, S. (2023). Effectiveness of Music on Perinatal Anxiety Among Pregnant Women and Newborn Behaviors: A Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis. *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine*, 02537176231167077. [DOI](#)

Melacca, A., Urso, C., Calleja-Agius, J., Gouni, O., Gabbianelli, R., Lalor, J., & Morano, S. (2023). Changing birthplaces to care for healthcare workers, lessons from the pandemic: A scoping review. *Open Research Europe*, 3(7), 7. [DOI](#)

Shorey, S., Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva, G., Akik, B. K., Holopainen, A., Isbir, G. G., Chua, J. S., Wyatt, C., Downe, S., & Lalor, J. (2023). Trends and motivations for freebirth: A scoping review. *Birth*, 50(1), 16-31. [DOI](#)

Shorey, S., Lalor, J., Pereira, T. L. B., Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva, G., & Downe, S. (2023). Decision-making and future pregnancies after a positive fetal anomaly screen: A scoping review. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. [DOI](#)

Panda, S., Dash, M., Mishra, R., Shettigar, S. A., Gurav, D. M., Kuppan, S., & Mohan, S. (2023). Voice from the frontline and learning for the future: A qualitative descriptive study on wider perspectives of frontline nurses in India during the COVID 19 global pandemic. *Clinical Epidemiology and Global Health*, 21, 101298. [DOI](#)

Walsh, A., McCluskey, R., Cassidy, D., McGoldrick, G., Howlin, C., Muldoon, K., Butler, G., Byrne, G. (2023). The Support Needs and Current Practices of Public Health Nurses in the Republic of Ireland Who Provide Support to Breastfeeding Mothers: A Cross-Sectional Survey. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 08903344231172991. [DOI](#)

Book Chapters

This section highlights 2 book chapters by TCMCR members

Geuens, S., Polona Mivšek, A., Gianotten, W., O'Malley, D., Higgins, A., & Smith, V. (2023). Sexuality of the Couple in Postpartum and Early Parenthood (1st Year). (eds). *Midwifery and Sexuality*, Cham: Springer, 2023, 85 – 98. [DOI](#)

O Malley, D., Smith, V., & Higgins A (2023). Chapter 14: Sexual aspects of problems postpartum and in the first year of young parenthood, Geuens S, Mivsek AP, Gianotten WL, *Midwifery and Sexuality*, Worldwide, Springer International Publishing, 2023, 1-368.

Oral Presentations

This section highlights 6 oral presentations by TCMCR members

Alsulimini, M., Hughes, M., & Gallagher, L. (2023). Factors Influencing Exclusive Breastfeeding Among Working mothers: A Critical Review. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2023) 'back to normal or forward to better?' New horizons in healthcare. Trinity College Dublin, 07-09 March 2023.

Alos Pereniguez, S., O'Malley, D., & Daly, D. (2023). Augmentation of labour with synthetic oxytocin in Ireland: a cross-sectional study. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2023), Trinity College Dublin, 8-9 March, 2023.

Culleton-Quinn, E., Bo, K., Fleming, N., Mockler, D., Cusack, C. & Daly, D. (2023). The Prevalence and Experience of Urinary Incontinence Among Elite Ladies Gaelic Football Players. International Continence Society Conference 2023, Toronto, 27-29 September 2023.

Gregory, S., Caffrey, L., & Daly, D. (2023). 'It could not have been more different'. Comparing perceptions of hospital-based birth and homebirth in Ireland, Northern Maternity and Midwifery Festival 2023, Manchester, UK., 4 July 2023.

Hannon, K., Daly, D., & Smith, V. (2023). Developing a model for conducting patient and public involvement (PPI) in maternal and neonatal clinical trials, HRB-TMRN Symposium, Galway, 20 October, 2023.

McCarthy, E., Jagoe, C., Kift, S., Mullin, M., O'Brien Green, S., Dunlea, M., Eustace-Cook, J., Marshall, C., & Gallagher, L. (2023). Survey of staffs' and students' experiences of breastfeeding facilities in a third level educational institute in the Republic of Ireland, 'Back to normal or forward to better? New horizons in healthcare': Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference THEconf2023, 7-9 March, 2023.

