



July 09-10, 2026



Frankfurt, Germany

3RD GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN HEALTH



Women Health-2026

July 9:10 | Frankfurt, Germany

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Day-1 (July 09, 2026)

09:00 - 09:30 Registrations & Opening Remarks

Plenary Forum

09:30-10:00

Inaugural Address by

Thomas Klaholz, University of Bonn, Germany



10:00-10:40 Networking Break + Group Photo

Technical Session-I (10:40 - 13:10)



10:40-11:10

Title: The increased vulnerabilities of women who experience incarceration
Dr. James Blogg, Alcohol & SNSW LHD, Australia

11:10-11:40

Title: Improvements in antenatal care at IMSS are urgent to enhance women’s experiences during ANC and encourage greater ANC use
Dr. Miguel Angel Romero Garcia, Mexican Social Security Institute, Mexico





11:40-12:10

Title: Roles of prostaglandin receptors in implantation and decidualization
Dr. Yukihiro Sugimoto, Kumamoto University, Japan

12:10-12:40

Title: The Role of the Microbiome in Women’s Health
Dr. Fabricio Romero Garcia, Karolinska Institute, Sweden



12:40-13:10



Title: Oral microbiome dynamics during chemotherapy in breast cancer patients
Dr. Elzbieta Kaja, Poznań University of Medical Sciences, Poland

13:10 - 14:00 Lunch @ Restaurant

Technical Session-II (14:00 - 18:00)

14:00-14:30

Title: Sustainable Measures To End Gender-Based Violence in Academia:
What Lies between the ERA Policy Paradigm and Reality?
Dr. Debora Ginocchio, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Italy





14:30-15:00

Title: How Often Are Identity Mismatches Truly Detected in ART?
Dr. Ramona-Olivia Girnita, Mercor Intelligence, United Kingdom

15:00-15:30

Title: Spousal support, child attachment, and brain structure in ADHD and typically developing children
Dr. Ayaka-Ishii-Takahashi, University of Tokyo, Japan



15:30 - 16:00 Poster Presentations + Refreshment Break

Poster-1

Title: Model-Dependent Relevance of IHC Endpoints for Endpoint Selection in Rodent Models of Endometriosis
Dr. Kamalakannan Radhakrishnan, Naason Science Inc., South Korea



Poster-2



Title: Acid-Base Dysregulation Links Aging Metabolism to Frailty
Wan-Hui, MacKay Memorial Hospital, Taiwan

Poster-3

Title: Development of a Dichoptic Chromatic Pupillometer
Dr. Sébastien Buchwalder, Oculox Technologies, Switzerland



Poster-4

Title: The Alleged Harm of Chocolate Consumption on Teeth: A Myth or Reality

Dr. Behzod Shavkatxojayev, Central Asian University, Uzbekistan



Poster-5



Title: Jalili Syndrome: The Rare retinopathy with Amelogenesis Imperfecta, Clinical Insights, novel variant and genetic Perspectives in four patients

Dr. Nehal Hassib, National Research Centre, Egypt

Poster-6

Title: An Analysis of Frontal Sinusitis in three Ancient Populations from the Turpan Basin, Xinjiang, China

Dr. Qingxin Fu, Jilin University, China



Poster-7



Title: Revisiting the Paternal History of the Sherpas

Dr. Lobsang Dargye, Jilin University, China

Poster-8

Title: Postoperative Course Following Excision Surgery and Biopsy: A Retrospective Cohort Study In The Dermatology Outpatient Department of A Tertiary Hospital In The Philippines

Nicole Therese Mariano Mendiola,
Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Philippines



16:00-16:30

Title: Does metabolic control of the disease relate to bone turnover markers in children with type 1 diabetes mellitus in Turkey?
Dr. Merve Sena Topkaya, Health Sciences University, Turkey



16:30-17:00

Title: Does Food Neophobia Influence Dietary Diversity and Treatment Adherence Among People with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus?
Dr. Dilara Berşan Konyalıgil, Atilim University, Turkey



17:00-17:30

Title: Vaginal Microbiome Knowledge and Hygiene Practices Among Women in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study
Dr. Edward Kwabena Ameyaw, Lingnan University, Hong Kong



17:30-18:00

Title: Comparison of Endometriosis Induction Methods in Rodents: Lesion Burden, Pain-Related Responses, and Tissue Endpoints
Dr. Patrick Sweeney, Naason Science Inc., South Korea



18:00-18:30

Title: Associations of Maternal Dietary Energy Density with Birth Size and Child Neurodevelopment: The PERSIAN Birth Cohort-Isfahan
Prof. Roya Kelishadi, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran



Virtual Scientific Program

**July 10, 2026
CET Timezone**



Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 860 2775 9809

Passcode: Urf@2026

Day-2 (July 10, 2026)

Technical Session-III (09:00-12:35)

10:30-10:40

Title: High intensity focused electromagnetic energy on core muscle and pelvic floor control for female elderly with urinary incontinence
Ms. Choi Yee Tsang, Tung Wah College, Hong Kong



10:40-11:05



Title: The Effects of Tai Chi Chuan Robotic Training on Shoulder Range and Psychological Well-being in Breast Cancer Survivors
Miss. Lee Lai Kwok, Tung Wah College, Hong Kong

11:05-11:30

Title: Hemp Seed Oil Inhibits the Adipogenicity of the Differentiation-Induced Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells through Suppressing the Cannabinoid Type 1 (CBI)

Prof. Huda Alkhalaf, Institute for Aging Research, Saudi Arabia



11:30-11:55



Title: Delays in the decision to seek care and associated factors among women in Ethiopia: Systematic review and meta-analysis 2024
Dr. Tesfahun Simon Hadaro, Arba Minch Univesity, Ethiopia

Day-2 (July 10, 2026)

11:55-12:20

Title: Extensive cervical lesion and treatment outcomes in women with HIV/HPV co-infection

Dr. Rosie-Mngqibisa, Enhancing Care Foundation, South Africa



12:20-12:45



Title: Evidence of decreasing prenatal sex-selection practice in a context of liberal abortion rights

Dr. Sylvie Dubuc, University of Strasbourg, France

12:45-13:10

Title: Androgens: Their unexpected role in females with multiple sclerosis

Dr. Elisabeth Traiffort, INSERM, France



13:10-13:35



Title: Male behaviour change for women’s health

Dr. Roxana Belciu Kerns, Amarastesia, Switzerland

13:35-14:00

Title: Swallowed Silence and Chronic Survival: The Intersectional Trauma of Displacement and Gender-Based Violence among Anglophone Women in Cameroon

Dr. Fanny Nadia Dissak Delon, The University of Bamenda, Cameroon



Day-2 (July 10, 2026)

14:00-14:25

Title: Vaginal Microbiome Knowledge and Hygiene Practices Among Women in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study
Dr. Sarah Almuhayya, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia



14:25-14:50



Title: Microwave ablation treatment of non-lactating mastitis
Dr. Aili-Saiding, Guangyuan Central Hospital, China

14:50-15:15

Title: Integrin-Linked Kinase-Frizzled 7 Axis: A Novel Target Bridging Cancer Stem Cells and the Tumor Niche
Dr. Salvatore Condello, Indiana University School of Medicine, USA



15:15-15:40



Title: FBXO47 Is Key Component of The Centromeric SCF E3 Ligase Complex That Regulates Centromere Pairing for Pachynema Progression in Mouse Spermatocytes
Dr. Ani Ma, Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, China

15:40-16:05

Title: High Doses of Multiple Antioxidants Kill Cancer Cells and Enhance Growth-Inhibitory Effects of X-Irradiation and Chemotherapeutic Agents on Cancer Cells Irrespective of Type and Stage while Protecting Normal cells
Dr. Kedar N Prasad, Engage Global, INC., USA





ORAL PRESENTATIONS



International Conference on Women Health



Dr. James Blogg

*Clinical Director, Alcohol and SNSW LHD, NSW,
Australia other Drug Services*

The increased vulnerabilities of women who experience incarceration

Abstract:

People who have been imprisoned experience longstanding physical and mental issues related to their period of incarceration; however, women who have been incarcerated tend to face more serious sequelae for the following reasons:

1. Female prisoners are more likely to be housed in more overcrowded prisons
2. Female prisoners are exposed to higher rates of infectious diseases and unprotected sexual encounters following their release
3. Women who are incarcerated tend to be housed with a group of inmates who have higher rates of criminality
4. Female prisoners are at greater risk of sexual violence and exploitation by other prisoners and prison authorities
5. Male and female prisoners are similarly exposed to high levels of physical violence
6. Most female prisoners have less access to health and social supports while in prison
7. Women who have experienced incarceration accumulate greater loads of trauma which in turn become a serious impediment to them accessing health and social supports following their release from prison
8. Female prisoners are at greater risk of serving further periods of incarceration which places them at greater risk of deterioration in their mental and physical health

The specific needs of women who have experienced incarceration needs to be considered by all of us who deliver services to this population. This group of women may feel uncomfortable attending services in the community where they are likely to encounter former inmates and may be at risk of being further traumatised by procedures required to access these services.

