
We're coming for them.

Human Rights in Childbirth
India Conference 2017

2-5 FEBRUARY | TISS UNIVERSITY | MUMBAI

#HRICINDIA2017
PUTTING WOMEN AT THE CENTRE OF MATERNITY CARE, EVERYWHERE.

The Human Rights in Childbirth India Conference is part of a global discussion to address the provision of respectful, culturally sensitive, human rights based maternity care to optimise maternal and infant health outcomes. Similar initiatives in Eastern Europe and Africa have resulted in high level engagement between consumers and stakeholders, including the launch of Break the Silence campaigns, consensus statements on practice and respectful care, and the implementation of mother-baby friendly initiatives in institutions.

Join The Lancet, WHO, UNFPA, White Ribbon Alliance, International Congress of Midwives, FOGSI, Centre for Reproductive Rights, Human Rights Law Network, Ariadne Labs, Fernandez Hospitals, Sitaram Bhartia Institute, professors, researchers and economists at this sterling line up of speakers and presenters. Join us on the 4th day to collaborate and discuss the practical implementation of the ideas emerging from the event.
HRiC is an international network of some of the most influential thought leaders who work to address global maternal and newborn health issues through the lens of human rights in interdisciplinary and innovative ways. HRiC integrates the professional and political segmentation of women’s and children’s health, and advocates for recognition of the full range of human rights at stake in pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. The Human Rights in Childbirth India Conference will help evolve global maternity care policies and practices from the critical recognition that preventable maternal mortality is a human rights issue, toward recognition of the full spectrum of human rights at stake in childbirth. Women have a right to survival, but it is not their only human right. Together, attendees will envision maternity care systems that attend to the healthcare needs and human rights of mothers, babies, families, and communities worldwide.

www.humanrightsincchildbirth.org | indiaconference@humanrightsincchildbirth.org

Birth India is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered in 2011 to support families and the community in seeking and selecting skilled, respectful care providers for women during their birthing year.

Our mission is to promote evidence based benefits and best practices for childbirth in India by advocating for women’s reproductive rights and spreading awareness on mother-baby-friendly care. We are a comprehensive network that serves to connect pregnant couples with birth professionals, research, educational, and advocacy organisations in order to provide a platform for professionals and families across India to engage with one another in a supportive and truthful manner.

www.birthindia.org | info@birthindia.org
Dear Stakeholders in Childbirth,

Nearly five years ago in response to the landmark Ternovszky v. Hungary decision in the European Court of Human Rights, a small group convened the first Human Rights in Childbirth conference in The Hague, Netherlands. Our organization formed soon after the inaugural conference, and then moved operations in 2015 to the United States with a board of directors.

Our collective vision: to put women at the center of maternity care everywhere.

Since our founding, the global awareness around the violations of women’s human rights in childbirth has increased exponentially, with professional statements from the largest multi-lateral organizations, emerging research paradigms, and most importantly, more women coming together to share experiences of injustice. Evidence is mounting in India, from studies to the voices of women, that too many woman are going through childbirth without dignity, respect, or with their basic human rights.

We at HRiC have become ever more emboldened to achieve our mission: to connect grassroots activism with legal advocacy to make human rights in childbirth a reality for women around the world.

We have done this by convening multi-stakeholder events in Johannesburg, Zagreb, Los Angeles, and now Mumbai. At our conferences all participants—speakers and audience—have engaged in productive conversation to define the contours of abuse in different regions and to map out solutions. Women, have shared their stories of mistreatment; providers and lawyers have discussed the challenges of supporting women’s full realization of their human rights in maternity care. By facilitating these discussions HRiC uniquely merges grassroots activists and legal advocates on the path toward developing regional strategies, and we build vertical connections to international stakeholders.

This is why we have specifically allocated the last half day of the India conference for the collaboration of speakers and attendees to brainstorm the needs and the remedies to facilitate improvements within Indian maternity system.

In the coming years we will pursue regionally coordinated legal strategies and build an international network of lawyers to develop and publish argumentation that can be used to educate and advocate about human rights in childbirth.

We intend to create “Know Your Rights” documents in multiple languages so that women, lawyers, and providers can make more informed choices and take purposeful action.

We plan to build the capacity of women’s rights organizations to report to UN bodies, creating international pressure to uphold human rights in childbirth.

Thank you to the incredible team at Birth India, our speakers, and our attendees. We could not be more excited to work with you to make cost-effective, universally accessible, routine or emergency, woman-centered maternity care a reality for all women, on their terms, regardless of race, cast, language spoken, or socio-economic status.

Have a great conference,

Nicholas Rubashkin, MD (OB/Gyn)
President of the Board,
Human Rights in Childbirth
CONFERENCE TEAM

The people behind the scenes without whom this conference would not have happened. Thank you.

Bashi Kumar Hazard | Project Director | HRiC
Ruth Malik | Project Manager | Birth India
Kanika Aswani | Conference Event Coordinator | www.onboardthereikibus.com
Zoë C. Miller-Vedam | Project Coordinator, HRiC
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Katerina Perkhova | Conference Film Cinematographer | Birth Activist
Rita Theobald | Payments and Accounts | Birth India
Divya Deswal | Housekeeping | www.birthbonds.com
Preksha Rawal | Conference Intern | Student
Sakshi Ahuja | Conference Intern | Student
Sachin Chaturvedi | Conference Logistics | Mixed Bag Integrated services Pvt Ltd

Special Thanks to Jas Charanjiva of Kulture Shop for giving us the honour of using her illustration “Don’t Mess With Me” on all our conference graphics.

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EXHIBITORS

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www.kultureshop.in
BirthVillage
www.birthvillage.in
Sudharak Olwe
www.sudharakolwe.com
White Ribbon Alliance India
www.whiteribbonalliance.org
SNEHA
www.snehamumbai.org
Thursday 2 February 2017

Voices of Women

What are the current lived realities for pregnant women seeking maternity healthcare? How have their experiences affected their health and wellbeing, their capacity to care for their children and their ability to function as healthy, contributing citizens? What are women’s perceptions of the quality of the maternity healthcare they are receiving? Are these women’s voices and experiences being heard and used to shape maternal health policy and practice? How is childbirth situated in the bigger picture of women’s autonomy and ability to make free decisions about their bodies and sexuality?

Panelists will report on the challenges women face with access to appropriate care, and the impact of limited access to care in general or care that falls short of MDG goals and standards in the region.

This first day is dedicated to the voices of women in the Global South. We pay tribute to the stories and reports shared by women, for women.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Conference Registration Open</td>
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| 8:50 - 9:10  | HRiC and Birth India  
**Welcome and Introductions and Acknowledgements** |
| 9:10 - 9:45  | **KEYNOTE**  
*What Women Want: Quality, Equity, Dignity*  
Dr Aparajita Gogoi (WRA India) |
| 9:45 - 11:15 | **PLENARY PANEL**  
*Indian Maternity Care Development and Human Rights*  
Moderator: Professor David Osrín  
Dr Kirti Iyengar (UNFPA)  
Dr M Prakasamma (ANSWERS)  
Kerry McBroom (ICRC Rapporteur)  
Professor David Osrín (UCL, SNEHA) |
| 11:15 - 11:45| Morning Tea                                                          |
| 11:45 - 13:15| **PANEL 1**  
*Women’s Experience of Care in India - Too Little Too Late?*  
Moderator: Professor Lynn Freedman  
Unnimaya Kurup (IIT Madras)  
Sohini Chattopadhyay (Freelance Journalist)  
Asha Kilaru (BBN)/Pushpalatha M. (DBM, Bangalore)  
Sarita Barpanda (HRLN) |
| 13:15 - 14:00| Lunch                                                                |
| 14:00 - 15:30| **PANEL 2**  
*Non-Discriminatory Access to Maternity Healthcare Services*  
Moderator: Professor Saraswathi Vedam  
Manju Kamacharya (UNFPA, Nepal)  
Sushma Shende (SNEHA)  
Nalini Visvanathan (Independent Researcher)  
Regina Tamé (GIRE Mexico) |
| 15:30 - 16:00| Afternoon Tea                                                        |
| 16:00 - 17:30| **PANEL 3**  
*Womens’ Experience of Care in India - Too Much Too Soon?*  
Moderator: Professor Suellen Miller  
Eka Maya Febriana, video (Mother Healthy House, Indonesia)  
Subarna Ghosh (Birth India)  
Vijaya Krishnan (Healthy Mother)  
Lina Duncan (Mumbai Midwife) |
Friday 3 February 2017

Systems of Care

Today’s sessions will address concerns with resource allocation, and the cost effectiveness of current trends such as insurance coverage, the provision of incentivised maternity healthcare systems and the predominance of the private sector in the region. Who pays, and who profits, in maternity care development? How has it impacted on mothers and babies?

