

Report to SRIP on meeting of the International Early Labour Research Group

Grange-over-Sands, UK 12th June 2011

Background

The International Early Labour Research Group is an international group of researchers who have carried out or are actively planning research related to early labour and who value the contribution of different methodological and disciplinary perspectives. We welcome other researchers who meet these criteria. Our aims are:

- To collaborate internationally to advance the study of early labour care to optimise wellbeing and outcomes for women
- To raise the profile of early labour care issues

The group was convened following the Early Labour Conference and Study Day held at the University of York in September 2008. Two face-to-face meetings were held subsequently; in the UK in 2009 and in Canada in 2010. This third face-to-face meeting was arranged to precede the 2011 Normal Birth Research Conference and was organized by Helen Spiby and Professor Josephine Green, Department of Health Sciences, University of York. The meeting was supported by a SRIP development grant and participants' own institutions.

Agenda

The agenda included:

- Presentations of completed and planned work by new group members. This encompassed a range of methodologies including a randomised controlled trial, action research, analysis of cohort data and qualitative interview studies. The meeting offered an opportunity for discussion of and constructive challenges to planned and completed work in a supportive environment.
- Identification of synergies amongst issues related to the provision of care for women in early labour, across different countries and systems.
- Discussion of methodological issues in early labour research.
- Identification of one research topic that will be progressed to an international, multicentre study by members of the group and discussion of potential funding sources. Stages to developing the proposal e.g. by consensus conference and potential additional collaborators were discussed and experiences of previous applications for European funding were described.
- Review of the group's criteria for membership and aims, and activities in pursuit of those aims.
- Work towards increasing publications in the field by discussion of the Early Labour series in *Midwifery* (to be edited by Helen Spiby and Helen Cheyne) and identifying potential topics for submission.

- Information about and encouragement to join SRIP was provided by Jo Green. Participants supported the presentation of a poster about the group at the forthcoming SRIP conference in Nottingham.

The nine participants represented seven different countries (please see below for list of participants) and included both experienced researchers who had secured peer-reviewed funding and early career researchers; the latter appear to have particularly benefitted from presenting and discussing their research in this forum.

More information related to the work of this international group will be presented as a poster at the 2011 SRIP annual conference in Nottingham.

Helen Spiby and Josephine M Green, Mother & Infant Research Unit, University of York, 25th July 2011

Participants

Surname	First name	Country
Allgeier	Christine	Germany
Cheyne	Helen	Scotland
Davey	Mary-Ann	Australia
Eri	Tine	Norway
*Green	Josephine	England
Gross	Mechthild	Germany
**Janssen	Patti	Canada
Nyman	Viola	Sweden
*Spiby	Helen	England

* = SRIP member

** By teleconference