This presentation will provide a comprehensive survey of the range of vulnerabilities found in women who have experienced incarceration. It will discuss case studies and include helpful strategies and approaches for providing more effective support services for these women.

Biography: Dr James Blogg is a Public Health Physician with over 15 years' experience working in prison settings in Australia and Indonesia. He has worked as Clinical Director, Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network in Sydney, NSW and continues to work with recently released prisoners as Clinical Director, Alcohol and Other Drug Services, in Southern NSW Local Health District.

He has published on a wide range of Public Health issues including: Female Prisoners in Indonesia; Keeping NSW Prisons COVID-free; HCV Treatment and Reinfection in NSW Prisons; and, Preparing Correctional Settings for the Next Pandemic.

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Dr. Miguel Angel Romero Garcia

Mexican Social Security Institute, Mexico

Improvements in antenatal care at IMSS are urgent to enhance women's experiences during ANC and encourage greater ANC use

Abstract:

Objective: The study aimed to (1) report on women's participation in the Mexican maternal cohort, (2) describe the utilization of antenatal care (ANC) and emergency services by pregnant women, and (3) analyze factors associated with these services.

Methods: An observational cohort study was conducted via telephone interviews with 1,390 pregnant women aged 18 to 49 at the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) after their first ANC contact. We assessed the number of ANC contacts, emergency room visits, quality of ANC perceived by women and the competence of ANC providers based on twelve key activities including blood pressure and weight measurement, blood and urine tests, ultrasound examination and counseling on nutrition, pregnancy warning signs, birth preparedness, newborn care, psychological counseling, and folic acid and iron supplementation. Factors influencing ANC and emergency service utilization were analyzed using multivariable negative binomial regression models.

Results: 3.7% of IMSS cohort participants dropped out due to miscarriage; 12.4% left after the baseline survey, and 11.8% during follow-ups. One-third of women who left the IMSS cohort rated their first ANC visit quality as poor or fair, while 30% of those who continued in the cohort reported poor or fair ANC quality at least once. Women in the cohort averaged six ANC visits, with 64.8% receiving at least 80% of the key ANC activities. Almost thirty percent sought emergency services. Increased ANC attendance was linked to health issues like hypertension, urinary infection and anemia, early ANC initiation, consultations with gynecologists and hospital ANC follow-ups. The use of emergency services was associated with chronic diseases and pregnancy complications.

Conclusion: Improvements in antenatal care at IMSS are urgent to enhance women's experiences during ANC and encourage greater ANC use.

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Yukihiro Sugimoto

Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan

Roles of prostaglandin receptors in implantation and decidualization

Abstract:

Embryo implantation and subsequent decidualization are critical processes for the establishment of a healthy pregnancy, but the molecular mechanisms underlying therein remain unknown. Prostaglandins (PGs) are bioactive lipids derived from arachidonic acid in membrane phospholipids, synthesized with phospholipase A₂(PLA₂) and cyclooxygenase (COX) as rate-limiting enzymes. Upon synthesis, PGs are rapidly released into the extracellular space, acting on eight distinct G protein-coupled receptors expressed on neighboring cells, to contribute to the maintenance of local homeostasis and the fulfillment of reproductive processes. Previous studies using mice deficient in each gene encoding enzyme involved in PG synthesis, such as cytosolic PLA₂ α and COX, have demonstrated that PGs play crucial roles in implantation and decidualization. Recently, COX isozymes, COX-1 and COX-2, were found to play distinct roles in implantation and decidualization. Furthermore, PG receptors involved in implantation and decidualization have been identified. In this talk, I will summarize the role of PGs in implantation and decidualization from the viewpoint of COX and receptors, and discuss whether this could be the key to overcoming implantation failure, a critical issue in human infertility.

Keywords: autacoid, cyclooxygenase, decidualization, implantation, prostaglandin

Biography: Dr. Yukihiro Sugimoto earned his Ph.D. from Kyoto University in 1994. He served as an Assistant Professor (1992-1997) and Associate Professor (1997-2009) at Kyoto University. Since 2009, he has been a Professor of Biochemistry at Kumamoto University

International Conference on Women Health



Dr. Fabricio Romero Garcia

*Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology,
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden*

The Role of the Microbiome in Women's Health

Abstract:

The human body harbors trillions of microbes within the gastrointestinal, vaginal, and oral microbiomes. Emerging research underscores the microbiome's significant role in women's health.

Our research utilizes large cohorts from both healthy and disease states, with a focus on vaginal microbiome function. We have demonstrated that a non-Lactobacillus-dominant vaginal microbiota is strongly associated with conditions such as bacterial vaginosis, HPV infection, and related cervical dysplasia. This indicates a crucial role for the vaginal microbiota in HPV persistence and cervical carcinogenesis. Furthermore, in one of the largest pregnancy studies to date, we have investigated how the vaginal microbiome relate to pregnancy outcomes and HPV status.

We have also integrated human factor analyses and revealed that microRNA signatures cluster distinctly according to vaginal microbiota composition. Comparative analysis of gut and salivary microbiota between healthy and diseased participants identified specific bacteria significantly enriched in disease states. Our current work explores immune response-related genes and investigates the mechanisms of vaginal microbiome-driven inflammation using in vitro 2D and 3D models. We characterize the comprehensive immune responses elicited by different vaginal microbial communities. Additionally, by integrating whole-genome sequencing of vaginal microbes with metabolomic and proteomic data, we have uncovered previously unexplored microbial functions.

Overall, our findings have significant implications for advancing women's health, enhancing disease surveillance, and translating microbiome research into clinical practice.

Keywords: microbiome, women's health, HPV, pregnancy, microbe-host interaction

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Elżbieta Kaja, Joanna Grupińska, Magdalena Budzyń, Joanna Ciomborowska-Basheer, Anita Szwed, Izabela Makałowska, Zacharias Papadovasilakis, Dorota Formanowicz

Chair and Department of Medical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznań, Poland

Oral microbiome dynamics during chemotherapy in breast cancer patients

Abstract:

The microbiome of the saliva can be influenced by various factors, including systemic diseases and chemotherapy. Oral dysbiosis manifests as altered bacterial composition and abundance, which often correlates with increased local and systemic inflammation. The aim of the study was to investigate the dysbiosis in the saliva of breast cancer (BC) patients before and during neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC).

Saliva samples were collected from 50 breast cancer patients at three timepoints (before, during, and after NAC). Saliva from 10 healthy women was used as control samples. Full-length gene 16S rRNA sequencing and analysis were performed using the Microbiome Analyst platform, R and JADBIO AutomatedML platform to compare the abundances of bacterial taxa.

