

MMRC Speaker Series Schedule 2024 - 2025

Last Wednesday
of Each Month
1230-130pm EST

<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/92688226737>

The McMaster Midwifery Research Centre is hosting a series of speakers in 2024-2025 open to MMRC fellows, researchers, midwifery undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, community midwives, medical residents, and anyone interested in midwifery research.

Please join us using the same Zoom link to watch the latest research in progress. The schedule, topics, presenters, and their bios are listed below.



Wed., Oct. 30, 2024	Experiences Of Midwifery-Led Abortion Through Ontario's Expanded Midwifery Care Models	Rebecca Hautala
Wed., Nov. 27, 2024	Postpartum Emergency Department Use Following Midwifery Vs. Obstetrical Prenatal Care: A Population-Based Cohort Study Using Propensity Score-Based Overlap Weights	Carla Sorbara
Wed., Jan. 29, 2025	Midwife Mondays at the Non-Insured Walk-In Clinic: Demographics and Trajectories of Care for Medically Uninsured Pregnant People at a Toronto Clinic Over a 10-year period	Manavi Handa
Wed., Feb. 26, 2025	Parenting Behind Bars: Maternal-Child (Connection and) Separation in BC's Correctional Facilities Designated for Women	Allison Campbell
Wed., Mar. 26, 2025	Perinatal Mental Health Needs Assessment: A partnership between the Eastern York Region and North Durham Ontario Health Team, Oak Valley Health and the MMRC	Abigail Corbin
Wed., Apr. 30, 2025	Investigating Routine Oxytocin Prophylaxis for Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage Following Physiologic Labour and Birth	Vanessa Hébert
Wed., Jun. 25, 2025	Examining Evacuation for Birth Policy in Ontario, Canada, and the Influence of Health Systems' Cultures on the Provision of Perinatal Care for First Nations Peoples Relocated Outside Their Community for Birth	Erika Campbell

Social media: [@macmidwifery](#)
 More Info: mmrc@mcmaster.ca
 Web: <https://mmrc.mcmaster.ca/>
 Watch all videos: <https://mmrc.mcmaster.ca/event/rounds/>



Midwifery
Research Centre





MMRC Research Speaker Series 2024-2025

Wed., Oct. 30, 2024, 1230-1330h EST

Experiences Of Midwifery-Led Abortion Through Ontario's Expanded Midwifery Care Models (EMCMs)

Rebecca Hautala, RM, BA, BHSc, MSc

Rebecca Hautala (she/her) works as a registered midwife in Thunder Bay, Ontario, practicing in the Expanded Midwifery CARE program with the Norwest Community Health Centre. With the support of her thesis committee and EMCM colleagues, Rebecca graduated from the first class of the McMaster Midwifery Graduate Program in May 2024. In addition, Rebecca is a researcher and research coordinator with the McMaster University Research Centre with interests that include midwifery integration, expanded midwifery care models, and reproductive rights and justice. Contact: hautalar@mcmaster.ca.



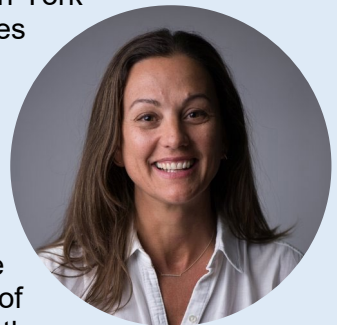
This presentation will explore and describe experiences of midwifery-led medication abortion within three expanded midwifery care programs across Ontario. The role of evidence-based midwifery-led models of comprehensive abortion care will be highlighted.

Wed., Nov. 27, 2024, 1230-1330h EST

Postpartum Emergency Department Use Following Midwifery Vs. Obstetrical Prenatal Care: A Population-Based Cohort Study Using Propensity Score-Based Overlap Weights

Carla Sorbara, RM, BA, BHSc, MSc (Public Policy), MSc (Clinical Epidemiology)

Carla Sorbara has worked as a registered midwife since 2006 at North York General Hospital and is currently a full-time midwife at Uptown Midwives and Family Wellness. She has worked with BORN, PCMCH and OMAMA on several quality initiatives.



Emergency Department (ED) use postpartum is a common, and often-preventable, event. The current study helps to resolve an important clinical question: Can postpartum ED use be reduced in low-risk women? Our findings provide important insights into the care of the postpartum woman, both in terms of the coordination and provision of clinical care, and in terms of public health policy for new mothers.

Comparisons of women in midwifery vs conventional obstetrical care have been challenging due to unmeasured confounders. We used a propensity-score based overlap weights study design to compare ED use in an unbiased fashion, and observed differences in rates of ED use between midwife and obstetrical populations. The findings help to resolve known gaps in early postpartum care typically seen in women who receive obstetrical care, suggesting that a midwifery approach of early postpartum can alleviate some ED visits.

