



Royal College of  
Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists



## NEWSLETTER 53 - April 2018

### Applications sought for new members of the UKOSS Steering Committee: Anaesthetist and Epidemiologist/ Trainee with an interest in Epidemiology

The UK Obstetric Surveillance System (UKOSS), a joint initiative between the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, currently has vacancies for an Anaesthetist and Epidemiologist on its Steering Committee. **We especially welcome applications from Scottish representatives as we would like to increase Scottish representation on the committee and will also consider applications from experienced trainees with an interest in epidemiology.**

UKOSS was launched in February 2005 and is designed to be used to study a range of uncommon conditions in pregnancy. It is also supported by the Royal College of Midwives, the Obstetric Anaesthetists Association, the NCT, the Faculty of Public Health and Public Health England.

Currently, all 198 consultant-led maternity units in the UK contribute to UKOSS and the system has been extremely successful over the past few years in collecting information on women with rare disorders of pregnancy (conditions with an estimated incidence of less than one in 2000 births), allowing us to document the incidence, management and outcomes of these conditions, and thus to contribute to improvement of maternity care in the future. More information on UKOSS can be found at <https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukoss>.

The UKOSS Steering Committee is multi-disciplinary and meets three times a year. Its main roles are to consider applications for inclusion of new studies on the UKOSS programme and to monitor the progress of ongoing studies. Membership is not remunerated but meetings may be considered as part of continuing professional development.

The applications will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

#### Essential (Desirable for Trainees)

- Evidence of contribution to UKOSS at a local level; for example, co-ordinating UKOSS reporting at a local level, returning monthly reports and completing data collection forms
- Evidence of forging links within and without ones own professional group and with wider multi-disciplinary teams

#### Desirable

- Evidence of interest in UKOSS; for example, proposing new topic areas, making study applications and/or using UKOSS data in presentations or publications
- Research, audit and confidential enquiry or clinical governance experience in obstetrics/maternity care
- Experience of committee work (local or national)

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Melanie O'Connor, UKOSS Programme Manager ([melanie.oconnor@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:melanie.oconnor@npeu.ox.ac.uk)) or Marian Knight, Head of UKOSS ([marian.knight@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:marian.knight@npeu.ox.ac.uk)). If you would like to apply, please submit a two page CV and a short covering letter stating which position you are interested in and why you would like to undertake the role to UKOSS at [ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk).

**The closing date for applications is Monday 14th May 2018**

THIS MONTH

- Possible Flu Pandemic Preparedness Exercise
- New UKOSS study – Near Miss Suicide



Thanks to the following hospitals who have returned reports for December 2017, January and February 2018:

Aberdeen Maternity Hospital  
Airedale General Hospital  
Altnagelvin Area Hospital  
Antrim Hospital  
Arrove Park Hospital  
Ayrshire Maternity Unit  
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Basildon Hospital  
Bedford Hospital  
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital  
Birmingham Women's Hospital  
Borders General Hospital  
Bradford Royal Infirmary  
Bronglais Hospital  
Broomfield Hospital  
Caithness General Hospital  
Calderdale Royal Hospital  
Chelsea & Westminster Hospital  
Chesterfield & North Derbyshire Royal Hospital  
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Trust  
Colchester General Hospital  
Countess of Chester Hospital  
Craigavon Area Hospital  
Cumberland Infirmary  
Daisy Hill Hospital  
Darent Valley Hospital  
Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Derriford Hospital  
Diana Princess of Wales Hospital  
Doncaster Royal Infirmary  
Dorset County Hospital  
Dr Gray's Hospital  
Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary  
East Surrey Hospital  
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust  
Epsom General Hospital  
Forth Valley Royal Hospital  
Frimley Park Hospital  
Furness General Hospital  
George Eliot Hospital  
Glan Clwyd District General Hospital  
Gloucestershire Royal Hospital  
Good Hope Hospital  
Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital  
Harrogate District Hospital  
Homerton University Hospital  
Hull Royal Infirmary  
Ipswich Hospital  
James Cook University Hospital  
James Paget University Hospitals Trust  
Jersey General Hospital  
John Radcliffe Hospital  
Kettering General Hospital  
King's College Hospital  
King's Mill Hospital  
Kingston Hospital  
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals  
Leicester General Hospital  
Leicester Royal Infirmary  
Leighton Hospital  
Lister Hospital  
Luton & Dunstable Hospital  
Manor Hospital  
Medway Maritime Hospital  
Musgrove Park Hospital  
Nevill Hall Hospital  
New Cross Hospital  
Newham General Hospital  
Nobles Hospital  
Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital  
North Devon District Hospital  
North Hampshire Hospital  
North Manchester General Hospital  
North Middlesex University Hospital  
Northampton General Hospital  
Northumbria Specialist Emergency Hospital  
Northwick Park Hospital  
Nottingham City Hospital  
Peterborough City Hospital  
Pilgrim Hospital  
Prince Charles Hospital  
Princess Alexandra Hospital  
Princess Anne Hospital  
Princess of Wales Hospital  
Princess Royal University Hospital  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital  
Queen's Hospital  
Queen's Medical Centre  
Raigmore Hospital  
Rosie Maternity Hospital  
Rotherham District General Hospital  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Royal Alexandra Hospital  
Royal Berkshire Hospital  
Royal Bolton Hospital  
Royal Cornwall Hospital  
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital  
Royal Free Hospital  
Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Glamorgan Hospital  
Royal Gwent Hospital  
Royal Hampshire County Hospital  
Royal London Hospital  
Royal Oldham Hospital  
Royal Surrey County Hospital  
Royal United Hospital  
Royal Victoria Infirmary  
Russells Hall Hospital  
Scarborough Hospital  
Scunthorpe General Hospital  
Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health  
Singleton Hospital  
South West Acute Hospital  
Southend University Hospital NHS FT  
Southmead Hospital  
St George's Hospital  
St Helier Hospital  
St James's University Hospital  
St John's Hospital  
St Mary's Hospital  
St Mary's Hospital  
St Mary's Hospital  
St Michael's Hospital  
St Peter's Hospital  
St Richard's Hospital  
Stepping Hill Hospital  
Stoke Mandeville Hospital  
Tameside General Hospital  
The Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
The Jessop Wing  
Torbay Hospital  
Ulster Hospital  
University Hospital Lewisham  
University Hospital of Coventry & Warwickshire  
University Hospital of North Durham  
University Hospital of North Tees  
University Hospital of Wales  
Victoria Hospital  
Victoria Hospital  
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS FT  
Warwick Hospital  
Watford General Hospital  
West Cumberland Hospital  
West Middlesex University Hospital  
West Suffolk Hospital  
West Wales General Hospital  
Western Isles Hospital  
Wexham Park Hospital  
Whipps Cross University Trust Hospital  
Whiston Hospital  
Whittington Hospital  
William Harvey Hospital  
Worthing Hospital  
Wrexham Maelor Hospital  
Wythenshawe Hospital  
York Hospital  
Ysbyty Gwynedd District General Hospital  
Birmingham City Hospital  
Croydon University Hospital  
Hinchingbrooke Hospital NHS Trust  
Leeds General Infirmary  
Liverpool Women's Hospital  
Macclesfield District General Hospital  
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
Ninewells Hospital & Medical School  
Poole Hospital  
Princess Elizabeth Hospital  
Princess Royal Hospital  
Princess Royal Hospital  
Queen Alexandra Hospital  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Queen's Hospital  
Royal Jubilee Maternity Service  
Royal Sussex County Hospital  
Southern General Hospital  
Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust  
The Portland Hospital  
The Tunbridge Wells Hospital  
University College Hospital  
Worcestershire Royal Hospital  
Yeovil Women's Hospital  
Bassetlaw District General Hospital  
Causeway Hospital  
Hereford County Hospital  
Pinderfields General Hospital  
Princess Royal Maternity Hospital  
Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital  
Wishaw General Hospital  
Lancashire Women and Newborn Centre  
Lincoln County Hospital  
Royal Lancaster Infirmary  
Salisbury District Hospital  
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust  
University Hospital of North Midlands

Returned all three reports. Returned two reports. Returned one report. No reports returned.