How are policy decisions being made for maternity care development, and what influences these policies? What are recent budget trends and do they enable a rights-based approach to health services? How are resources being allocated to advance maternity health care for the benefit of women and babies? Is ensuring access to quality, respectful care a consideration in allocation?

What are the financial implications of balancing medicine and midwifery in obstetric care? What would be the economic impact of a greater role for midwives and midwifery skills in the region?
3 FEBRUARY

8:00  Registration Open

8:45 - 9:00  Welcome and Housekeeping
Divya Deswal (Birth India)

9:00 - 11:00  THE LANCET: MATERNAL HEALTH SERIES (ASIA REGIONAL LAUNCH)
Moderator: Professor Lynn Freedman (Columbia University)
Professor Suellen Miller, Ob/Gyn, (UCSF)
Dr Clara Calvert (LSHTM)
Commentary:
Professor Jaideep Malhotra (FOGSI President-Elect 2018)
Jashodhara Dasgupta (SAHAYOG)
Professor T. Sundararaman (Dean, TISS Faculty of Public Health Systems)

11:00 - 11:30  Morning Tea

11:30 - 13:00  PANEL 1
Organizing Healthcare for Improving Quality and Respect
Moderator: Professor Hannah Dahlen
Professor Neel Shah (Ariadne Labs)
Dr Jishnu Das (Worldbank)
Professor Lesley Page (RCOM)

13:00-14:00  Lunch

14:00 - 15:30  PANEL 2
Supporting Healthy Birth
Moderator: Dr. Jishnu Das
Dr Armida Fernandez (SNEHA)
Maha Al-Musa (EmbodyBirth)
Amelia Christmas (PRONTO International)
Professor Saraswathi Vedam (Univ of British Columbia)

15:30 - 16:00  Afternoon Tea

16:00 - 17:30  PANEL 3
Evidence and Human Rights in Indian Obstetric Medicine
Moderator: Dr. Ameet Dhurandhar
Dr Evita Fernandez (Fernandez Hospital)/Inderjeet Kaur (Bart’s Health UK)
Dr Arun Gadre (SATHICEHAT)
Dr Rinku Sengupta (Sitaram Bhartia Institute)
Saturday 4 February 2017

**Accountability and Change**

It is time to look ahead. We will discuss developments in the organization of maternity healthcare and the changes needed for improving quality of care for all women, rich and poor. What awareness exists of the human rights of women and their babies in the provision of maternity healthcare? What accountability mechanisms exist to ensure the delivery of those rights?

Panelists will address ways to optimize the health of pregnant women and minimize the need for medical interventions, while also ensuring access to emergency treatment when needed. We will finish the discussion by analysing the role of education on rights, entitlements, prenatal care and nutrition for both consumers and health care providers, and the provision of evidence based care that has the greatest impact on optimal pregnancy and birth.
4 FEBRUARY

8:30 - 9:00  Welcome and Housekeeping

9:00 - 9:30  **KEYNOTE**  
*Human Rights in Childbirth - The Legal Framework in India*  
Professor Asha Bajpai (TISS)

9:30 - 11:00  **PLENARY PANEL**  
*Rethinking the Role of Midwives in the Region*  
Moderator: Professor Saraswathi Vedam  
Frances McConvile (WHO)  
Frances Day-Stirk (ICM)  
Leila Varkey (WRA India)  
Bijali Sinh (Jhpiego India)  
Rondi Anderson (UNFPA, Bangladesh)  
Bandana Das (SOMI)

11:00 - 11:30  Morning Tea

11:30-13:00  **PANEL 1**  
*Accountability & Advocacy for Change*  
Moderator: Payal Shah  
Anubha Rastogi (Advocate, Maharashtra)  
Sarah Malkani (Advocate, Pakistan)  
Purna Shrestha (CRR)  
Sabin Shrestha (FWLD)  
Payal Shah (CRR)

13:00 - 14:00  Lunch

14:00 - 16:00  **PANEL 2**  
*Quality, Progress and Vision in Maternity Care*  
Moderator: Professor Neel Shah  
Dr Aruna Uprety (RHEST, Nepal)  
Dr M S Kamath (CGSI)  
Professor Hannah Dahlen (Univ of W.Sydney)

16:00 - 16:30  Afternoon Tea

16:30 - 17:30  **CLOSING KEYNOTE**  
*For Richer and for Poorer: Changing the Landscape of Maternity Healthcare, One Woman at a Time*  
Professor Mary Renfrew/Professor Alison McFadden (Lancet video)  
Bashi Kumar Hazard (HRiC)

19:00 - 23:00  **Gala Dinner - Bollywood Night**
Sunday 5th February 2017

Collaboration Day

10:30 - 13:00

We aim to harness the energy and excitement of the previous three days by collaborating with participants and giving them the opportunity to collectively discuss healthcare needs and brainstorm remedies to facilitate improvements within the Indian maternity systems. We will work together on developing and implementing creative solutions and build lasting partnerships for advocacy and change.

TWO STAGE DISCUSSION PROCESS:

First hour - stakeholders stay in professional groups (doctors, lawyers, midwives, educators etc) and discuss the questions below on next steps.

Second hour - mixed stakeholder groups to prepare a consensus statement, from which organisers will review and prepare key elements for presentation and report to the Government of India.

1. What are the 5 priority areas that need immediate attention in maternity healthcare in the region?

2. How will those identified priorities support and/or protect women’s human rights in pregnancy and childbirth?

3. If you were in charge, what steps would you take to make these priority areas a reality?
DR APARAJITA GOGOI

National Coordinator, White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood/India (WRAI)
Executive Director, Centre for Catalyzing Change

Dr. Aparajita Gogoi has over 20 years of extensive experience in program management, with expertise in designing and implementing programs, advocacy campaigns, and defining approaches and strategies for policy issues in population. She is passionate about women’s health issues and has been an advocate for safe motherhood and believes that surviving childbirth is a fundamental right of every woman. She works with networks and other advocates to affect change within society by mobilizing action and people. She holds a PhD (International Politics), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and a Post graduate diploma in Journalism.

She has been accorded recognition for her work in various forums-she was recognized as one of twenty women achievers in healthcare in the March 2009 Modern Magazine. In 2010, at the “Women: Inspiration and Enterprise” Symposium hosted in NYC in September by Sarah Brown, Donna Karen and Arianna Huffington, WIE Awards were given to “honor and celebrate a select group of fearless women who are a shining example of excellence to us all.” Dr. Aparajita Gogoi was given the WIE Humanitarian Award for her good work on behalf of humanity that help make our world a better place. On 8th March 2011, Guardian, UK, marked International Women’s Day by selecting 100 of world’s most inspiring women, and Aparajita Gogoi was named as one of these 100 women.

Title of Presentation:
What Women Want: Quality, Equity, Dignity

ASHA BAJPAI

Professor of Law, Founder Dean, School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai India.

Dr. Asha Bajpai is a PhD in Law with specialization on Child Rights. Her PhD thesis was on the ‘Best Interest of the Child in the Indian Legal System’. She has been involved in, teaching, research, training and legislative reform, for more than three decades. She was the founder Dean of the School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance at TISS.

Dr. Asha Bajpai is recognized as a national and international expert on child rights and laws and is associated with several national and international associations and networks. She is holder of India Chair of UNCRC Policy Center. She is Member of the Child Watch International Research Board, Global Alliance for Justice Education.

She has assisted the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, The National Commission for Women and the Maharashtra State Commission for Women in drafting several policies and laws relating to women and children with a gender justice perspective. These laws include domestic violence, sexual harassment, labor laws, immoral trafficking, child sexual abuse, economic and property rights of women, family courts, indecent representation of women etc.