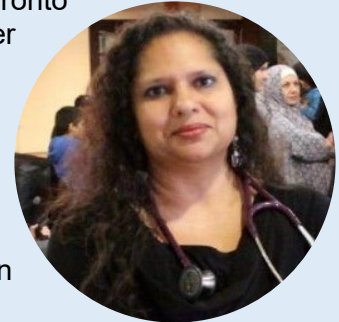


Wed., Jan. 29, 2025, 1230-1330h EST

Midwife Mondays at the Non-Insured Walk-In Clinic: Demographics and Trajectories of Care for Medically Uninsured Pregnant People at a Toronto Clinic Over a 10 Year Period

Manavi Handa, RM, MHSc, BHSc, BSc

Manavi Handa is a Registered Midwife and Associate Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University. For more than two decades, she has focused her clinical practice, research, and advocacy on equity in healthcare, especially documented and undocumented refugees. Her research was used as the foundation for a fulsome provincial funding for undocumented/uninsured people in Ontario midwifery care, and her work has been recognized through the Urban Alliance for Race Relations Award, The Lewirokwas Cape Award for Midwifery Heros, the Planned Parenthood Reproductive Choice Award, and the Association of Ontario Midwives' Excellence in Midwifery Research Award.



This presentation will review the demographics, health issues, and trajectories of care for medically uninsured pregnant people accessing the Non-Insured Walk-In Clinic (NIWIC). This NIWIC was set up in 2012 to serve the growing needs of uninsured/undocumented immigrants in the west end of Toronto, integrating midwifery services for prenatal assessments and community referrals for walk-in clients. This study looks at 1000 patients seen by midwives over a 10-year period filling an important research gap looking at the needs of this highly marginalized population.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 1230-1330h EST

Parenting Behind Bars: Maternal-Child (Connection and) Separation in BC's Correctional Facilities Designated for Women

Allison Campbell, RM, MA

Allison Campbell, MA, RM (she/her) is a Registered Midwife and Associate Professor of Teaching in the Midwifery Program (Midwifery Undergraduate Program Lead) at the University of British Columbia. She is currently completing PhD studies in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice (aka the Social Justice Institute) at UBC. Combining her professional and political interests: social justice in perinatal health care and incarceration practices in Canada, and informed by many years learning, practicing and teaching midwifery, her PhD work focuses on perinatal experiences and reproductive justice in prisons in BC, specifically with regards to parenting behind bars. Allison has received funding from SSHRC and the UBC Public Scholars' Initiative for her research, and is a 2023-24 recipient of a Killam Teaching Prize.



This presentation will discuss a proposed research project regarding the historical and current use of the Mother-Child Program in prisons designated for women in BC. The use of Mother-Child Programs or other alternatives will be discussed using the intersecting frameworks of reproductive justice and prison abolition.

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 1230-1330h EST

Perinatal Mental Health Needs Assessment: A Partnership Between the Eastern York Region and North Durham Ontario Health Team, Oak Valley Health and the McMaster Midwifery Research Centre

Abigail Corbin, RM, MHM (she/her)

Abigail Corbin is the Patient Care Manager of Canada's first Alongside Midwifery Unit and the Diabetes Programs at Oak Valley Health, Markham. An experienced midwife with academic and research involvement, Abigail is an Instructor in both the undergraduate and graduate Midwifery programs at McMaster University, and a Adjunct Scientist in the McMaster Midwifery Research Centre. Profoundly committed to collaborative innovation, Abigail is an engaged leader who is invested in mentoring and building communities of practice.



Driven by a passion to develop midwifery leadership, Abigail is currently conducting groundbreaking research on the roles, barriers and enablers midwifery leaders experience.

Wed., Apr. 30, 2025, 1230-1330h EST

Investigating Routine Oxytocin Prophylaxis for Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage Following Physiologic Labour and Birth

Vanessa Hébert, RM, MA, PhD candidate (she/her)

Vanessa Hébert is a registered midwife and PhD candidate in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University. Her research focuses on physiologic birth, with her doctoral work specifically examining whether physiologic birth modifies the effect of oxytocin prophylaxis on postpartum hemorrhage outcomes.



The central question of her thesis is: Does oxytocin prophylaxis in the third stage of labour, compared to physiologic management, reduce the risk of postpartum hemorrhage when labour and birth have been physiologic?



Wed., Jun. 25, 2025, 1230-1330h EST

Examining Evacuation for Birth Policy in Ontario, Canada, and the Influence of Health Systems' Cultures on the Provision of Perinatal Care for First Nations Peoples Relocated Outside Their Community for Birth

Erika Campbell, PhD

Erika Campbell (she/her) is a white settler researcher located in Hamilton, Ontario on the territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement. Erika holds a BScH in Life Science and MA in Gender Studies from Queen's University, and a PhD in Global Health from McMaster University. Erika is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Calgary in Community Health. In this lecture she will share her doctoral research. Erika looks at her research as a tool to bring attention to ongoing processes of colonization within Canada and advocate for structural change within health systems to ensure the provision of anti-oppressive, anti-colonial, anti-racist, and culturally safe care.



Pregnant First Nations peoples who live in remote communities in Ontario are subjected to a federal policy that transports them to birth in a hospital. My research examined the referral patterns involved in evacuating First Nations peoples to hospitals, as well I described perinatal care culture and its influence on the provision of care to evacuees for birth. I collected documentary data from the federal government, as well as interview and survey data from perinatal care providers. Based on the data, I describe structures of oppression within perinatal care culture, as well as anti-oppressive practices implemented by care providers, health organizations, and systems, which support the return of birth back to First Nations communities. I conclude by recommending practices and policy changes with health systems to redress structural oppression by uplifting Indigenous midwifery and creating anti-oppressive perinatal care cultures across Turtle Island.