

# 1<sup>st</sup> Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

## Normal Labour and Birth: 13th Research Conference:

***Asking Different Questions:***  
**Interdisciplinary and Cross Disciplinary Collaboration in**  
**Normal Labour & Birth Research**

University of Michigan School of Nursing, Ann Arbor, Michigan USA  
June 25-27, 2018

### Background

This is the thirteenth international conference in a series that is designed to disseminate research, theory, art, drama, and policy relating to healthy physiological childbirth. The conference will address social, cultural, physiological, psychological, emotional and spiritual aspects of labour and birth. It will examine new developments in the current evidence base on the nature of and cultures around birth, and on associated processes and outcomes of labour and birth. Papers will cover primary and secondary research, methodological debates, and new philosophies and constructs in this area. We are interested in submissions in any of the following areas:

1. Studies that integrate knowledge from a range of scientific approaches and/or perspectives
  2. Basic science studies of the physiology, biochemistry, psychology, and sociology of normal labour and birth
  3. Studies that focus on the nature and effectiveness of midwifery care
  4. Studies that employ the Lancet Series [framework for quality maternal and newborn care](#)\*
  5. Studies of collaboration to improve maternal, infant, family, and maternity staff wellbeing
  6. Studies which highlight the contributions of interdisciplinary collaboration
  7. Examinations of building design and of the physical and psychosocial environment of birth
  8. The identification and examination of relevant outcomes relating to labour and birth
  9. Social and cultural precursors and consequences of optimal childbirth
  10. Emotional and spiritual aspects of labour and birthing
  11. Educational aspects
  12. Economic analyses of models of care to promote improved maternity health outcomes
  13. Philosophical and theoretical critiques and debates
  14. Methodological innovations, particularly those using interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary approaches to answer questions linked to pregnancy, labour and childbirth
  15. Drama, virtual reality, and other multi-media and e-technology approaches
- Renfrew et al, Midwifery and quality care: findings from a new evidence informed framework for maternal and newborn care. Lancet 2014; 384: 1129–45

## Conference Aims

The conference will provide the opportunity to highlight the value of asking different questions through interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary scientific collaboration. Participants will disseminate evidence generated from the area of normal labour and birth research, to enhance clinical practice, education, management, supervision, service delivery, economic sustainability, quality, safety and policy, and to further research collaborations.

## Objectives

1. To disseminate ongoing and complete research
2. To provide the opportunity for interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary collaboration and debate
3. To discuss an agenda for the future in the area of normal labour and birth research and policy

## Participants

This conference will be of interest to:

- academics and researchers working in the area of maternity services, birth, women's health and public health
- those providing maternity care (professional, lay, state-funded, independent, midwifery, medical, nursing, and other groups)
- policy makers with an interest in maternity services
- clinical leaders, managers, and heads of service
- service users
- lecturers at all levels in maternity care
- managers of maternity care education

## Submission of an Abstract

An abstract of the intended presentation should be submitted to the esubmission system, that is available at the following url: <http://nursing.umich.edu/research/birthconf2018>

**Abstract submissions are open from November 15, 2017 to January 15, 2018**

**Presenters will be informed of reviewer decisions by end of Feb. 2018**

Presentations can take the form of an oral paper, poster, workshop or symposium. Papers will be 20 minutes long. A workshop will have a longer time allocation, but should be interactive and no more than 50% of the content should be presentational. A symposium will also have a longer allocation, but it should include at least three distinct oral papers on a similar subject. To submit for a symposium please indicate that the paper is part of a symposium in the selection option and it will be reviewed as a total package of presentations.

## **Abstract Submission Types:**

There are four categories of submissions. Please structure them as follows:

### **1. Original research (that will be complete by May 2018)**

'Group 1' and title of the presentation/poster

Background, including element of originality

Method

Results

Discussion

Conclusion

Statement on ethical matters related to the study

Statement on funding source for the study

Statement that results will be presented at the conference

Preferred presentation mode (oral, poster, workshop or symposium)

### **2. Theories and philosophies**

'Group 2' and title of the presentation

Topic area, including element of originality

Theoretical perspective

Underpinning theories/philosophies (if any)

Argument to be made

Discussion

Conclusion

Preferred presentation mode (oral, poster, workshop or symposium)

### **3. Innovations (practice and education), areas for future research, and research in progress seeking collaboration**

'Group 3' and title of the presentation

Topic area, including element of originality

Description of innovation, area for research, or research seeking collaboration

Discussion

Conclusion

Preferred presentation mode (oral, poster, workshop or symposium)

### **4. Art or drama**

'Group 4' and title of the presentation

Topic area, including element of originality

Description of innovation, area for research, or research seeking collaboration

Discussion

Conclusion

Preferred presentation mode (oral, poster, workshop or symposium)

For more information please contact [normbirthconf2018@umich.edu](mailto:normbirthconf2018@umich.edu) or phone Patricia Lovelace at +1 734-355-0389 or write to: Lisa Kane Low School of Nursing University of Michigan, 400 North Ingalls Suite 3160 Ann Arbor, Mi. 48109 USA.

If you do not have access to the electronic system, please contact Lisa Kane Low through any of the contact points given above, for advice on how to submit manually or by email.

**Please note: All presenters and delegates will be required to pay a fee for each day of attendance**

The Conference Announcement, Call for Papers, and all future information will be available on-line at

**Website** <http://nursing.umich.edu/research/birthconf2018>