Title of Presentation:
Human Rights in Childbirth - The Legal Framework in India
BASHI KUMAR HAZARD

Director, Human Rights in Childbirth (Global South), Privately Practising Lawyer

Bashi Kumar Hazard is an Australian lawyer and the principal of B W Law, a legal practice directed at assisting women and children in Australia, and Board Director of Human Rights in Childbirth (HRiC). Bashi has represented families and individuals in coronial inquests, statutory investigations and in commercial litigation. She has also worked on healthcare policy and human rights based fact-finding reports both in Australia and internationally.

Bashi’s background is in antitrust and consumer law, developed while working for several years with international lawfirm Allens Linklaters in Sydney, immediately after graduating with first class honours in both Law and Economics Degrees from the University of Sydney. Bashi has written and spoken on issues relating to competition and trade practices law, legal professional privilege, the human and constitutional rights of free speech, and women and reproductive rights, particularly in relation the human right to bodily integrity and informed consent.

Bashi has been directing this project in India with Birth India for the last 18 months. She is mother to 3 amazing young children, teaches ethics to primary school aged children and grows orchids.

Title of Presentation:
For Richer and for Poorer: Changing the Landscape of Maternity Healthcare, One Woman at a Time

EVIDENCE: THE SCALE, SCOPE, AND REACH OF MIDWIFERY IN ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILDBIRTH (LANCET VIDEO PRESENTATION)

MARY RENFREW
Professor of Mother and Infant Health, University of Dundee

Professor Mary Renfrew is a health researcher and midwife who has conducted research in maternity care and in infant feeding and nutrition for over 30 years, her work has informed and helped to shape public health policy and practice nationally and internationally. Her work has a core focus on improving health and care for women, babies and families, and reducing the impact of inequalities, and she has a longstanding record in involving women and families in research, development, and service improvement. She established and leads the multidisciplinary Mother and Infant Research Unit. She has advised government departments and global organisations including the WHO, UNICEF, and ICM. She has been co-editor of the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, and she was Principal Investigator for the groundbreaking global Lancet Series on Midwifery. She is a member of the Executive Group and co-author of three papers in the Lancet Series on Midwifery. Her contribution to the first paper in the Series: Midwifery and quality care: findings from a new evidence-informed framework for maternal and newborn care, was to review the evidence-base for the Framework for Quality Maternal and Newborn Care. She is currently leading a study exploring how community engagement can enhance trust between health services and Gypsies, Travellers and Roma communities in the UK focussing on maternity services.

ALISON MCFADDEN
Midwife and Health Researcher, University of Dundee

Alison McFadden qualified as a midwife in 1981 and, after 10 years practicing as a midwife in the UK and Malawi, Central Africa, she took up a post as a Senior Lecturer in Midwifery and Women's Health at Teesside University. In 2006 she studied full-time at the University of York with Professor Mary Renfrew to gain a PhD in Health Sciences that explored the breastfeeding experiences and support needs of women of Bangladeshi origin loving in the UK. From 2010 Alison has worked in the Mother and Infant Research Unit, first at the University of York and then from 2013, at the University of Dundee. Her research interests are inequalities in maternal and infant health and nutrition globally, with a particular focus on the rights, experiences and support needs of women and babies from low-income and marginalised groups. She is a member of the Executive Group and co-author of three papers in the Lancet Series on Midwifery. Her contribution to the first paper in the Series: Midwifery and quality care: findings from a new evidence-informed framework for maternal and newborn care, was to review the evidence-base for the Framework for Quality Maternal and Newborn Care. She is currently leading a study exploring how community engagement can enhance trust between health services and Gypsies, Travellers and Roma communities in the UK focussing on maternity services.
Each year, about 210 million women become pregnant and about 140 million newborn babies are delivered. The sheer scale of maternal health issues makes maternal well being and survival vital concerns. A decade after The Lancet published a Series on maternal survival, a new Series of six papers brings our knowledge of maternal health, its epidemiology, successes, and current failings together, and at a crucial time within the sustainable development framework to 2030. The Series concludes with a call to action setting out five key targets which need to be met to ensure the progression of broader sustainable development goals (SDGs).

**PROFESSOR SUELEN MILLER**

*University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine (OB/Gyn)*

Suellen Miller holds joint faculty appointments at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), School of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, where she is Director of the Safe Motherhood Program and at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), School of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health Program. Professor Miller has been practicing as a nurse-midwife since 1977, in private and public practices. She is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, and is the lead author of “Beyond Too Much Too Soon, Too Little Too Late,” in the Lancet 2016 Maternal Health Series.

**DR CLARA CALVERT**

*London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*

Clara Calvert is an assistant professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She joined LSHTM in 2009 to undertake the MSc in Epidemiology and has remained at the School working on a range of projects in maternal health and HIV research. During this time, she has completed her PHD which looked at the contribution of HIV to mortality in pregnant and postpartum women, with particular focus on Eastern and Southern Africa. She currently divides her time working with the ALPHA network, which brings together longitudinal HIV studies in Eastern and Southern Africa, and working on a range of projects in maternal health. As part of the ALPHA network, she has been focusing on understanding patterns of mortality following the introduction of ART. For the maternal health group, she has been supporting senior researchers to prepare the Maternal Health series for The Lancet, as well as looking at facility capability to provide maternal health care and access to services.

**PROFESSOR LYNN FREEDMAN**

*Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health*

Lynn P. Freedman, JD, MPH, currently directs the Mailman School Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) Program, a global program of research, policy analysis, and technical support that, since 1999, has worked with UN agencies, NGOs, and governments in more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to reduce maternal mortality. Before joining the faculty at Columbia University in 1990, Professor Freedman worked as a practicing attorney in New York City. Professor Freedman has published widely on issues of maternal mortality and on health and human rights, with a particular focus on gender and women’s health. She also serves on the advisory boards of maternal health projects and human rights projects with programs in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.
Professor Malhotra is the FOGSI President-Elect 2018. She has been the Managing Director of ARD Rainbow IVF in Agra and is a professor at Dubrovnik International University. She is the Croatia President of the India Menopause Society. She was the Vice President of SAFOMS and the Regional Director of South Asia Ian Donald School of Ultrasound. She is the President-Elect of ISPAT and served as Chairman of UP ISAR. She was the President of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction. She was recently Vice Chairman of ICOG and has served as Vice President of FOGSI. She served as Chairperson of the International Academic Exchange Committee of FOGSI.

Jashodhara Dasgupta
Senior Advisor, SAHAYOG

Jashodhara is Senior Adviser with SAHAYOG and was one of the founders of the organization in 1992; for the last 12 years she has been heading its work with women’s health and gender equality using human rights frameworks.

Jashodhara has been working with issues of women’s rights in Uttar Pradesh, India for almost 30 years in the voluntary sector, and is currently a policy advocate and researcher on the right to health, with a specific focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. She has been part of setting up several civil society advocacy platforms in Uttar Pradesh, and is anchoring the National Alliance on Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR) since 2010, as well as the International Initiative on Maternal Mortality and Human Rights (IIMMHR) since 2011.

Jashodhara has published several articles on gender issues, maternal /reproductive health and rights-based accountability. She has served on various academic and government committees on health, including most recently the Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health (2011-2013), and earlier the High-level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage of the Government of India (2010-2011).

Professor Sundaraman is the Dean of the School of Health Systems Studies at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences. He is a member of the Internationals Society for Computerized Electrocardiology. He received his MBBS and MD in Internal Medicine from the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, Madras.

Professor, TISS University, Mumbai Campus
Dean - School of Health Systems Studies

Professor Sundaraman is the Dean of the School of Health Systems Studies at the Tata Institute for Social Sciences. He is a member of the Internationals Society for Computerized Electrocardiology. He received his MBBS and MD in Internal Medicine from the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, Madras.
D A Y  1  |  P L E N A R Y  P A N E L

D R  K I R T I  I Y E N G A R

National Programme Officer (Reproductive Health) UNFPA

Kirti currently works as a National Programme Officer (Reproductive Health) at UNFPA, New Delhi, India. She is a medical doctor, with M.D. in Obstetrics & Gynecology and a Ph.D. in International Health from Karolinska Institutet.