Alpha and beta diversity measures differed between breast cancer patients and healthy controls. In addition, eight bacterial genera differed significantly between breast cancer patients and controls, including Porphyromonas, Campylobacter, Oribacterium, Veillonella, and Alloprevotella. Longitudinal analysis revealed significant decrease of bacterial diversity in the course of neoadjuvant chemotherapy as well as significant change in the prevalence of a few low-abundant genera. The obtained results confirm BC-related and NAC-related dysbiosis in saliva, which emphasizes the potential of saliva as a diagnostic and prognostic tool in patients with breast cancer.

Keywords: Breast Cancer, Oral microbiome, 16S rRNA sequencing, Neoadjuvant chemotherapy, Nanopore sequencing

Biography: Elżbieta Kaja obtained a PhD in Biological Sciences in 2017 at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. She is also a graduate of Poznań University of Physical Education in the field of Physiotherapy. During her postgraduate studies, she participated in foreign internships, e.g. at the Claude Bernard University in Lyon (France) or Penn State University in the US. In her scientific work, Elżbieta was analyzing microRNA genes in plants and DNA repair pathways in bacteria. In MNM Bioscience Inc. she was involved in the unique project of sequencing 1 200 Polish genomes. Currently, she works at the University of Medical Sciences as a researcher mostly on the oral microbiome

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Debora Ginocchio

Oriana Binik, University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy; Giulia Lausi, University of Rome "Sapienza", Italy; Silvia Ferrari, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Italy; Tindara Addabbo, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Italy; Isabella Merzagora, University of Milan, Italy; Annamaria Giannini, University of Rome "Sapienza", Italy; Giovanna Laura De Fazio, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Italy; Georgia Zara, University of Turin, Italy

University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Modena, Italy

Sustainable Measures To End Gender-Based Violence in Academia: What Lies between the ERA Policy Paradigm and Reality?

Abstract:

Gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment (SH) represent phenomena of social concern that relate to issues of gender equality. This qualitative study explored how Italian universities respond to GBV and SH within the framework of the European Research Area (ERA), applying the 7P Model (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Provision, Policies, Partnerships, and Prevalence). Interviews were conducted with key experts at Italian universities to identify the discrepancy between the EU policy framework and its practical implementation in the Italian context. Furthermore, it was investigated how cultural and institutional contexts influence this implementation. Findings revealed persistent structural and cultural barriers, including entrenched hierarchical and patronizing dynamics that contribute to the normalization and minimization of GBV and SH. These dynamics hinder open dialogue, limit reporting, and reduce the effectiveness of institutional responses. Although several initiatives, such as awareness campaigns, dedicated services, and policy frameworks, have been introduced, they often lack coordination, continuity, and systematic evaluation. Moreover, insufficient funding, limited specialized expertise, and reliance on individual academic commitment weaken the sustainability of interventions.

The study highlighted the critical role of contextual factors, particularly cultural norms and institutional resources, in shaping the effectiveness of the 7P Model. It emphasized the need for comprehensive, well-resourced, and evidence-based strategies, alongside stronger inter-institutional collaboration and capacity building. Aligning institutional practices with international standards requires consistent implementation, engagement at all academic levels, and a shift toward a whole-campus approach capable of fostering long-term, systemic change.

Keywords: gender-based violence, sexual harassment, academia, prevention measures

Biography: Debora Ginocchio, postdoctoral researcher, Department of Law, University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, Modena, Italy. I am a psychologist, psychotherapy trainee, and postdoctoral researcher in Criminology. After completing my Master's degree, I trained as a psychologist in a correctional setting, focusing on the psychotherapeutic treatment of perpetrators of gender-based violence, a role I'm continuing in my clinical training. My research focuses on the prevention of gender-based violence, particularly sexual harassment in academia, which was the subject of my doctoral thesis and several publications. I have taught seminars and workshops for university and high school students. I am currently a research fellow at the University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia, working on similar topics

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Ramona-Olivia Girnita

Leeds University, Leeds, United Kingdom

How Often Are Identity Mismatches Truly Detected in ART?

Abstract:

Patient and specimen identification remains one of the most critical safety priorities in assisted reproductive technology (ART), yet published error estimates vary widely depending on the witnessing method used. In this multi-site retrospective cohort analysis, we examined de-identified routine operational data from ten ART clinics across Europe, using a barcode-based electronic witnessing system to quantify true identity-related mismatches detected during laboratory workflow. Across 414,500 recorded procedures, 203 non-clinical entries, including 175 system Error events and 28 Incomplete cycles, were excluded, leaving 414,297 procedures for primary analysis. Within this dataset, 2,399 true identity-related errors were identified, corresponding to an overall rate of 0.58% (95% CI 0.56%–0.60%). Error subtypes included no match/unclassified events in 1,452 cases (60.5% of true errors), wrong patient in 718 cases (29.9%), wrong item in 146 cases (6.1%), and too many barcodes in 83 cases (3.5%). Importantly, no identity mismatch in this cohort was recorded as progressing to a completed procedure involving the wrong patient, consistent with the blocking design of the electronic witnessing system. These findings show that barcode-based witnessing systems can identify and interrupt mismatches before procedural progression, while also highlighting the need for better harmonisation of error categorisation to improve subtype interpretation, benchmarking, and clinical prioritisation in ART laboratories.

Keywords: Assisted reproduction; ART safety; electronic witnessing; patient identification; traceability; laboratory errors.

Biography: Ramona-Olivia Girnita is a Developmental Biology Expert at Mercor Intelligence, where she leads the advancement of cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) systems by training and stress-testing their capacity for complex biological reasoning. She began her career at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic, serving as an RNA-Extraction Section Supervisor at one of the UK's largest testing centres. Following this, she broadened her expertise in microbiology at Thermo Fisher Scientific while further specialising in Clinical Embryology and Assisted Reproductive Technology. Throughout her career, she has maintained a rigorous focus on quality assurance and risk reduction; her current research examines how AI integration can fundamentally strengthen safety and eliminate error in modern laboratory practice.

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Ayaka Ishii-Takahashi,
Kaho Magami, Yuzu Yoshimaru

Department of Psychiatry/Tokyo Medical University

Spousal support, child attachment, and brain structure in ADHD and typically developing children

Abstract:

Secure attachment formation is fundamental to children's socioemotional development; however, the neural mechanisms supporting this process and the contextual factors that facilitate it remain insufficiently understood. These questions are particularly relevant for children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), who show elevated rates of insecure attachment and impose greater caregiving demands than typically developing (TD) peers. This study examined whether spousal support serves as a protective factor promoting secure attachment in children with and without ADHD, potentially through effects on maternal stress and neural development. We recruited 55 children with ADHD and 34 with TD, along with their mothers. The children completed T1-weighted structural MRI, and mothers reported perceived spousal support and parenting stress. Children's attachment was assessed using a self-reported questionnaire. Across the entire sample, higher attachment security was associated with smaller putamen and dorsal anterior cingulate cortex volumes. Mediation analysis showed that putamen volume partially mediated the association between spousal support and children's attachment security. Greater spousal support was also linked to lower maternal parenting stress; mothers of children with ADHD reported substantially higher stress than mothers of children with TD. Our findings highlight the pivotal role of spousal support in fostering caregiver well-being and children's secure attachment, underscoring the need to strengthen family support systems, particularly for families of children with ADHD. Future intervention studies improving spousal support and testing its impact on attachment are necessary to confirm these results.

Keywords: Attachment, Social support, MRI, ADHD

Biography: Ishii-Takahashi graduated from Gunma University School of Medicine, trained in pediatrics, neuropsychiatry, and child psychiatry, and obtained three medical specialties and a PhD in Neurology from the University of Tokyo School of Medicine. Currently, she is a professor of department of Psychiatry, The University of Tokyo. Her main research interests are in supporting children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and their parents, as well as how treatment affects the brain.

