

A Knowledge Exchange Partnership, running from April 2015-September 2016, conducted by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, and the De Partu History of Childbirth Group.

Hardly a week goes by without a story or advice about pregnancy or birth making headline news, from royal births to the latest guidance on what to eat in pregnancy. The partnership will set this public fascination in a broad historical context, featuring debates, developments and controversies over the last five centuries. Topics in the exhibition and to be discussed at the study days include material comforts in the birthing room, favoured delivery positions, premature births, breastfeeding, and who used to be present at a birth.

The Partnership aims to widen awareness of the heritage collections of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and of the Royal College of Midwives; to facilitate dialogue between academic researchers and healthcare practitioners on the history of pregnancy and birth; and to provide a forum for debates on current issues to be understood from an historical perspective.

Lead contacts for the Partnership:

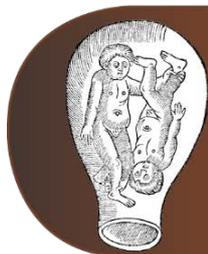
Valerie Worth-Stylianou, Senior Tutor Trinity College, University of Oxford, and Mellon-TORCH Knowledge Exchange Fellow

Janette Allotey, Chair of De Partu, Honorary Lecturer, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, University of Manchester

Penny Hutchins, Archivist and Records Manager, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Forthcoming events:

- Seminar and display at the RCOG, September-December 2015
- A display in the library, drawing on the College's unique holdings of resources, from early printed books (from 1478) to more recent archives, including those held for the Royal College of Midwives.
- A series of posters in the Education Centre.
- A seminar on Friday 4 September 2015, 10.30am to 4pm, for historians, midwives, obstetricians and members of the RCOG's women's network.
- A display for Explore your Archives week (November 2015),
- Two workshops for academic researchers, healthcare practitioners, and women as recipients of healthcare at The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities in 2016

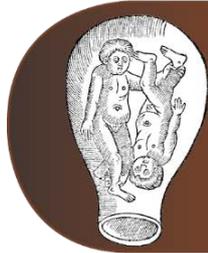


Celebrating 500 Years of Pregnancy and Birth



Seminar on 4th September 2015

10.30	Arrival – library display on view	<i>Coffee /tea</i>
10.50	Welcome addresses by Officer of RCOG, and by Director of Midwifery, RCM	
11.15	Historical debates over positions for delivery: Professor Valerie Worth Stylianou (University of Oxford) and Dr Janette Allotey (University of Manchester)	
12.00	Keynote talk + discussion: Mr David Hutchon (FRCOG), ‘The history of the practice of early cord-clamping’	
12.50- 1.30	Lunch break – library display on view / tour of RCOG	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 group A 2.20 group B	Workshop 1: Dr Julia Allison (University of Nottingham), ‘Material comforts of the birthing room in early modern England: archival records’	
1.30 group B 2.20 group A	Workshop 2: Professor Billie Hunter (Professor of Midwifery, University of Cardiff), ‘Material comforts of the birthing room in the 20th century: oral histories’	
3.00	Concluding plenary: the role of knowledge exchange for the history of pregnancy and birth	
3.30-4.00	Informal opportunity to visit library / tour of college	<i>Tea/ coffee</i>



Celebrating 500 Years of Pregnancy and Birth



Booking Form for Seminar on 4th September 2015

To book to attend the seminar (limited to 60 delegates), please complete this form and email it (as an attachment) to valerie.worth@trinity.ox.ac.uk. When your booking is accepted, you will be asked to send a cheque for £20 (to cover all refreshments, including lunch).

Name

Email

I am (*select one or more*)

a student / academic researcher / archivist / midwife / obstetrician / other practitioner / layperson

Name of institution (if applicable)

How did you learn about this seminar (e.g. which website, research group)?

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Do you have any dietary requirements for lunch (e.g. vegetarian, gluten-free)?

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