Her current work primarily involves providing technical and programmatic support to the government for implementation of reproductive health programmes, focusing on improving the quality of family planning and maternal care services. Prior to that, she has worked at Action Research & Training for Health (ARTH), where in addition to the programmatic support to the government, she was involved with designing innovative approaches to service delivery and in conducting research with communities and health system. Her recent research has included approaches to task shifting in areas of safe abortion in low resource settings.

Title of Presentation:
Women’s Expectations of Care During Childbirth and Maternal Care policies in India: Where is the convergence?

D R  M  P R A K A S A M M A

Visiting Professor, Centre for Social Medicine & Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dr Prakasamma has been a teacher, researcher and advocate in public health for the past 31 years. She obtained her PhD degree in Social Medicine and Community Health from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She also obtained post graduate degrees in Community Health (MCH), Nursing (M. N. and B.Sc. NJ), English Literature (MA) and Journalism (PG Diploma).

She worked as a Professor in Reproductive Health, Associate Professor in Epidemiology, Assistant Professor in Nursing, and as a Staff Nurse in Chest Diseases Hospital. Prakasamma also worked in the WHO (Bangladesh and at SEARO in New Delhi). Currently she is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Founder-Director, ANSWERS: Prakasamma founded the Academy for Nursing Studies and Women’s Empowerment Research Studies in 1991 to work full time on issues of concern to public health and nursing with the motto “quality and equity in health services”.

Title of Presentation:
Re-conceiving Birthing and Birthing Rights - A Multi-Dimensional Paradigm

K E R R Y  M C B R O O M

Human Rights Rapporteur, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (Central African Republic)

Kerry currently works as a Human Rights Officer with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). From 2012 – 2016 Kerry worked as the Director of the Reproductive Rights Unit at Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), New Delhi where she oversaw 200 pending reproductive rights cases in the State High Courts and Supreme Court of India and coordinated fact-finding missions, trainings, and advocacy strategies. Kerry has worked as a program manager for the Washington DC based Advocacy Project and the Council of Europe, where she headed a rights outreach project for Roma women. Kerry has worked on litigation and human rights advocacy in diverse contexts as a law clerk with Cronin Law Firm in Michigan, USA, a legal assistant at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a political organizer in Washington DC, and as a teacher for incarcerated youth in New York. As part of a dual degree program, Kerry received her J.D. from American University in Washington DC and her Master I/II in Human Rights Law from Université Paris X, Nanterre in 2011. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in International Human Rights from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Title of Presentation:
Human Rights in Action: Demanding Accountability and Ensuring justice for reproductive rights violations
PROFESSOR DAVID OSRIN

Professor of Global Health, University College London, SNEHA

David is Professor of Global Health at UCL and Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Clinical Science. Based in Mumbai since 2004, he works in an urban health research collaboration with SNEHA (Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action, in which programs to improve the survival and health of women and children are linked with descriptive research and controlled trials. Within the broad remit of urban health, he is particularly interested in complex social interventions and research ethics, and in the meeting of art and science in public engagement around health issues. He co-directed Dekha Undekha, a project in which artists from informal settlements created works responding to local health concerns, and the Dharavi Biennale, a large project involving a series of participatory workshops that led in 2015 to the Alley Galli Biennale, a festival of art and health seen by 10,000 people (www.dharavibiennale.com).

Title of Presentation:
Maternity, Participation and Action

DAY 1 | PANEL 1

UNNIMAYA KURUP

Senior Research Fellow, Sociology, IIT Madras

Unnimaya is a senior research fellow in sociology at IIT Madras where she is currently pursuing her PhD. Her doctoral dissertation inquiries into the changing modalities of birth amongst tribals in Attapadi in relation to the modernizing project of bio-medicalization, and the processes of ‘development, upliftment and progress’ targeted in particular to the adivasi population. This study draws from and aims to contribute to sociological and anthropological scholarship in medicine, reproduction, gender and development. Using critical ethnography, she seeks to understand how tribal women who are the ‘targets’ and ‘subjects’ of this modernizing project of medicalization, understand, experience and negotiate the shifting landscape of maternal and newborn healthcare and childbirth practices.

Title of Presentation:
Understanding the Birth Experiences of Adivasi Women in Attapady - State Benevolence or Human Rights Violation?

SOHINI CHATTOPADHYAY

Freelance Journalist

Sohini Chattopadhyay is a journalist, who enjoys long-form reportage, usually 3,000 words and above. She won the 2014 Ramnath Goenka award for feature writing and the 2014 International Red Cross and Press Institute of India prize for humanitarian reporting. She also won certificates for outstanding reporting at the national RedInk journalism prizes for 2015 and 2014.

She was a long-time writer and editor with OPEN magazine (www.openthemagazine.com) where she co-edited the culture section in one stint, and commissioned features for all sections of the magazine in another stint. She was awarded a Chevening journalism fellowship for 2015. Her writing has been commissioned by VOGUE (India) and has appeared in ELLE, FountainInk and Outlook Traveller magazines, the webzine Yahoo Originals, the web daily Scroll.in and leading national dailies such as The Times of India, The Telegraph and Business Standard.

She is also a keen cook and food anthropologist. In 2011, she won a fully-paid fellowship to work in a restaurant at Hamburg, Germany, and document her experiences on a blog. She is a perpetual graduate student at heart (for the record, she completed her graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh).

Title of Presentation:
Class, Misogyny and Malpractice at Childbirth

ASHA KILARU

Researcher, Bangalore Birth Network

Asha Kilaru has been a researcher and advocate of women’s and children’s health, with a focus in India. Her experience is diverse and ranges from community-based research to policy analysis and advocacy. Asha has associated with
organizations, networks, and grass-roots movements in their efforts for greater social justice and health. Her interests range from maternal and newborn health, adolescent health, quality of care, nutrition, and inclusion policies to universal access to health care. She has a strong commitment to work that reduces inequalities—in policies, between populations and communities, and between health care providers and services and the people they treat. She will be speaking on a deeper understanding of maternal risk in the Indian context.

**PUSHPALATHA M.**

**Co-Convenor, Bangalore District Chapter, Dalit Bahujan Movement**

Pushpalatha M. has 25 years experience in Dalit Rights and Land Rights activism. For the last eight years, she is working with the Dalit Bahujan Movement. DBM promotes the realization of the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan of the Karnataka State and seeks to secure the rights and Dalits and Tribals and end caste discrimination. Pushpa is the Co-Convenor of the Bangalore District chapter of DBM. She has worked in-depth organising women and girls on health and legal rights in self-help groups, which has informed her views and activism.

**Title of Presentation:**

*Women’s Risk Perceptions in Institutional Births*

**SARITA BARPANDA**

**Director, Reproductive Rights Unit, Human Rights Law Network**

Sarita Barpanda has been working in the development sector for last twenty five years, and has wide ranging experience in the field Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, HIV/AIDS, Public health Population Development, Gender justice, Human Rights at State, national and international level. She has worked in State Government of Orissa and Government of India in various capacities. She was Country Programme Adviser for Interact Worldwide 2005-12, an UK based organization that primarily focussed on Reproductive and Sexual Health across continents. She has represented Interact Worldwide in London in many international forums. Sarita is one among few development experts who combines a strong micro-research with macro Policy and programmes. She is passionate about her work and has provided technical support and knowledge to European Union, DFID, Government of India. She believes in an approach that makes optimal use of existing government institutions instead of creating many additional structures for effective results.

**Title of Presentation:**

*Addressing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity through Court Interventions*

**DAY 1 | PANEL 2**

**MANJU KAMACHARYA**

**Adolescent SRHealth Officer, UNFPA (Nepal)**

Graduate of European Public Health program. Before coming to Europe to study public health I received Bachelors’ Degree in Nursing, Master Degree in Sociology and Post-basic Diploma in Women’s studies in Nepal. I had over 17 years of work experiences in both clinical areas and public health, in national and international organizations, such as UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. I also worked as a professional nurse in the first Independent Midwifery Unit-Birthing Center in Nepal from 1995 to 1999. I was accepted to European Public Health program and I graduated with distinctions receiving double Master degree: Europubhealth Master degree in “Public Health” from Sheffield University United Kingdom and the second Master degree in “Health Economics and Governance of Health System” from Jagellonian University in Krakow.