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Kamalakannan Radhakrishnan,
Hee Young Lee, Kyungho Park, Larry C.H. Park, Yeongyeong
Lee, Jeong Hoon Lee*, Patrick J. Sweeney*

Naason Science Ltd., Cheongju, Republic of South Korea

Evaluation of Circadian Rhythm Disruption in the DHT-Induced Rat Model of PCOS, Exploratory Pharmacological Modulation with Niclosamide

Abstract:

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is associated with endocrine and metabolic dysfunction, with increasing evidence implicating circadian rhythm disruption as both a contributing factor and a hurdle to translatability in certain models due to minimal endogenous estrogen present in the DHT-induced model of PCOS. Integrating circadian endpoints is critical, as misaligned rhythms can exacerbate metabolic and reproductive abnormalities, influencing both disease progression and therapeutic effects. Despite this, circadian measures are not routinely incorporated into preclinical PCOS models, limiting evaluation of temporal disease biology and pharmacological response.

This study employs a dihydrotestosterone (DHT)-induced rat model of PCOS to assess circadian disruption and its modulation by niclosamide. Female rats were assigned to three groups (n=6/group): control, DHT, and DHT + niclosamide. A PCOS-like phenotype was established via continuous DHT exposure during the peripubertal period, followed by therapeutic initiation of niclosamide.

Circadian rhythmicity was assessed using continuous home-cage activity monitoring, enabling longitudinal evaluation of rhythm amplitude, phase distribution, and light–dark activity patterns, as well as wakefulness and sleep time patterns. At termination, ovarian and hepatic tissues were collected at defined Zeitgeber timepoints to quantify expression of core clock genes BMAL1, CLOCK, and PER2.

This signal-finding pilot evaluates whether circadian endpoints provide added resolution beyond conventional reproductive and metabolic readouts. We hypothesize that DHT induces circadian disruption, reflected by altered behavioral rhythmicity and dysregulated clock gene expression, and that niclosamide may partially restore these patterns.

These findings support integration of circadian biology into preclinical PCOS models and position temporal endpoints as value-added tools in early-stage drug development and translational study design.

International Conference on Women Health



Merve Sena Topkaya¹,
Onur Akın², Tuğba Küçükkasap¹

¹*Health Sciences University, Ankara, Türkiye*

²*Gülhane Training and Research Hospital, Ankara, Türkiye*

Does metabolic control of the disease relate to bone turnover markers in children with type 1 diabetes mellitus in Turkey?

Abstract:

This study aimed to evaluate the relationship between nutrition, metabolic control level, and bone formation biomarkers in children with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (T1DM). In this context, 34 children aged between 3 and 17 years who were diagnosed with T1DM and followed up at the Department of Pediatric Endocrinology, Gülhane Training and Research Hospital, Health Sciences University, Ankara, Türkiye, were included in the study. Blood samples were analyzed for glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) and bone formation biomarkers, including osteocalcin (OC), procollagen type-1-N-terminal propeptide (P1NP), and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) levels. The degree of metabolic control was assessed according to the American Diabetes Association's recommendations: HbA1C<8% was considered “good metabolic control” and HbA1C>8% was considered “poor metabolic control.” Additionally, the dietary intake of individuals was evaluated. Higher levels of OC and P1NP were found in individuals with good metabolic control ($p < 0.05$). A positive correlation was observed between dietary calcium intake and P1NP levels ($p < 0.05$). Multiple regression analysis revealed that increasing HbA1c levels were associated with a decrease in osteocalcin levels ($p < 0.05$). These findings reveal that metabolic control plays a decisive role in bone health. In conclusion, metabolic control plays an important role in the optimal development of bones and in maintaining bone health during childhood and adolescence. It may also be effective in reducing the risk of osteoporosis later in life.

Keywords: Type 1 diabetes mellitus, metabolic control, bone turnover, nutritional habits

Biography: I'm a dedicated dietitian currently pursuing a PhD in Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Health Sciences with a 4.00 GPA. I actively participate in national and international conferences and have received specialized training in clinical nutrition, bariatric surgery, and sports nutrition. I have presented my research at both national and international scientific platforms and published in peer reviewed journals. As a member of the COST Action CUPID network, I engage in international collaboration. Committed to evidence-based practice, my goal is to contribute to public health and academic progress through interdisciplinary research and the advancement of nutritional science.

International Conference on Women Health

**Dilara Berşan Konyalıgil²,**Merve Sena Topkaya¹, Berna Betül Cihan³, Kübra Tel Adıgüzel¹,
Nevra Koç¹, Ertuğrul Ekici³*¹University of Health Sciences Turkey, Ankara, Türkiye, ²Atılım University, Ankara, Türkiye, ³Çankırı State Hospital, Çankırı, Türkiye***Does Food Neophobia Influence Dietary Diversity and Treatment Adherence Among People with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus?****Abstract:**

This study examines the effect of food neophobia on dietary diversity and treatment adherence in people with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). The study involved 35 patients with T2DM treated at the Internal Medicine Outpatient Clinic of Çankırı State Hospital and 35 healthy individuals from the same clinic. Demographic characteristics, Adherence Scale to Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Treatment, Food Diversity Score and the Fear of New Foods Scale were recorded using a questionnaire during face-to-face interviews. HbA1c levels were obtained from the hospital's electronic database. When the dietary diversity score (DDS) and food neophobia scale (FNS) were evaluated, no significant relationship was observed between the control group and individuals with T2DM ($p > 0.05$). The food diversity score (mean = 4.0) of neophobic individuals with T2DM was found to be significantly lower than that of neophilic (mean = 7.0) and neutral (mean = 6.7) individuals ($p < 0.05$). The treatment adherence scale score of neophobic individuals with T2DM (mean = 111.8) was significantly higher than that of neophilic (mean = 59.5) and neutral (mean = 83.0) individuals. A high score indicates poor adherence and lack of expected behaviours. A significant positive (moderate) relationship was observed between the food neophobia score and the treatment adherence scale score of individuals with T2DM, while a significant negative (moderate) relationship was observed with the food diversity score ($p < 0.05$). These findings suggest that food neophobia may negatively affect T2DM management and hinder healthy eating habits. Interventions reducing food neophobia may help increase dietary diversity and improve treatment adherence in individuals with T2DM.

Keywords: adherence to treatment, diabetes mellitus, dietary diversity, food neophobia, type 2 diabetes

Biography: I work as a Research Assistant in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics and am a PhD candidate at the University of Health Sciences with a 4.00 GPA. I have received specialized training in scientific phytotherapy, nutrition approaches to gluten-related disorders, and stem cell culture. I have presented my research at national and international scientific platforms and published in peer-reviewed journals. I have also served as a scholar and advisor in national research projects. My aim is to contribute to the advancement of nutritional science and public health throughout my academic journey.

International Conference on Women Health



Dr. Edward Kwabena Ameyaw

Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Vaginal Microbiome Knowledge and Hygiene Practices Among Women in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study

Abstract:

Background: The vaginal microbiome plays a critical role in maintaining reproductive health through Lactobacillus-dominated microbial communities that preserve acidic pH and inhibit pathogen colonization. However, personal hygiene behaviors such as intravaginal douching and the use of feminine hygiene products may disrupt this microbial balance. Data on vaginal microbiome awareness and related practices among women in Saudi Arabia remain limited. This study aimed to assess women's knowledge of the human and vaginal microbiome and examine its association with vaginal hygiene practices.

Methods: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted between November 2024 and February 2025 among women aged ≥ 18 years residing in Saudi Arabia. Participants were recruited through convenience and snowball sampling via social media platforms. The questionnaire assessed sociodemographic characteristics, knowledge of the microbiome, and vaginal hygiene behaviors. Associations between knowledge scores and hygiene practices were analyzed using multivariable linear regression with 95% confidence intervals. A total of 1,040 participants completed the survey.

Results: Participants demonstrated moderate knowledge of the general human microbiome but limited awareness of the vaginal microbiome. Only 20.7% correctly identified Lactobacillus as the dominant genus in a healthy vaginal ecosystem. Higher knowledge scores were associated with higher education levels and employment in the healthcare sector. Vaginal washes and cleansers were the most commonly used internal products. Notably, the use of internal vaginal washes was significantly associated with lower vaginal microbiome knowledge ($\beta = -0.30$, 95% CI: -0.58 to -0.01).