Invited Talks

This sections highlights 10 invited talks by TCMCR members

Begley, C., Daly, D., & Smith, V. (2023). The OptiBIRTH Project - Minimising unnecessary interventions in obstetrics. Online, 15 November, 2023. Catalan Agency for Health Quality and Assessment (AQuAS), Department of Health of Catalonia.

Daly, D. (2023). Translating maternal health research into maternal health resources and practice. HSE Research & Dissemination Share & Learn Seminar. Online, 15 March, 2023. National Research and Development, Strategy and Research Directorate, HSE.

Daly, D. (2023). What matters to women (and what women birthing in Ireland want and need). All Ireland 2023 Maternity & Midwifery Festival, 18 April 2023. The Helix, Dublin City University, Dublin.

Daly, D. (2023). When women feel 'medically gaslit'. Irish Times, Newspaper article, 28 January 2023.

Daly, D., & Hannon, S. (2023). Women's physical and mental health before and during pregnancy, and up to one year after their first baby's birth. Exploratory Roundtable on Perinatal Mental Health, 8 November 2023, National Women's Council, Dublin.

Panda, S. (2023). Systematic review and metasynthesis & key challenges. Research seminar, 19 July 2023. School of Nursing, Lord Jagannath Mission, Odisha, India.

Panda, S. (2023). Systematic review and metasynthesis & key challenges. Resource person talk, 21 July 2023. SUM College of Nursing, Odisha, India.

Panda, S. (2023). Role and scope of nurse and midwifery educators in Ireland. Virtual presentation for Manipal College of Nursing Alumni working in Ireland. Online, 2

Panda, S. (2023). Data analysis in qualitative research. International E-Conference, 9 December 2023. Kalinga Institute of Nursing Sciences, Odisha, India.

Panda, S. (2023). Clinicians' views of factors influencing decision-making for CS for first-time mothers. A qualitative descriptive study. Journal club presentation, 2 November 2023. The Coombe Hospital, Dublin, Ireland.

Poster and Conference Presentations

This sections highlights 3 poster and Conference presentations by TCMCR members

Brady, V., Molina, N., & Eustace-Cook, J. (2023). Reflections prompted by a Qualitative Evidence Synthesis of Women's Experiences of Spirituality in Childbirth. Spirituality, Critical Reflection and Professional Practice in an Uncertain World, 16-18 May 2023. South East Technological University, Ireland.

Hollywood, E., Banka-Cullen, S. & Comiskey, C. (2023). Supporting women and children who have experienced domestic abuse. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference 2024 (THEconf2024) New Horizons in Healthcare: Back to Normal or Forward to Better?, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, 7-9 March 2023.

Ryan, L. & Daly, D. (2023). Women's experiences of accessing healthcare services and treatments to manage their perimenopause/menopause-related health issues in Ireland. Laidlaw Scholars Conference, Toronto, 20-22 October 2023.



7. Media Engagements and Interviews

Panda, S. (2023) What's behind the rise in caesarean births for first-time mums in Ireland? Trinity College Dublin - press release, 2023.

Panda, S. (2023) More than one in three first-time mothers here now giving birth by caesarean. RTÉ Radio January 2023 [URL](#)

Panda, S. (2023) Doctors' fears of being sued part of the reason Ireland has high c-section rates. Today FM January 2023 [URL](#)

Panda, S. (2023) Too many first-time mothers are having C-sections in Ireland, according to major new study. Extra.ie January 2023. [URL](#)

Panda, S. (2023) The steady rise of c-sections for first time Mothers. Newstalk 12 January 2023. [URL](#)

Hollywood, E. (2023) An Evaluation of the 'Where I'm At' Project at MWRSS. A Round Table Discussion on the Evaluation of the 'Where I'm At' project. 20th November, School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD. Attended by Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children Ireland. Following the publication and launch of this report Eleanor gave radio interviews on regional radio (NEAR FM, 21st November) and national radio (RTÉ Radio 1, Drivetime 20th November) broadcasting outlets.