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# New UKOSS study - Near Miss Suicide

## Background

Mental illness is estimated to affect one in ten pregnancies and, in the UK, has persistently been found to be a leading cause of maternal mortality. Although maternal deaths are rare (8.8 per 100,000 maternities), recent confidential enquiries into maternal mortality found that almost one in five women who died during birth had a mental illness and almost a quarter of those who died in the postnatal period died from mental health related causes. Among this group of women the largest proportion of deaths resulted from suicide (2.3 deaths by suicide during or up to one year after the end of pregnancy per 100,000 maternities between 2009-13).

It is becoming increasingly recognised that studying near miss events (or life-threatening situations) can provide important additional information to guide prevention strategies of rare events, however no previous studies have explored near miss suicides during pregnancy. Three quarters of maternal suicides occur during the postnatal period, making suicides during the antenatal period a rare event. There is also evidence to suggest that suicide attempts may occur less frequently during pregnancy than following birth, although robust incident figures are not currently available.

Antenatal suicide attempts also increase the risk of potential harm to fetal development, particularly in the case of drug overdoses during pregnancy which can have teratogenic or fetotoxic effects. However, no national data on near miss suicides during pregnancy exists, and very little is known about the epidemiology, neonatal outcomes, warning signs or clinical management proceeding and following a near miss suicide event during pregnancy within the UK. Finding ways to recognise and respond appropriately to women at particular risk signifies a key public health goal. Current insufficient research in this area is likely to limit efforts to effectively identify women at high risk of suicide and prevent further tragedies in the future.

## Case Definition:

Any women with self-inflicted injury or poisoning, during pregnancy, requiring an admission to a general hospital for:

- EITHER:** Level 2 critical care (i.e. patients requiring more detailed observation or intervention including support for a single failing organ system or post-operative care and those 'stepping down' from higher levels of care)
- OR:** Level 3 critical care (i.e. patients requiring advanced respiratory support alone or monitoring and support for two or more organ systems. This level includes all complex patients requiring support for multi-organ failure)
- OR:** Care in a liver unit

Further details about the study (including the full protocol) will soon be available on the UKOSS website. The study is due to start 1st May 2018.



## Chocolate Box

Chocolates this month go to **Nikki McNulty** from University Hospital of Coventry & Warwickshire for timely return of electronic reports and data collection forms and to **Nazia Irshad** from Princess Anne Hospital for timely return of electronic reports and efficient email correspondence.

*Many thanks to you both!*

## Read more online

To read this on your phone or to access our complete archive:  
Open the BARCODE READER APP\* on your phone and scan the code here

\*Search your app store for 'qrcode'



## Case report summary for current studies up until the end of March 2018

Disorder	Actual number of reported cases	Data collection forms returned (%)	Expected number of confirmed cases
Amniotic Fluid Embolism	266	253 (95)	158
Cirrhosis in Pregnancy	24	15 (63)	42
Epidural Haematoma or Abscess	26	24 (93)	8
High Neuraxial Block	32	22 (69)	58
Low Maternal Plasma Fibrinogen	49	22 (45)	74
Seasonal Influenza	431	199 (46)	71
SHiP	26	25 (96)	34
WHO GLOSS	581	385	N/A



### GMC Revalidation and NMC Continuing Professional Development



We are aware that as part of your GMC revalidation or NMC Continuing Professional Development you are required to provide evidence of participation in national audit and research. If any UKOSS reporters would like to receive a certificate confirming their contribution to UKOSS, please email us at [ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk) and we will post one to you.

### A Flu Pandemic Preparedness Exercise may be rolled out this year

This is to test readiness to activate a new UKOSS study, no real data will be collected but it is to allow a systems check, including dummy patient data collection. More information will be provided to you nearer the time should the preparedness exercise be activated.