Conclusion: Substantial gaps exist in vaginal microbiome awareness among women in Saudi Arabia, accompanied by widespread use of potentially disruptive hygiene practices. These findings highlight the need for targeted public health education and culturally appropriate interventions to improve microbiome literacy and promote microbiota-supportive behaviors that support women's reproductive health.

Keywords: Vaginal microbiome; Feminine hygiene; Lactobacillus; Women's health; Saudi Arabia; Microbiome awareness.

International Conference on Women Health



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Patrick J. Sweeney*

Naason Science Ltd., Cheongju, Republic of South Korea

Comparison of Endometriosis Induction Methods in Rodents: Lesion Burden, Pain-Related Responses, and Tissue Endpoints

Abstract:

Several induction methods are used in preclinical rodent models of endometriosis, but their suitability varies depending on the intended biological and functional endpoints. To assess their relative utility and translational relevance, we compared widely used induction approaches in mice and rats using intermittent evoked and non-evoked assessments together with terminal histopathologic, immunohistochemical, and molecular analyses.

Our findings demonstrated clear differences between species and induction methods. In mice, a syngeneic inoculation approach appeared better suited for rapid in vivo screening studies aimed at generating endometrioma-like lesion burden efficiently. In contrast, the rat inoculation model, particularly when combined with hormonal priming, produced smaller endometrioma-like lesions but was associated with a greater pain-related response. These observations suggest that model selection should be guided not only by lesion burden, but also by the functional phenotype of interest.

The utility and interpretation of immunohistochemical staining and molecular analyses also differed according to the induction method employed and the specific research questions being addressed. Overall, these findings support a fit-for-purpose approach to model selection in preclinical endometriosis research, with mouse syngeneic inoculation offering advantages for rapid lesion-based screening and hormonally primed rat inoculation providing value for studies focused on pain-related outcomes.

Biography: Patrick Sweeney, PhD, is a distinguished professional in preclinical research and pharmaceutical drug development. He is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Naason Science, Inc., a South Korea-based company specializing in preclinical research and CNS-focused drug development. With more than two decades of experience in the preclinical CRO and business development sectors, Dr. Sweeney has contributed to advancing innovative research and translational science. His professional expertise includes neuroscience, animal models, drug discovery, and research commercialization. He has also contributed to scientific publications on neurodegenerative diseases and translational digital biomarkers. Through his leadership and international experience, Dr. Sweeney supports collaborative research and the development of innovative therapeutic solutions.

International Conference on Women Health



Roya Kelishadi*, Motahar Heidari-Beni

Child Growth and Development Research Center, Research Institute for Primordial Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences Isfahan, Iran

Associations of Maternal Dietary Energy Density with Birth Size and Child Neurodevelopment: The PERSIAN Birth Cohort-Isfahan

Abstract:

Background: Maternal nutrition has a crucial role in fetal growth and neurodevelopment. Dietary energy density (DED) is a marker of diet quality. This study aims to investigate the association between maternal DED during the three trimesters of pregnancy and birth outcomes and neurodevelopmental outcomes.

Methods: This longitudinal study was part of the PERSIAN Birth Cohort in Isfahan, Iran. Maternal dietary intake was assessed each trimester using a validated semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire. Child neurodevelopment was evaluated using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), and the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).

Results: This study was analyzed on 3200 mother-child. Higher maternal DED in the second trimester was associated with nearly two-fold increased odds of low birth weight (OR = 1.94; 95% CI: 1.13–3.34), and in the third trimester with greater risk of low birth weight in crude models (OR = 1.88; 95% CI: 1.20–3.00). First-trimester DED was linked to smaller neonatal head circumference in unadjusted analyses (OR = 1.29; 95% CI: 1.03–1.63). Longitudinally, one-unit increases in first-trimester DED were associated with problem-solving delays at 1 year (OR = 2.2; 95% CI: 1.01–4.70) and personal-social problems at 5 years (OR = 3.2; 95% CI: 1.3–7.4). Elevated second-trimester DED predicted fine motor delays at 5 years (OR = 6.1; 95% CI: 2.4–15.5), while third-trimester DED was linked to communication (OR = 1.83; 95% CI: 1.03–3.24) and problem-solving issues (OR = 1.64; 95% CI: 1.03–2.60). Higher first-trimester DED increased sleep problems at age 2 (OR = 1.74; 95% CI: 1.01–3.10), and third-trimester DED was associated with social problems at age 4.

Conclusion: Maternal DED shows trimester-specific associations with fetal growth and child developmental outcomes over time. These findings highlight the importance of dietary quality in pregnancy.

Biography: Professor Roya Kelishadi is specialist in Pediatrics, working as a faculty member of Isfahan University of Medical Sciences in Iran. Over her 30-year career, she focused on primordial/primary prevention of non-communicable diseases. She is the founder and chair of the Research Institute for Primordial Prevention of Non-Communicable Disease, as well as the founder and chair of the Child Growth and Development Research Center affiliated to Isfahan University of Medical Sciences. She is also the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Preventive Medicine. She combines her clinical and research background for prevention and control of risk behaviors and risk factors of adult diseases from the pediatric age. Her studies are focused on lifestyle and environmental factors related to the early life origins of adult chronic diseases. She has been awarded several times at national and provincial levels. She has more than 1000 articles published in high-rank journals and more than 50 books, which are mainly in the field of disease prevention and health promotion



VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS



International Conference on Women Health



Choi Yee TSANG¹, Tsz Shan YEUNG¹, Yuen Ki LIU¹, Man Yee LI¹, Ka Yuet CHAN¹, Chi Yin AU YEUNG¹, Ian Yuk Ho HO¹, Kin Lun CHAN¹, Isaac Dzam Hei HO¹, Tsz Fung CHAN¹, Daniel Cheuk Nam CHAN¹, Wilson Wai Shun LAM², Ka Ki LEE², Ho Yan LUK², Ki Fung KWAN², Vikita Wing Ki JAIN KEUNG², Nicola Wai Kuen MOK¹, Siu Ching CHEUNG¹, Rachel Lai Chu KWAN¹

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High intensity focused electromagnetic energy on core muscle and pelvic floor control for female elderly with urinary incontinence

Abstract:

Background: Postural control dysfunction is exhibited in people with urinary incontinence, attributing to the weakness, delayed activation and impaired postural function of the pelvic floor muscles. High intensity focused electromagnetic energy has been newly developed as an alternative to the conventional exercise approach in urinary incontinence management. The aim of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of high intensity focused electromagnetic energy in managing urinary incontinence among female elderly.

Methodology: Sixteen female elderly (aged 85.9±8.7 years) with urinary incontinence participated in this study. Participants received high focused electromagnetic energy two 30-minutes sessions per week for 8 weeks. Anterolateral abdominal myofascial and pelvic floor morphology was assessed with ultrasonography.

Results: There were a significant increase in inter-recti distance in the elderly with urinary incontinence as compared to the elderly without urinary incontinence during breathing in (0.35 ± 0.21 and 0.19 ± 0.90 cm respectively, $p=0.01$) and breathing out (0.30 ± 0.13 and 0.19 ± 0.15 cm respectively, $p=0.02$) phases. Significant decrease in inter-recti distance in breathing in (from 0.35 ± 0.21 to 0.24 ± 0.08 cm, $p=0.03$) and breathing out (from 0.30 ± 0.13 to 0.22 ± 0.74 cm, $p=0.01$) phases was found in elderly with urinary incontinence after high focused electromagnetic energy. Pelvic floor ascending phases was also improved (from 0.44 ± 0.56 to 0.57 ± 0.16 cm) although that was not statistically significant ($p=0.31$).

Conclusion: The findings supported that 8 weeks high focused electromagnetic energy might be effective in improving core muscle and pelvic floor control.