I am currently working as Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health officer in United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Office for the adolescent and young people in Nepal. I am working closely with the Ministry of Health attempting to develop best strategies that would result in long-term improvement of reproductive health of women. Two aspects of my studies that were particularly important for my current work in Nepal were a practical placement in WHO in Warsaw and research that I have done when working on my master thesis entitled “A qualitative study on factors influencing the utilization of health facilities during child birth by women of disadvantaged community of Nallu village, Lalitpur, Nepal” that I wrote under supervision of Prof. Grazyna Jasienska from Jagellonian University, Poland and Prof. Paul Bissell.
from the University of Sheffield, UK.

**Title of Presentation:**
Factors Influencing the Utilization of Health Facilities for Childbirth in a Disadvantaged Community of Lalitpur, Nepal

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**SUSHMA SHENDE**
Program Director, Child Health and Nutrition, Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action

Sushma has a M.Sc, Anthropology, and 19 years of experience in handling health system research and development projects in tribal and urban areas. She has been working with SNEHA since 2002 and was previously the programme director for Maternal and Newborn Health where she has significantly contributed towards the process of building SNEHA’s partnership with Municipal Corporation of greater Mumbai for improvement in the quality of care for mothers and newborn health.

Before joining SNEHA she worked with two distinguished organizations, namely KEM research center and BAIF. Her expertise includes strengthening public health systems, developing public private partnerships and implementation research. She was also the mentor for maternal Health young champion programme supported by The Institute of International Education and the Maternal Health Task Force at Harvard School of Public Health.

**Title of Presentation:**
SNEHA’s Experience in Maternal Health

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**NALINI VISVANATHAN**
Independent Researcher, Author

Dr. Nalini Visvanathan is an independent researcher living in New York. Her work and advocacy focuses on the intersections of health and social justice in both the global and local context. She received her undergraduate degree from Madras University and later served for two years on the faculty of the National Small Industry Extension Training Institute in Hyderabad. In the United States, she taught international development and population studies, with particular emphasis on women’s health in the context of socio-economic development, at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, VT. She has also taught courses in US immigration history, Asian-American women and minority health disparities at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. In her work, Dr. Visvanathan has used community-based participatory research and evaluation processes -an approach to which she was introduced in the 1990’s during a sabbatical in India. She has a Master’s degree in applied communication research in the substantive area of social change. Her Doctorate in interdisciplinary communication focuses on health behaviors. She is a co-editor of the “Women, Gender and Development Reader”, an undergraduate textbook now in its second edition.

**Title of Presentation:**
Social Vulnerability and Maternity Care: Discrimination, Disrespect and Abuse

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**REGINA TAMÉS**
Director, The Information Group on Reproductive Choice (GIRE)

Regina Tamés, Mexican Lawyer with a Master’s Degree in International Law with a specialization in human rights from Washington-based American University, became GIRE’s Executive Director in April 2011. Before that, she worked at Planned Parenthood Federation of America as a Program Officer, in charge of political advocacy projects on sexual and reproductive rights in Central America. She also worked for six years as Coordinator of Institutional Strengthening at the Mexican Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, where she provided technical assistance on human rights and gender perspective for public policy. Regina has held positions at the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. She has taught undergraduate and masters-level law courses on human rights at the Universidad Iberoamericana as well as post-graduate courses in gender and law at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She is the current coordinator of the Red ALAS network (a network of Latin American academics focused on gender, sexuality and law) and is part of its Executive Committee. Regina is also part of the Civil Society Advisory Group for the Regional UN Women´s Office

**Title of Presentation:**
Access to Justice for Women that have suffered Obstetric Violence
DAY 1 | PANEL 3

EKA MAYA FEBRIANA
Practising Midwife, Founder of Mother Healthy House (Bogor, Indonesia)

Eka Maya Febriana was born in Pemalang, Central Java, February 11, 1989. She has been a member of IBI (Ikatan Bidan Indonesia, Indonesian Midwives Association) since 2010 and a mother of two daughters. Founder of Mother Healthy House in Bogor, Indonesia; Midwives support Natural Birth and Women Holistic Care in Indonesia; and also the founder of Mom’s Thinkers community (a community whose members are midwives and smart mothers, who wants to empower themselves to learn about pregnancy and childbirth. So they can achieve their desired childbirth). In 2015, she produced an Observational Documentary Film titled ‘All about My Pregnancy’. She is currently completing a book and a film about attempted vaginal birth taken from a variety of case studies.

Title of Presentation:
A Woman Fighting for her Rights in Childbirth

SUBARNA GHOSH
Academic, Activist, Board Member, Birth India

Subarna did her Sociology major from Presidency College, Kolkata before working as a journalist in various publications. Her stint as a feature writer for Mother and Baby magazine led her to become an empathetic listener of birth stories of mums across India. It also brought her in contact with the NGO Birth India. These encounters, along with her own childbirth experience, made her change course. Subarna revisited academics with a post graduation in Women’s Studies from Research Centre for Women’s Studies, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai and did her dissertation on women’s experiences of childbirth. An active member of Birth India, she intends to explore this topic further in her doctoral study.

Title of Presentation:
Women’s Experiences and the Politics of Being Unheard

VIJAYA KRISHNAN
Certified Professional Midwife
Co-founder and Director of Healthy Mother Sanctum (a Natural Birth Centre)

Vijaya Krishnan is a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), and the co-founder and Director of Healthy Mother Sanctum, Natural Birth Center, and the leading official Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE) in India. She is a graduate of the Midwifery Program from National College of Midwifery, USA. Vijaya also has a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy and Physical Therapy Education, and conducts wellness programs for mothers-to-be and new moms, building upon her specialization in body mechanics, fitness, and Women’s Health.

Vijaya has been inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Certified Childbirth Educators (FACCE) in recognition of the outstanding work she is doing to bring about positive, sustainable change in birth practices in India. She is also the Chapter Leader of ICAN (International Cesarean Awareness Network), and runs the Healthy Mother Breastfeeding Support Network in Hyderabad.

At her Natural Birth Center, The Sanctum, she has pioneered a unique Collaborative Model of Care – Women receive Independent Midwife Led Care, through pre-conception, pregnancy, labor, birth and postpartum, with back-up support and emergency infrastructure on site, in case of an emergency. Since 2009, her Birth Center has seen over 575 births, with even higher risk women giving birth naturally, with routine VBACs, VBA2C, twin births and breech births.

Title of Presentation:
Surviving Childbirth: Is That Enough?

LINA DUNCAN
Midwife, Co-Founder of Mumbai Midwife

Lina Duncan is a Scottish born, American trained midwife who has lived in Asia since 1998, India since 2007. She graduated from Vicky Penwell’s school of midwifery based in El Paso, Texas and completed four years working in slum clinics in midwife-run birthing clinics in Philippine urban slums. Lina’s passion for midwifery stems from a strong motivation for dignity and respect in perinatal care and MotherBaby friendly practices. She set up a Private Ltd company in India
in 2008 and works in collaboration with doctors as there was no midwife model of care, nor a system in which to register or work in autonomous midwifery. “Mumbai Midwife” pioneered a midwifery model of care in their city and the neighbouring cities of Pune and Nasik, offering current, recognized practices such as skin to skin, upright birth positions, optimal cord clamping, microbiome seeding and striving to bring MotherBaby friendly practices.

In 2015 Lina appeared on the BBC World News from Mumbai to discuss the disparities of care for the rich and the poor. Lina was a member of the faculty of the RCOG World Congress in Hyderabad 2014 and the AMOGS conference in 2015, Maharashtra. She has been published in magazines such as Midwifery Today, MIDIRS, The Practicing Midwife and local publications and newspapers.

**Title of Presentation:**
*The Disparities in Care: Women’s Stories and Solutions*

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**DAY 2 | PANEL 1**

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**PROFESSOR NEEL SHAH**

**Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology (Harvard University, Ariadne Labs)**

Dr. Neel Shah, MD, MPP is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School, and associate faculty at the Ariadne Labs for Health Systems Innovation. He is an expert in designing, testing, and spreading system interventions that improve the safety, affordability, and experience of patient care. As an obstetrician-gynecologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Dr. Shah cares for patients during critical life moments that range from surgery to primary care to childbirth.

Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Shah founded Costs of Care, a global NGO that curates insights from clinicians to help delivery systems provide better care at lower cost. He is listed among the “40 smartest people in health care” by the Becker’s Hospital Review, and has been profiled in the New York Times, the New England Journal of Medicine, and other outlets for his efforts to demonstrate how over-treatment can harm patients.

