

Annual report 2017

Working Party on International Safe Motherhood & Reproductive Health

Introduction

In 2017 we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Working Party!

In 1987 the Dutch Consultancy for Maternal and Child Health, including Family Planning, was founded. The founding letter of the Consultancy talks about the following activities to be undertaken: consultancies and field visits, education of professionals getting prepared for work in low-income countries, policy evaluation, sharing articles and improving learning materials for education in MCH and FP.

The former Consultancy is now called the Working Party on International Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health and is a committee of both, the Netherlands Society for Tropical Medicine and International Health (NVTG), and the Dutch Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology (NVOG). We now have more than 150 members. The activities that are undertaken under the umbrella of the Working Party can be grouped into four pillars: education, patient care, research and advocacy. We meet at least 4 times a year and contribute too many symposia and congresses nationally and internationally.

In order to further improve maternal and neonatal health timely access to quality (maternal and neonatal) health care, including family planning services, are needed. Members of the Working Party are active in many different ways, in many different countries to contribute to reaching the goal of Safe Motherhood.

We celebrated our birthday with a symposium. In the morning session we paid attention to the collaboration of the Working Party with partners in Gondar area in Northern Ethiopia: Gondar University Hospital, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and World Vision Ethiopia.

In the afternoon session 4 PhD-candidates (3 of them defended their theses on 4/12/17) presented their studies, which are all focused on improving access and quality of maternal and neonatal health services.

After this very interesting symposium which was very well visited, celebrations continued with dining and dancing....

Women deserve a healthy pregnancy and parents deserve a healthy baby!

Goal

The working party aims to improve maternal and women's health in low income countries by starting twinning projects with local organisations and people. These projects lead to improved knowledge and skills of local and Dutch Healthcare workers. Scientific research is supported by improving networks and providing scientific knowledge and experience. This has led to a number of dissertations which you can find [here](#).

The working party contributes actively to the training of residents International Healthcare and Tropical Medicine. In addition, the working party aims to improve the awareness of Dutch doctors for maternal and women's health in low income countries and women with low income in the Netherlands.

Advisory Board

The ISM & RH has a firm body of knowledge. Almost every member of the working party has working experience in low income countries, many of them are also active in the field of science and education. Members of the ISM & RH can contribute ideas and give advice about founding and developing projects worldwide. Some members supervise students and/or residents International Healthcare and Tropical Medicine in their PhD trajects.

In 2017 the members of the Board were: Jelle Stekelenburg (chairman), Mimosa Bruinooge (secretary), Jeroen van Dillen (treasurer), Jos van Roosmalen (member), Thomas van den Akker (member, education) Anke Heitkamp (member, website en public relations), Marcus Rijken (member, research) and Heleen Beekhuizen (member). Jos van Roosmalen resigned after 30 years of uninterrupted board membership. He was honoured during the symposium on 1st December.

More information on page 3 and 4.

Activities 2017

Working Party meetings

15-02-2017 Gouda

- Strategies for foetal monitoring in low and middle income countries with a focus on Zanzibar – Natasha en Marieke
- Coolfinity Bringing cooling where isn't yet - Maarten ten Houten, ingenieur uit Delft.
<http://www.coolfinity.com/>

17-05-2017 Assen

- Introduction to the Dutch Knowledge Platform on SRHR and HIV
Kimberley Meijers, Bianca
Introduction about Share-Net, a knowledge platform, financed by ministry of foreign affairs. Located at KIT, Amsterdam.
- KNOV International, Working party on international safe motherhood and reproductive health by Lieselotte Kweekel

20-09-2017 Utrecht

- Collaboration project Gondar Ethiopia, update and discussion–Myrrith Hulsbergen
- Classification of maternal deaths: where does the chain of events start? Lancet publication sept 2017 - Thomas van den Akker
- Analysis of Caesarean Sections using the Robson Ten Group Classification
System in Hiwot Fana Specialized University Hospital, eastern Ethiopia-
Ingeborg Koopmans, Olga Pijpers, Myrthe, Myrne
- Opticlip by Douwe Verkuyl; a device placed during C-section for contraception

Werkgroepenoverleg NVTG on the 26th of January 2017 (visited by Mimosa)

Board meeting 07-10-2017; we introduced Myrrith to our Board.

Education

Education day for doctors of international health and tropical medicine was a big success. Location: LUMC

Research

Friday December 1st, 2017, the 30th anniversary of the Working Party for International Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health (www.safemotherhood.nl), and *Monday December 4th, 2017*, when three candidates (Sharon Kibwana, Tegbar Yigzaw and Firew Ayalew) have defended their PhD theses at the VU University, this was part of a wonderful collaboration between Jhpiego, the VU Athena Institute, Groningen University and the Working Party.

Collaboration Gondar

We are collaborating with Gondar for 5 years. Myrrith and Mimosa will be the leaders of this project. Jelle got an amount of 30.000 euro's during a benefiet night. He is planning on spending it on our Gondar project.

Global Network NVOG

In 2016 our secretary, Mimosa Bruinooge, was appointed by the board of NVOG to assess opinions and ideas of NVOG's members about a Global Network. Based on her report the board of NVOG late this year decided to install three members in the first board of the Global Network committee. Jelle Stekelenburg was requested to become the first chairman and he accepted.

Website

Zie www.safemotherhood.nl