Keywords: urinary incontinence, abdominal, pelvic floor, women

Biography: Choi Yee is a final year undergraduate student majoring in Physiotherapy at Tung Wah College, Hong Kong. Her interests include improving women's health and empowering women living

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Lai Kwok LEE¹, Sze Wing CHAN¹, Hiu Ying CHEN¹, Lok Yi CHEUNG¹, Cheuk Kwan KWOK¹, Yan Ching SO¹, Ka Lee CHAN², Lok Wa YUEN², Che Wun YIP², Mei Yee LAW², Suk Yee Polly CHEUNG², Anthony Wai Leung KWOK¹, Siu Ching CHEUNG¹, Rachel Lai Chu KWAN¹

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The Effects of Tai Chi Chuan Robotic Training on Shoulder Range and Psychological Well-being in Breast Cancer Survivors

Abstract:

Background: Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers globally. Breast cancer survivors often reported experiencing pain and reduced range as well as body image concern. This would affect their psychological well-being, which may further hinder recovery. The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of Tai Chi Chuan Robotic Training compared to a self-exercise control group in improving shoulder range and psychological well-being among breast cancer survivors.

Methodology: Breast cancer survivors who had undergone surgery within one year and completed all adjuvant therapy (n = 36) were recruited from the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation and randomly assigned to two groups. The intervention group (n = 16) participated in Tai Chi Chuan robotic training at Tung Wah College, while the control group (n = 20) performed the same exercises without the robotic machine at home. Both groups trained twice per week for a total of 12 sessions, with each session lasting 45 minutes. Shoulder movement (flexion and abduction) and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) were assessed at baseline and immediately after the intervention.

Results: Significant improvement in shoulder flexion range was found within the intervention group (from 138±18° to 150±21°, p=0.004), but not for the control group (from 139±16° to 145±15°, p=0.291). Moreover, significant improvement was found in shoulder abduction range within the intervention group (from 139±28° to 151±22°, p=0.014), but not in the control group (from 136±22° to 147±22°, p=0.291). There was significant improvement in HRQoL within the intervention group (from 100±22 to 112±18, p=0.002), but no change of HRQoL was found in the control group (from 95±20 to 95±25, p=0.272).

Conclusion: The findings suggest that Tai Chi Chuan Robotic Training is effective in improving shoulder range and psychological well-being of breast cancer survivors.

Keywords: breast cancer, Tai Chi, shoulder range, psychological well-being

Biography: Lee Lai Kwok is a final year undergraduate student majoring in Physiotherapy at Tung Wah College, Hong Kong. Her interests include improving women's health and empowering women living with illness in the community.

International Conference on Women Health



Huda Alkhalaf

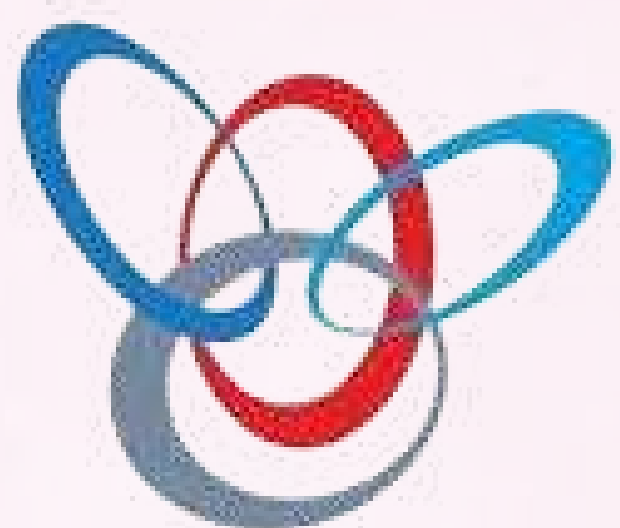
Institute for Aging Research, Saudi Arabia

Hemp Seed Oil Inhibits the Adipogenicity of the Differentiation-Induced Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells through Suppressing the Cannabinoid Type 1 (CB1)

Abstract:

Central and peripheral mechanisms of the endocannabinoid system (ECS) favor energy intake and storage. The ECS, especially cannabidiol (CBD) receptors, controls adipocyte differentiation (hyperplasia) and lipid accumulation (hypertrophy) in adipose tissue. In white adipose tissue, cannabidiol receptor 1 (CB1) stimulation increases lipogenesis and inhibits lipolysis; in brown adipose tissue, it decreases mitochondrial thermogenesis and biogenesis. This study compared the availability of phytocannabinoids [CBD and Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)] and polyunsaturated fatty acids [omega 3 (ω 3) and omega 6 (ω 6)] in different hemp seed oils (HSO). The study also examined the effect of HSO on adipocyte lipid accumulation by suppressing cannabinoid receptors in adipogenesis-stimulated human mesenchymal stem cells (hMSCs). Most importantly, Oil-Red-O' and Nile red tests showed that HSO induced adipogenic hMSC differentiation without differentiation agents. Additionally, HSO-treated cells showed increased peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR γ) mRNA expression compared to controls (hMSC). HSO reduced PPAR γ mRNA expression after differentiation media (DM) treatment. After treatment with HSO, DM-hMSCs had significantly lower CB1 mRNA and protein expressions than normal hMSCs. HSO treatment also decreased transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 (TRPV1), fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH), and monoacylglycerol lipase (MGL) mRNAs in hMSC and DM-hMSCs. HSO treatment significantly decreased CB1, CB2, TRPV1, and G-protein-coupled receptor 55 (GPCR55) protein levels in DM-hMSC compared to hMSC in western blot analysis. In this study, HSO initiated adipogenic differentiation in hMSC without DM, but it suppressed CB1 gene and protein expression, potentially decreasing adipocyte lipid accumulation and lipogenic enzymes.

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Tesfahun Simon Hadaro^{1*}, Misgun Shewangizaw², Teketel Ermias³, Merkin Bekele³, Lakew Desta², Mesfin Abebe⁴, Yilma Chisha², Kusse Urmale Mare⁵, Simeon Meskele Leyto⁶

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Delays in the decision to seek care and associated factors among women in Ethiopia: Systematic review and meta-analysis 2024

Abstract:

Background: Delays in seeking care during pregnancy and childbirth can result in serious complications for women and a major contributor to maternal illness and death, especially in low-resource countries like Ethiopia. However, there is an inconsistency in findings of a study that has been conducted on the delay in decision to seek care. Thus, this review aimed to determine the combined prevalence of delay in decision to seek care and associated factors in Ethiopia.

Methods: A systematic review and meta-analysis were conducted on the prevalence of delay in the decision to seek care and its associated factors. Five bibliographic databases and libraries, namely, Medline/PubMed, the Cochrane Library, Science Direct, Google Scholar, and Hinari, were used. Data extraction was performed using Microsoft Excel, and after cleaning and sorting, analysis was performed using STATA 17 software. The quality of each article was assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute critical appraisal tool for prevalence studies. The pooled rate of delays in the decision to seek care and associated factors among mothers was estimated with a random-effects model. Heterogeneity was examined using Cochrane Q statistics and the I² test, and publication bias was assessed by funnel plots and Egger's regression test.