In 2015, Dr. Shah co-authored the book *Understanding Value-Based Healthcare* (McGraw-Hill), which Don Berwick has called “an instant classic” and Atul Gawande called “a masterful primer for all clinicians.” He is an advisor to Square Roots (a maternal health life sciences company), the Healthcare Financial Management Association, and the National Partnership for Women and Families.

**Title of Presentation:**
*System Complexity and the Cesarean Pandemic*

**JISHNU DAS**

**Lead Economist (Development Research Group, The World Bank)**

**Senior Visiting Fellow, The Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi**

Jishnu Das is a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group (Human Development and Public Services Team) at The World Bank and a Senior Visiting Fellow at The Center for Policy Research, New Delhi. Jishnu’s work focuses on the delivery of basic services, particularly health and education. He has worked on the quality of health care, mental health, information in health and education markets, child learning and test-scores and the determinants of trust. His work has been published in leading economics, health and education journals and widely covered in the media and policy forums. In 2011 he was part of the core team on the World Development Report on Gender and Development. He was the Flander’s Visiting Professor at McGill University in 2015, received the George Bereday Award from the Comparative and International Education Society, the Stockholm Challenge Award for the best ICT project in the public administration category in 2006, and the Research Academy award from the World Bank in 2013. He is currently working on long-term projects on health and education markets in Kenya (on patient safety), India (on Tuberculosis and primary health care) and Pakistan (on primary schooling).

**Title of Presentation:**
*Women in the Healthcare System: How the Evidence can Contribute to the Debate*
PROFESSOR LESLEY PAGE

President, Royal College of Midwives (UK)

Lesley Page is president of the Royal College of Midwives. She was the first professor of midwifery in the UK at Thames Valley University and Queen Charlotte’s Hospital. She is a renowned international academic, advocate and activist for midwives, mothers and babies with more than 32 years’ midwifery experience. Her accomplished career has encompassed clinical practice, management and leadership, academic and policy work. She has practised midwifery in the community, hospital and home birth settings.

She is also a Visiting Professor of Midwifery at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, King’s College London, Adjunct Professor University of Technology Sydney and Visiting Professor, University of Sydney. She has worked and lectured around the world. She was a member of the Expert Maternity Group that wrote Changing Childbirth, published in 1993, and was specialist adviser to the House of Commons Sub-committee responsible for investigating the state of maternity services in 2003 and adviser to the King’s Fund enquiry into the safety of the maternity services in England 2007-2008.

Lesley received the International Alumni Award University of Technology, Sydney in 2013 and was conferred with an Honorary DSc by University of West London in November 2013. In 2014 she was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).

Title of Presentation:
Midwives and Midwifery - A Critical Link for Human Rights Based Maternity Care.

DR ARMIDA FERNANDEZ

Neonatologist
Medical Director, Holy Family Hospital (Bandra)

Dr Armida Fernandez is a neonatologist and has spent over three decades working at the LTMG Hospital and College, Sion, Mumbai as Professor of Neonatology and later as the Dean of the institution. Her interests have been developing low cost technologies for neonates in developing countries and the promotion of breastfeeding. She set up the first Human Milk Bank in the country in 1989. After retirement from the medical college she has started an NGO (SNEHA) ‘Society for Nutrition, Education and Health Action’ that works on projects of health, nutrition and violence in women and children across the slums of Mumbai and neighbouring cities. At present she is also the Medical Director of Holy Family Hospital in Bandra.

She has received several awards for contribution to Healthcare in the country and is an Ashoka Fellow.

Title of Presentation:
Saving Lives in Low Resource Settings

MAHA AL-MUSA

Birth Activist (EmbodyBirth) and International speaker

Maha Al Musa is a leading light in the birth world as a spiritual birth visionary and birth activist. She has 20 years experience working with pregnant and birthing women and is the creator and founder of EmbodyBirthTM – BellydanceBirth® – The Al Musa Method® also described as Mindful Movement To Awaken Birth Wisdom since 1997. Maha was the winner of the 2011 One World National Birth Hero Award, breastfeeding advocate, doula, mother of three and birth consultant for both pregnant women and birth professionals. She offers her inspiring somatic Teacher Training worldwide that honours the language of the feminine. Maha is also an internationalspeaker and passionate about Human Rights in Childbirth. She has presented at numerous birth conferences, events and seminars within Australia and internationally.

In her breastfeeding advocacy Maha has graced the cover of two Australian magazines Woman’s Day Nov 2012 and Take 5 Magazine January 2014 as well as appearing on Sunrise TV Australia, A Current Affair, Mornings Show Australia. She has been interviewed by many online and published magazines as well as appearing in three documentaries in 2015, including Discovery Channel, RTL German TV and Inside Story Australia. She is the author of the award winning world first book “Dance Of The Womb”, endorsed by Dr Michel Odent, Sheila Kitzinger and Dr Sarah Buckley. She is the producer of the DVD “Dance Of The Womb”, endorsed by NACE (Australia) and the Australian Doula College.

Title of Presentation:
Healthy Birth Is A Fundamental Human Right
AMELIA CHRISTMAS
Senior Obstetric and Neonatal Simulation Specialist, PRONTO International

Amelia Christmas has a Masters in Pediatric nursing. Currently she works with PRONTO International as an Obstetric and Neonatal Simulation Specialist in Bihar, India. In Partnership with CARE India, PRONTO has integrated simulation and team training into a large scale nurse mentoring program. In the past, she has been involved in training midwives in the public health facilities in Bihar and now in the implementation of the integrated mentoring program in Bihar.

Title of Presentation:
“Bringing Respectful Maternity Care to Emergency Situations: Reflections from Bihar, India”

PROFESSOR SARASWATHI VEDAM
Professor of Midwifery, University of British Columbia (Canada)

Professor Saraswathi Vedam is Lead Investigator of the Birth Place Lab, at University of British Columbia. She has also been a clinician and educator for over 30 years. Her scholarly work includes the CIHR-funded Canadian Birth Place Study examining attitudes to home birth among maternity care providers; and Changing Childbirth in BC, a provincial, community-based participatory study of women’s preferences for maternity care. She leads the US Birth Place Mapping Study on integration of midwives, and the Giving Voice to Mothers Study that explores maternity experiences among women of color, and those who plan home births. To apply her findings to pragmatic tools that improve quality and safety, she developed MAPi, the Movement and Pulse index for assessment of fetal well-being, and the quality measures: the Mothers’ Autonomy in Decision Making (MADM) scale and the Mothers on Respect (MORi) index.

Professor Vedam has been active in setting international policy on place of birth, midwifery education and regulation. She convened 3 national Home Birth Summits, and chaired the 5th International Normal Labour and Birth Research conference in Vancouver.

Title of Presentation:
Undisturbed Birth: Addressing Quality and Safety in India

DAY 2 | PANEL 3

DR EVITA FERNANDEZ
Managing Director and Senior Consultant Obstetrician, Fernandez Hospitals (Hyderabad)

Dr. Evita Fernandez (FRCOG) is the Managing Director and Senior Consultant Obstetrician at Fernandez Hospital, Hyderabad. She strongly believes in the need to empower women to make choices, especially with regard to issues surrounding birth. Out of her conviction of the vital role and need of Professional midwives in India, Dr. Evita launched a two-year Professional Midwives Education and Training (PMET) Programme at the hospital in 2011. She is spearheading PROMISE – the Professional Midwifery Services campaign, committed to creating a national cadre of professional midwives, who are vital in the care of low-risk pregnant women.

