



Maternal and perinatal Health Research collaboration, India (MaatHRI) is a UK-India collaboration for translating evidence from new scientific discoveries to improve clinical care of mothers and children. It includes 15 hospitals across five states in India.

Research update

- Workstream-1 (monthly survey of severe maternal complications): Updates on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hospital births, incidence and case-fatality of severe maternal complications are available on the MaatHRI website.
- Workstream-2 (case-control study of heart failure in pregnant women): From February 2019 to November 2021, we have recruited 312 cases of suspected heart failure and 662 controls.
- Workstream-3 (prospective study of safety of induction and augmentation of labour in pregnant women with anaemia): In the past 38 months we have recruited 6319 participants which is ~ 80% of the required study sample.

Change in hospital births in the pandemic period compared with the same month in the preceding pre-pandemic period in India



Details and other updates are available on the MaatHRI website

GRSI: Government Response Stringency Index, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford

Introducing the MaatHRI Community Engagement and Involvement (CEI) group

There are currently six members who have lived experiences of pregnancy complications, pregnancy loss, and supporting children living with congenital anomalies, and their expertise range from gardening, English literature, drama and art, to establishing and working in civil society organisations. The CEI group strengthened local ownership of the ongoing work and provides independent advice for planning new research, implementing and monitoring projects, developing policy and community briefs from the research outputs, and evaluating the impact of CEI on MaatHRI's work. Members recently contributed to developing a policy brief for our COVID-19 related work in India.



Recapping the key outputs during 2021

MaatHRI DSMB meeting was held in April 2021

On recommendation from the Board, the Chair wrote a letter to the UK funding agency highlighting the need for supporting the ongoing MaatHRI work amidst the UK government funding cuts for global research.

MaatHRI received additional funding from the Medical Research Council, UK

There were no funding cuts and we received additional funding to mitigate the delays in completing the research projects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Published four papers

Impact of COVID-19 related lockdowns on reproductive health and care ([www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(21\)00343-6/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(21)00343-6/fulltext)). Policy recommendations were shared with policy makers at State and National levels.

Relationship between anaemia, coagulation parameters during pregnancy and postpartum haemorrhage at childbirth (<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/11/10/e050815.long>)

Leptospirosis in Pregnancy: A Systematic Review (<https://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0009747>).

Perinatal mental health in India: protocol for a validation and cohort study [project led by NDPH clinical post-doctoral researcher, Dr Gracia Fellmeth (<https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:f14df1c3-aa69-4547-8395-e7dbc1458dcd>)]

Training and capacity building continued through a cascade effect

Senior trained obstetricians have been training junior colleagues and post-graduate students to acquire cardiac images of pregnant women suspected of having a heart failure using hand-held echocardiography. The images are interpreted remotely by experts. Currently, there are 29 trained obstetricians across 10 hospitals in India.

MaatHRI steering committee meeting was held in October 2021

The committee discussed the future directions for MaatHRI and agreed to focus more on using the research platform for translating new scientific discoveries into clinical benefits for mothers and children. We discussed the prospect of expanding MaatHRI to other countries in Asia and Africa that have expressed an interest in joining the collaboration. This will make MaatHRI a global collaboration for research and capacity sharing.

Happy
New Year
2022

Visit our new MaatHRI website:
www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/maatthri



We had
another reason
to celebrate

We were delighted
to welcome baby
Keisha Schmitz
Kerstyn S

Congratulations Dr Carolin Solomi V!!!

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Funders: MRC CDA Fellowship for Manisha Nair
NDPH Pump-priming award
Ultromics Ltd