Print reports were also published in national newspapers:

Irish Examiner [URL](#)

Irish Independent [URL](#)

The Journal [URL](#)



8 Research Impact

Impact Summary 2023

Research Activities

- 3** Flagship projects
- 3** Successful applications
- 5** research proposal awaiting outcomes



Resources

€154, 519 in funding



Capacity Building

- 1** Workshop: TCMCR Roundtable Research Talks
- 2** Completed PhDs
- 14** PhD students associated with the Centre

Outputs

- 23** Publications
- 18** Presentations
- 1** Dramatic performance, Birth Story, inspired by the research at TCMCR
- 1** Research Impact Case Study Video
- 1** Report launch 'Children in Refuge'



Outcomes

- 12+** media engagements
- Changing **conversations** around C-sections for first time mothers in Ireland



Impact Area

Enhance quality of life and improve outcomes for women, their babies, partners and families through all stages of the reproductive cycle, in diverse social settings

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES

9 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 2024 include developing ways to engage with civic society. In the latter part of the year, we will review our Steering Committee's membership and seek ways to engage 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.

10 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.



11 Research Centre Highlights

Annual TheConf 2023

The annual School THE conference was held on the 7-9 of March 2023. 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.



Research Impact Case Study Competition

Congratulations to Dr Susan Hannon awardee of the first School of Nursing and Midwifery Impact Case study competition.

Title - Maternal resilience: Reconsidering an academic conceptualization from mothers' perspectives.



Children in Refuge Report launched on World Children's Day

Dr Eleanor Hollywood, together with colleagues from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services (MWRSS), was delighted to launch the final report of the case study research entitled 'An Evaluation of the 'Where I'm At' Project at Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services (MWRSS)' on World Children's Day, 20th November 2023.



TCMCR Roundtable Research Talks 24 October

TCMCR organised this event to create a place where interesting conversations about our shared research interests could begin, and new collaborations and projects could emerge.

Forty one people from 18 organisations attended, and it was fantastic to hear about the variety of ongoing research projects and future plans.

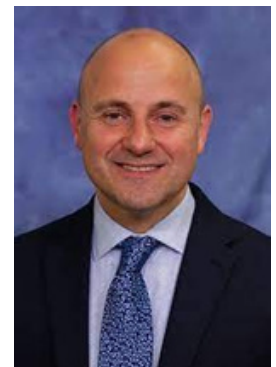
Attendees said that they thoroughly enjoyed the event, and that the relaxed atmosphere made it very easy to share knowledge, experiences and talk about possible future collaborations.

We know everyone is very busy and hope that some of you find the time to form new partnerships and new projects.



Special thanks to MAMMI study participants Ellen McEvoy and Moira McLoughlin for sharing their stories about taking part in research and the impact this had on them.

Special thanks to our Chairperson, Michael Foley, and the PPI Ignite Network.



European Researchers Night 2023

Birth Story Dramatic Performance

The performance was a production created as part of European Researchers' Night 2023 and inspired by the research carried out at the Trinity Centre for Maternal Care Research (TCMCR).

The performance was a 15-minute piece of theatre involving movement, dance and song. It was developed from the birth stories of two of the performers, Berlinda Mapa and Helen McGrath. The script was developed by Gráinne Curistan who also directed the piece. A panel discussion with the cast, Dr Vivienne Brady and Dr Margaret Dunlea followed the performance.

The piece explores how childbirth is an instinctive and ancient experience. It questions how the role of women giving birth has changed through the medicalisation of childbirth. Are women encouraged to trust their own instincts when it comes to an incredible and transformative process happening within their own bodies? Or are they treated like a patient with an illness where the expertise on that illness lie outside of them?



12 PhD Students

Sincere congratulations to all of those who completed their PhD research

Lorraine Carroll

Project: The impact of decreased fetal movements in pregnancy on fetal or neonatal outcomes.

Supervisors: Professor Valerie Smith and Dr Louise Gallagher.

Susan Hannon

Project: Women's mental health and resilience in the perinatal period and five years after first-time motherhood: a mixed methods study.

Supervisors: Dr Deirdre Daly and Professor Agnes Higgins.



There were 14 PhD students associated with the Centre in 2023.

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

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.

Jennifer Michelle Johnson Trainer

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

Supervisors: Dr Fintan Sheerin and Dr Vivienne Brady.

Kathleen Hannon

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

Supervisors: Dr 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: Dr 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

Silvia Alós Pereñíguez

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

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

Sofia O'Byrne

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

Supervisor: Professor Joan Lalor and Professor Soo Downe.

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 Women's and
Infants University
Hospital**



Rotunda Hospital



**Portlaoise Midlands
Regional Hospital**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Address:

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