INDERJEET KAUR
Consultant Midwife, Bart’s Health NHS Trust, Fernandez Hospital

Indie works at Bart’s Health NHS Trust in the Royal London hospital which is Britain’s largest NHS Trust in the U.K and Europe. She is a highly qualified and experienced consultant midwife with a strong academic and professional background in clinical leadership and strategic change management. She is a member of the East London Saving Lives (ELLY) team and will be based with the Fernandez Hospital in Hyderabad for a year working with training professional midwives and helping reduce the maternal mortality gap in India and promoting dignified humanised care in the government hospitals in India. She is passionate about reducing health inequalities with the vulnerable
women and has successfully launched, in partnership with My Body Back Project, the world's first maternity clinic in the Royal London Hospital to support women who have experienced sexual violence. She has also previously successfully developed a seamless pathway of care for women with complex social needs in a deprived East London area reducing inequality of health care and ensuring access especially to refugee and migrant groups. This initiative won an award in the BJM awards. She has presented her work both nationally and internationally in the RCOG, RCM and ICM. She is a co-author “Timing of the initiation of antenatal care: an exploratory qualitative study of women and service providers in East London”. Contributed to “A systematic review of the evidence on effective and equitable service user involvement in the planning, monitoring and improving of maternity services”. She contributed as team leader of the ELLY team providing Maternal Obstetric Midwifery Obstetric training in India. She has contributed her work in India which will be published in September 16 in MIDDIRS.

Title of Presentation:
Professional Midwifery - An Urgent Need for India

DR ARUN GADRE
OB/Gyn, Director, Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHICEHAT)

Dr. Arun Gadre started his career as a private gynecologist and ran a small hospital in a drought affected rural area of Maharashtra for 20 years. He later worked on HIV reduction at the state level at Path Finder International, until becoming the Coordinator of SATHI. He is actively involved in building a national network of doctors for decommercialized, ethical, and rational universal health care in India.

Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHI) is an action center of Anusandhan Trust, focusing on health care rights, public health sector accountability, and private medical sector regulation. SATHI has emerged as a national institution for training, capacity building, advocacy, and action research on a wide range of health care rights issues.

Title of Presentation:
Evidence from the Private Healthcare Sector in India

DR RINKU SENGUPTA
Attending Consultant, OB/Gyn, Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research

Dr. Sengupta is an Attending Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist heading the maternity care team at Sitaram Bhartia where she has played a leading role in helping reduce caesarean section rates. She received her MD from University College of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi & GTB Hospital. Her research specializations are gynae oncology, high risk pregnancy and gynecological laparoscopy. She has published extensively on topics including non-adherence to evidence based maternity care guidelines; quality of care, maternal attitude and physician practices across socio-economic spectrums; and the direct cost of maternity-care services in South Delhi. She was the co-investigator for the ICMR project entitled “Current status of maternal postnatal quality of life in recently delivered women of Delhi” and she is presently the co-investigator for ICMR project entitled “A prospective cohort study to evaluate the utility of antenatal doppler velocimetry in prediction of fetal malnutrition, neonatal morbidity, mortality and neurodevelopmental outcome.”

Title of Presentation:
Transforming Maternity Care ... Our Journey
DAY 3 | PLENARY PANEL

SCALE AND SCOPE OF CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MIDWIVES TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILDBIRTH

This joint WHO-ICM-WRA panel brings to focus the centrality of midwives to human rights in childbirth. The panel will open with references to the latest evidence on midwifery care from the Lancet Midwifery Series 2014. Three key messages on human rights, overcoming barriers and the importance of midwives voices in policy and decision making will be presented through a short WRA film, followed by a midwife speaking about her experiences. WHO will share the highlights of a global report “Midwives Voices, Midwives Realities” documenting the findings from listening to the voices of 2,470 midwives in 93 countries; ICM will describe the extraordinary capacity they have to reach and support midwives all over the globe, and the WRA will present the result – the new Global Midwifery Advocacy Strategy. A midwife describing her experiences will lead us to open discussion, and the session will come to an end with an update from UNFPA and Jhpiego on how all partners, together, are building the leadership capacity of Young Midwifery Leaders to ensure a better future for midwives, and thereby the human rights of all women and newborns in childbirth.

FRANCES MCCONVILLE

Midwifery Adviser in the Department for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO

Fran McConville is the Midwifery Adviser in the Department for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health at the WHO, and is engaged in improving quality midwifery care for women, newborns and their families. Prior to WHO, Fran was a Health Adviser to the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID). This included leading on MNH policy at HQ, as well as being the Health Adviser in Bangladesh and then the joint Sida-DFID Health Adviser to Somalia (based in Kenya). This built on development and humanitarian relief experience with UNICEF, IFRC, and a range of NGOs through living and working in Malawi, India, Burma, Bangladesh and Iraq. Fran initially gained experience as a VSO midwife in Bangladesh, and also through field work in Africa, Asia and the Middle East while being a lecturer on Maternal Health for the MPH, as well as the Gender and Reproductive Health course, at the University of Wales (Cardiff and Swansea). Fran has an MSc (Economics), a BSc (Life Sciences) and is a State Registered (UK) midwife and nurse. Throughout this time, Fran’s focus has been on addressing how women, newborns and their families can access quality midwifery care that strengthens women’s own capabilities, prevents unnecessary interventions and ensures timely referral to emergency obstetric and newborn care if needed.

FRANCES DAY-STIRK

President, International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)

Frances Day-Stirk is President of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), having been re-elected in 2011 and 2014 for a second and final term. She provides leadership of the organisation and, together with the members of the ICM board, is responsible for the organisation’s governance, development, viability and achieving its mission.

A former director and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Midwives (UK), her European global roles and experiences include: Vice-chair, European Forum of Nursing and Midwifery Associations and WHO Steering committee; Executive Committee Member, Global Network of Collaborating Centres (WHO); European Midwives Association. She is a current Board Member of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (WHO), and the London based THET (Tropical Health and Education Trust).

Jamaican-born Frances received her professional midwifery education and qualifications in the United Kingdom having initially trained as a nurse. Her 30 years of midwifery experience spans clinical practice, education, maternity service management and global midwifery. Her professional interests include organisation of maternity services, women’s choice in place of birth, homebirth, promoting normality, and global maternal and newborn health care. On a personal note she has three children, who were all born at home, and two grandchildren.
LEILA VARKEY
WRA India

Leila Caleb Varkey, BSc Nursing, ScD. leads the National Advocacy in Quality of Care in Maternal Health with the White Ribbon Alliance India. She is Senior Advisor RCH Centre for Catalyzing Change. She was a member of the High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage India 2010-11, and has over 20 years of Research and evaluation experience in Reproductive Health. Leila trained at Rajkumari Amrit Kaur College of Nursing in Delhi and worked as a Public Health Nurse before entering a full time Doctoral programme in Maternal and Child Health at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She is part of the Jeeva Shepherds documenting the work of Traditional Birth Attendants, Dais and is currently Jt-Secretary of the Society of Midwives-India, Delhi Chapter.

RONDI ANDERSON
Midwifery Specialist, UNFPA (Bangladesh)

Rondi Anderson is a Midwifery Specialist with UNFPA in Bangladesh, her focus is on strengthening government maternal health systems through the use of recently introduced professional midwives. Her work aims to increase the quality of both routine and emergency care for women’s reproductive health needs with in urban, rural, and humanitarian settings, including refugee populations. Prior to UNFPA, Rondi was a midwifery mentor in Rwanda with New York University focusing on midwifery education, particularly a BSc bridging program. Her work included supporting classroom, simulation and clinical education, as well as introducing staff led continuing education, and implementation of evidenced routine care in two teaching hospitals. Prior to Rwanda she worked in Somalia, Sierra Leone and India supporting maternal health programs. Rondi also has many years of clinical experience in home, birth center, and hospital practice in the USA. Rondi has an MS (Midwifery), a BSc (Nursing) and is currently a PHD in Public Health student. Rondi is a Certified Nurse Midwife and a registered Nurse in the USA. Rondi’s career has emphasized the potential of pregnancy and birth to empower women, whether it be ensuring rights, respect and safety, or providing the needed enabling environment and guidance to help woman find their own instinctual path through the transition to motherhood.