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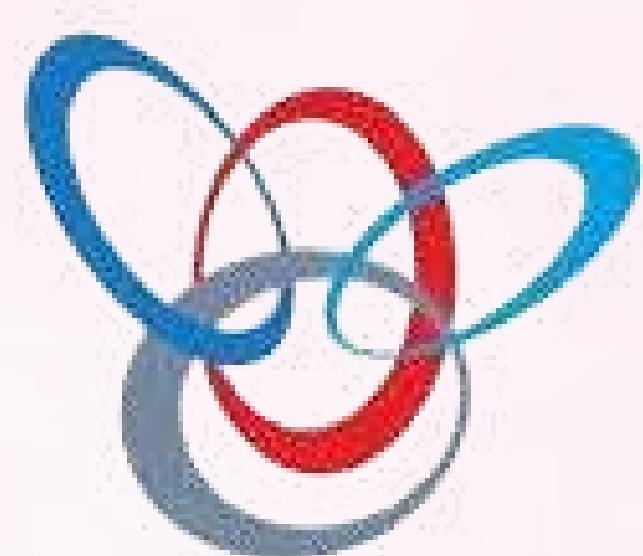
Results: A total of twelve studies were included in this review. The pooled prevalence of delays in the decision to seek care at health facilities among women in Ethiopia was 44.69% (95% CI: 37.02–52.36). Several factors were significantly associated with these delays, including having no formal education (AOR = 4.48; 95% CI: 3.30–5.60), residing in rural areas (AOR = 5.40; 95% CI: 2.30–8.50), being unemployed (AOR = 2.60; 95% CI: 1.80–3.49), husband-only decision-making (AOR = 2.80; 95% CI: 1.13–4.50), and lack of antenatal care follow-up (AOR = 2.90; 95% CI: 1.30–4.10).

Conclusion: The high pooled prevalence of delayed decision-making in seeking care highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions. These should focus on enhancing access to healthcare services, increasing maternal education, and promoting consistent antenatal care follow-up.

Keywords: Delay in seeking, Institutional delivery service, Emergency obstetric care, Women, Ethiopia.

Biography: Tesfahun Simon Hadaro is a lecturer and researcher at Arba Minch University, Ethiopia. My work focuses on maternal and child health, with particular emphasis on delays in seeking care, maternal mental health, and the integration of youth-friendly health services into routine care. I have published systematic reviews and action research studies addressing critical gaps in maternal health services in low-resource settings. I am passionate about advancing evidence-based interventions to improve maternal and newborn outcomes in Ethiopia and globally.

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Dr. Rosie Mngqibisa¹

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International Conference on Women Health

Delays in the decision to seek care and associated factors among women in Ethiopia: Systematic review and meta-analysis 2024

Abstract

Cervical cancer is a common cancer worldwide, with > 85% of deaths occurring in Lower- and Middle- Income countries where resources for screening programs are limited. Women living with HIV (WLHIV) are at increased risk. HPV test-and-treat is a screening strategy where women with HPV are offered ablative treatment of the cervix to reduce the risk of invasive cancer. WLHIV tend to have more extensive cervical lesions, necessitating more specialised surgical treatments. ACTG A5282 enrolled women with cervical lesions inappropriate for ablative treatment. Loop electro-excision procedure was performed if high-grade lesions (bHSIL) were present on cervical biopsies. The Clopper-Pearson exact method for the proportion of WLHIV with lesions inappropriate for cryotherapy. Logistic regression models were used to assess the factors associated with these lesions. Of 1046 women screened, 17% (179/1046, 95% CI 14.9–19.4%) had cervical lesions inappropriate for cervical ablation. hrHPV was found more commonly among women having lesions inappropriate for ablative therapy as compared to lesions appropriate for ablative therapy (70% vs 54%, $p < .001$). Cervical lesions inappropriate for ablative therapy were common among WLHIV. This has implications for cervical cancer programs as these lesions can only be optimally treated with more specialized surgical therapies.

Biography: Dr. Rosie Mngqibisa (MBChB, PGDip HIVMAN, MPH) is the Director and clinical research site leader of the Enhancing Care Foundation (ECF), a non-profit organization focused on international research, health systems strengthening, and capacity building in underserved communities.

A dedicated advocate for equity in healthcare, with almost 20 years of experience of leading impactful research, her work centers on improving outcomes for women, adolescents, and people living with HIV throughout their lifespan. Her key interests and focus areas include:

- Research involving novel and cost-effective ART and TB treatments
- Drug interaction studies involving ART, TB medications, and contraceptives
- Safe and effective ART regimens for pregnant and postpartum women in sub-Saharan Africa
- Reproductive health outcomes of women living with HIV, including menopause and aging-related comorbidities
- Affordable STI and HPV screening tools to reduce the burden of cervical cancer
- Community-based awareness and screening initiatives targeting early detection of cervical cancer in hard-to-reach populations

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Sylvie Dubuc

University of Strasbourg, SAGE lab/IDUS, FRANCE

Evidence of decreasing prenatal sex-selection practice in a context of liberal abortion rights

Abstract:

Son preference and prenatal sex-selection against females (PSS) among British Asian communities, raised considerable media attention, leading to parliamentary debates on abortion laws in Britain in 2015. PSS among India-born mothers in the 1990s was indirectly evidenced in past UK study by analysing sex-ratio at birth. However, we lack reliable quantitative evidence to document the practice in Britain since 2005 and regulations remained unchanged, offering a unique opportunity to test the need (or not) for abortion regulation to curtail PSS practice. Using annual sex ratio at birth counts from 1969 to 2018 and applying novel indicators, I found that sex-selection prevalence among India-born mothers is reduced in recent years, from its peak at about 4% in the 1990-2005 period. This decline is independent of specific legislation on sex-selective abortion and suggests a weakening of son preference. A reduction in prenatal sex-selection prevalence in Britain, shows that curbing the practice does not request stricter (sex-selection) abortion law. The findings support policy approaches addressing root-causes of gender preference to reduce PSS, while preserving current abortion rights.

Keywords: Prenatal sex-selection; Reproductive health policy; Sex-ratio at birth; Gender; Son preference.

Biography: Sylvie Dubuc is professor of population Studies with a strong interest in fertility, gender, migration and reproductive Health and Rights. After 20 years of research and academic career in the UK, Sylvie has joined the University of Strasbourg to take a professorial chair. Bringing an interdisciplinary approach to population research. Sylvie is co-lead of the axis 3 of the lab SAGE, on population and territorial dynamics. She has worked extensively on prenatal sex-selection (from quantitative analysis, to ethical and policy issues). Her current research investigates socio-spatial inequalities, notably gender and maternal health inequalities in an intersectional perspective in India.

International Conference on Women Health



Elisabeth Traiffort

Inserm-Paris Saclay University, Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Androgens: Their unexpected role in females with multiple sclerosis

Abstract:

Multiple sclerosis (MS), an inflammatory and neurodegenerative disease, is known to be the most common demyelinating disease of the central nervous system (CNS) and the main cause of non-traumatic disability in young adults. This pathology is sexually dimorphic with a three-fold higher prevalence in women. The female sex hormones (estrogens, progestagens) have previously been characterized as neuroprotective and remyelinating in the brain or spinal cord derived from various models of this disease. However, females also synthesize small amounts of male sex hormones or androgens. Well-characterized in males, the role of androgens still remained widely unexplored in females. Recently, we addressed the question to determine if androgens could be involved in the spontaneous regeneration of myelin that eventually fails in MS patients, mostly in the late stages of the disease, which results in worsening and irreversibility of the neurological symptoms. Using pharmacological and genetic approaches as well as demyelinated tissues from various models of the disease or patients with MS, we detected unexpectedly and exclusively in females, a high level of the main receptor of androgens (AR) in the CNS areas that display myelin loss. AR expression predominates in microglia, the resident immune cells of the CNS. We provide evidence for a synergism between the effects induced by male and female sex hormones and show that only androgens drive microglia response towards tissue regeneration. In the demyelinated mouse spinal cords, transcriptomic analyses showed that, regardless of the sex, androgens up-regulate genes related to neuronal function integrity and myelin production. However, only in females, androgens are able to down-regulate genes related to the immune system and thus to decrease neuroinflammation. Globally, our data indicate that normalizing androgen levels in females is required for proper regeneration of myelin and reduction of neuroinflammation. Moreover, therapeutic approaches of demyelinating diseases need to consider male-female differences.

Biography: Elisabeth Traiffort has completed her PhD from Paris University (France) after several years spent as a pharmacist in Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP Hospitals), the largest hospital system in Europe and one of the largest in the world. She is responsible for the Research Team 'Myelinopathies' in the Inserm-Paris Saclay University Laboratory 'NeuroBicêtre' and has contributed to around a hundred publications in recognized journals.

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- Kurian Thott, MD, FACOG — Chair, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stafford Hospital Center, USA
- **Roxana Belciu-Kerns**, MD, B.C. Anesthesiologist — CEO, Amarastesia, USA/CH
- Erica Stockwell, DO, FACOG, MBA — AdventHealth, FL, USA

Atraumatic Cervical Canal Access: Preclinical Evaluation of CerAMvix Self-Expanding Nitinol Stent and Integrated Optical Navigation System

Abstract:

Statement of the Problem: Every gynecological procedure requiring uterine access begins with cervical dilatation, yet current methods remain outdated and traumatic. Globally, approximately 100 million women annually undergo painful cervical dilatation, with risks of perforation (1.7%), hemorrhage (6.9%), and cervical laceration (11%). Pain is the leading cause of failure in office hysteroscopy, accounting for up to 84% of failures. Cervical stenosis affects 33% of women, further increasing the risk of procedural failure.

Study Objective: To evaluate the safety, deployment characteristics, and visualization capabilities of CerAMvix, a self-expanding nitinol cervical stent/os-finder, and CerAMvix Smart, an integrated optical dilator, using ex vivo human tissue and high-fidelity 3D models.

Design: A preclinical validation study utilizing ex vivo human uterine tissue and 3D-reconstructed human cervical models (GyneSim™) designed to replicate human cervical geometry and tissue elasticity.

Setting: A multi-center preclinical evaluation involving ten independent hospitals and private surgical centers.

Interventions: Surgeons performed cervical access and dilation procedures using the CerAMvix system. Performance was measured against standard surgical endpoints.

Measurements and Main Results: CerAMvix achieved successful cervical canal dilation to 210 mm in 100% of cases (95% CI: 72–100%). Atraumatic traversal of the cervical external os was consistently achieved without the need for traditional mechanical force. The system provided an unobstructed passageway for hysteroscopes in all trials. The average procedure time was 7.8 minutes (95% CI: 6.9–8.7 minutes), encompassing deployment, visualization, dilation, and retrieval. Notably, there were zero device-related complications, including tissue tearing or cervical obstruction.

Conclusion & Significance: The CerAMvix system offers a reproducible, atraumatic, and visually guided alternative to traditional mechanical dilation. By providing reliable access to the uterine cavity, this system demonstrates strong potential for reducing procedural trauma while improving procedural efficiency.

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Keywords: Hysteroscopy, cervical dilatation, traumatic instrumentation

Biography: Dr. Roxana Belciu-Kerns has over 25 years of clinical expertise as a surgeon and anesthesiologist, including more than 15 years of experience in women's health and gynecology. She is a lead innovator with 12 patents filed and 3 granted through the USPTO, EPO, and CN.

International Conference on Women Health



Fanny Nadia Dissak Delon^{*1}, Patrice Gérard Ngangue², Douglas Mbang Massom³, Daniele Sandra Yopa⁴, Philippes Mbevo Fendoung⁵, Jeanne Claire Dissak Delon⁶, Theodore Tameh¹

1: Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Bamenda, Bambili, Cameroon;

2: Faculty of Nursing, Laval University Quebec, Québec, Canada;

3: Département Epidémiologie d'Intervention et Formation, Epicentre, Paris, France;

4: Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Yaoundé, Cameroon;

5: National Advanced School of Public Works, Yaoundé, Cameroon;

6: Institut Universitaire des Grandes Ecoles des Tropiques, Douala, Cameroon.

Swallowed Silence and Chronic Survival: The Intersectional Trauma of Displacement and Gender-Based Violence among Anglophone Women in Cameroon

Abstract:

Background: Internally displaced women (IDW) affected by Cameroon's "Anglophone crisis" navigate overlapping vulnerabilities, including poverty, gender-based violence (GBV), and systemic linguistic minoritization. While war's psychological impact is documented, mental health consequences of intersecting urban stressors in host settings like Douala remain under-researched.

Objective: To explore how displacement, GBV, and Anglophone identity intersect to shape mental health experiences and resilience among IDW in Douala.

Methods: This qualitative study utilized semi-structured interviews with 33 Anglophone IDW (Median age: 34; median displacement: 5 years). Participants were recruited via purposive and snowball sampling. Data were analyzed through reflexive thematic analysis in NVivo 12, guided by an intersectional socio-ecological framework.

Results: Four major themes emerged: (1) "Swallowed Silence," where emotional repression and internalizing pain function as strategic social protection against ethno-linguistic stigma; (2) Embodied Trauma and Cognitive Paralysis, manifesting as somatic distress and dissociation; (3) Chronic Survival Anxiety, driven by economic precarity and discrimination; and (4) Adaptive Resilience, anchored in peer networks, spirituality, and cognitive restructuring.

Conclusion: Mental health among Anglophone IDW is a dynamic process shaped more by ongoing structural "daily stressors" than past events alone. Current clinical models are insufficient for displaced populations in linguistically divided settings. To achieve sustainable impact, interventions must transcend clinical boundaries to integrate GBV prevention, livelihood protection, and culturally safe MHPSS services delivered in English and Pidgin. Future health policies in Cameroon must prioritize linguistic equity and community-led resilience networks as foundational components of care.

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Keywords: Internally Displaced Persons; Gender-Based Violence; mental health; intersectionality; Cameroon; qualitative research; socio-ecological model.

Biography: Dr. Fanny Nadia Dissak Delon is a Lecturer in the Department of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Bamenda, Cameroon. She is also the Executive Director and Hub Administrator of the D-SINE Africa Hub, a DS-I Africa Research Center dedicated to leveraging data science to promote equity in injury and surgical care across Sub-Saharan Africa. Her work focuses on the intersection of public health, gender-based violence, and mental health in conflict-affected populations. Within D-SINE Africa, she oversees research projects and administrative supplements aimed at integrating mental health screening and social protection into clinical surgical surveillance.

International Conference on Women Health



Dr. Sarah Almuhayya

King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

Vaginal Microbiome Knowledge and Hygiene Practices Among Women in Saudi Arabia: A Cross-Sectional Study

Abstract:

Background: The vaginal microbiome plays a critical role in maintaining reproductive health through Lactobacillus-dominated microbial communities that preserve acidic pH and inhibit pathogen colonization. However, personal hygiene behaviors such as intravaginal douching and the use of feminine hygiene products may disrupt this microbial balance. Data on vaginal microbiome awareness and related practices among women in Saudi Arabia remain limited. This study aimed to assess women's knowledge of the human and vaginal microbiome and examine its association with vaginal hygiene practices.

Methods: A cross-sectional online survey was conducted between November 2024 and February 2025 among women aged ≥ 18 years residing in Saudi Arabia. Participants were recruited through convenience and snowball sampling via social media platforms. The questionnaire assessed sociodemographic characteristics, knowledge of the microbiome, and vaginal hygiene behaviors. Associations between knowledge scores and hygiene practices were analyzed using multivariable linear regression with 95% confidence intervals. A total of 1,040 participants completed the survey.

Results: Participants demonstrated moderate knowledge of the general human microbiome but limited awareness of the vaginal microbiome. Only 20.7% correctly identified Lactobacillus as the dominant genus in a healthy vaginal ecosystem. Higher knowledge scores were associated with higher education levels and employment in the healthcare sector. Vaginal washes and cleansers were the most commonly used internal products. Notably, the use of internal vaginal washes was significantly associated with lower vaginal microbiome knowledge ($\beta = -0.30$, 95% CI: -0.58 to -0.01).

Conclusion: Substantial gaps exist in vaginal microbiome awareness among women in Saudi Arabia, accompanied by widespread use of potentially disruptive hygiene practices. These findings highlight the need for targeted public health education and culturally appropriate interventions to improve microbiome literacy and promote microbiota-supportive behaviors that support women's reproductive health.

Keywords: Vaginal microbiome; Feminine hygiene; Lactobacillus; Women's health; Saudi Arabia; Microbiome awareness.