BIJALI SINH
Program Officer, Jhpiego India

I am a Nurse- Midwife and working as Program Officer at Jhpiego India in Maternal and Newborn Health. After Completing of B.Sc. Nursing from Regional College of Nursing Guwahati, Assam I had worked as Nursing Tutor for 4 years. My area of interest is Maternal and Newborn Health. I had joined Jhpiego and worked in strengthening Pre service education at Bihar India as a Nurse- Midwife Education Officer after completion of M.Sc. in Pediatrics Nursing from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences. Since 2013 I am working in strengthening quality care in labour room focused on intra and immediate post-partum care in Maharashtra. I had presented “Adherence to essential practices following strategic skills building and on site structured mentoring in labour rooms Maharashtra, India” at Global Maternal and Newborn Health conference, Mexico in October 2015. My core activity focused on mentoring Midwives and health care providers in intra and post-partum care and supporting state and district level trainings in Dakshata Initiative, Maharashtra, India.
In 2012, the Center for Reproductive Rights launched the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI), which builds on years of work undertaken since 2005 in partnership with lawyers in India and Nepal, to develop and undertake legal advocacy strategies secure and promote respect for women’s reproductive rights. The Center held its first regional legal advocacy workshop that year with a diverse group of lawyers and legal experts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, which resulted in the creation of the SARJAI network. Since its founding, SARJAI network members have conducted critical work documenting violations of women’s reproductive rights; engaging with government officials to build understanding of gaps and weaknesses in reproductive health laws and policies, and filing ground-breaking cases in three countries on maternal health, safe abortion, and contraceptive information and services. The panel will be moderated by Payal Shah of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

PAYAL SHAH
Senior Legal Adviser (South Asia), Centre for Reproductive Rights

Payal Shah is the Senior Legal Adviser for Asia at the Center for Reproductive Rights. Her work includes litigation and advocacy in India, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines around issues of abortion, maternal mortality and morbidity, and access to contraception information and services. She plays a leading role in the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative that aims to develop further litigation and build legal capacity on reproductive rights throughout the region. She co-authored Forsaken Lives: The Harmful Impact of the Philippine Criminal Abortion Ban and was a key contributor to Maternal Mortality in India: Using Constitutional and International Law to Promote Accountability and Reform before co-authoring its update in 2011. More recently, Payal authored Child Marriage in South Asia: International and Constitutional Legal Standards for Promoting Accountability and Change as well as Child Marriage and Personal Laws in South Asia: International Standards Requiring Governments to End Human Rights Abuses Based on Religious Norms.

ANUBHA RASTOGI
Independent Legal Practitioner & Ethics Consultant

Anubha Rastogi is an independent Legal Practitioner and Ethics Consultant. Over her 13 years working to provide survivors of human rights violations access to justice, she has focused on women’s rights, representing individuals, organizations, alliances and movements before the High Courts and the Apex Court in India. She led the team representing the Dalit victims in the Mirchpur Trial before the Delhi Court of Sessions. Recently, she served as Deputy Director: Legal Casework of Justice & Care, an international Anti-Human Trafficking Organization.

Her research topics have included a legal audit of the state response 7 specific post partition communal massacres in India, reproductive rights and the law in India, and human trafficking and the repatriation of trafficking survivors. She contributed the shaping of the Trafficking of Persons Bill, 2016 and the rules to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2013. She set up an accountability system through the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct, and the Whistleblower Policy.

As an elected steering committee member of the National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHHR), she has made submissions to the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on topics including Child, Early and Forces Marriages in India. She is also a member of the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARAJ) of the Center for Reproductive Rights, advocating towards SRHR issues in the region.
SARA MALKANI

Advocate of High Courts, Pakistan

Sara Malkani is a lawyer practicing in Karachi, Pakistan at the law firm of Kabraji & Talibuddin. She is an Advocate of the High Courts of Pakistan and her practice focuses on constitutional and civil litigation. Sara is a member of the South Asia Reproductive Justice and Accountability Initiative (SARJAI) and recently filed a public interest litigation in Sindh High Court on behalf of maternal health activists to enforce the right of women to a safe and healthy pregnancy and childbirth. She is a co-chair of the board of Shirkat Gah, one of Pakistan’s largest women’s rights NGOs and frequently contributes articles to Dawn on topics pertaining to gender and health. Prior to commencing practice in Karachi, Sara was a labour lawyer in California representing teacher and port worker unions. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School and her undergraduate degree from Princeton University.

PURNA SHRESTHA

Senior Legal Adviser (Asia), Centre for Reproductive Rights

Purna joined the Center in 2013 and will be based in the Nepal office. Her work at the Center includes supporting Asia program work on advocacy and litigation around sexual and reproductive rights issues including abortion and access to contraception information and services.

Purna comes to the Center from UN Women, where she was a program officer working on ending violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Prior to that, she was involved in the constitutional law reform process in Nepal in her capacity as a legal officer with the Support to the Participatory Constitution Building Process in Nepal, a project of the United Nations Development Program. She has also worked as a program officer with the Forum for Women, Law and Development. Purna has been involved in numerous studies on women’s issues such as implementation of the CEDAW Convention, violence against women, abortion, affirmative actions, and HIV and AIDS.

SABIN SHRESTHA

Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal and Executive Director of Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)

Mr Sabin Shrestha is an Advocate and Executive Director of Forum for Women, Law & Development (FWLD). During his career he has been deeply involved working in the field of law reformation and policy development primarily on matters relating to discrimination against women and marginalized groups. He has accrued extensive experience in leading legal projects.

He is also known in advocating for reproductive health right among other issues of national concern. Mr. Shrestha was active in advocating to recognize women’s reproductive health right as the fundamental right in Nepal’s newly promulgated constitution. Mr Shrestha also works in the promotion and protection of economic and social rights in Nepal. Along with years of experience in public interest litigation on various human rights issues including different dimensions of sexual and reproductive health right. Currently Mr. Shrestha is supporting to prepare reproductive health right bill to the government of Nepal.
DR ARUNA UPRETY

Director, Rural Health and Education Services Trust (Nepal)

For the past 29 years, Dr. Aruna Uprety has been working in her native Nepal, specializing in women’s reproductive and maternal health. A well known women’s rights activist she is currently the Director of the Rural Health and Education Services Trust (RHEST), an NGO focusing on the health and human rights of rural women, in particular girls and young women at risk of being trafficked into domestic or sexual servitude in India and the Arabian Peninsular. RHEST is largely funded by the Californian based NGO, the American Himalayan Foundation.

Dr. Uprety is also a recognized as a national expert in community health and has assisted with the rebuilding of health infrastructure in Bam following the 2003 earthquake, in Northern Sri Lanka during the cease-fire of 2004, in Afghanistan, Iran, India, Laos, Sudan, and in Sichuan Province, China.

Title of Presentation: Cultural Violence and its Effects on Maternal Health

DR. M S KAMATH

M.B., B.S., LL.M., Medico-legal Consultant (Mumbai)

Dr. M.S. Kamath completed his M.B.B.S and LL.M in Consumer Laws at the University of Mumbai. Widely known as a Consumer Activist, he has represented patients and doctors in Consumer Courts in their fight against the medical profession in medical negligence cases. He has been appointed amicus curiae by the courts on several occasions. Dr. Kamath appears on a TV show every week to address Consumer Grievances.

Dr. Kamath teaches law at the University of Mumbai and is a Medico-legal consultant to several hospitals in Mumbai. He was formerly Chairman, Medical Committee of the Consumer Guidance Society of India and is presently the Honorary Secretary of the said Organization. He also teaches law to students of Hospital Management at the All India Institute of Local Self Government and was selected by the National Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission to train District Forum Judges on disposal of Medico-legal matters. He is a visiting Faculty Member to K.E.M. Hospital & Seth G.S. Medical College and J.J. Group of Hospitals & Grant Medical College on ‘Law & Ethics in Medical Practice’.

Title of Presentation: Consumer Courts & Birth Rights

PROFESSOR HANNAH DAHLEN

Professor of Midwifery, University of Western Sydney
Director, Higher Degree Research, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Professor Dahlen is a leading midwifery researcher in Australia, with an international reputation as an outstanding midwifery scholar. Hannah is Professor of Midwifery at Western Sydney University and Director of Higher Degree Research in the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Hannah has published over 120 papers and book chapters, presented at over 100 conferences, with more than half being invited keynote addresses. Hannah has a high profile in the media and is sourced as an expert on birth regularly. She has been filmed as part of three documentary films during her career: Microbirth, Face of Birth and Hannah’s Story.

Prior to working in the university sector (1990-2007) Hannah had a mainly clinical role working as clinical midwife specialist, clinical midwifery educator and a midwifery consultant. Hannah remains in clinical practice working in a continuity of care group practice and she was one of the first midwives to gain Eligibility in Australia and has a Medicare provider number and prescribing rights.

Title of Presentation: #ENOUGH!