Hangzhou Normal University

School of Nursing, Hangzhou Normal University

University of Central Lancashire

Royal College of Midwives

American College of Nurse-Midwives

Canadian Association of Midwives

Midwifery at UBC

Midwives Alliance in North America

Normal Labour & Birth: 7th International Research Conference:

Learning from Each Other

Wednesday 26th - Sunday 30th October 2012

(Registration: 25th, seminar & presentations: 26th - 28th, organised tour 29th - 30th)

16 Xuelin Road, XiaSha Higher Educational Zone, Hangzhou Normal University, Zhejiang, China

Hosted by Hangzhou Normal University
Background

This 7th International Conference is designed to disseminate research findings on issues surrounding normality in birth. The conference will integrate research in this area, addressing social, cultural, physiological, psychological, emotional and spiritual aspects of labour and birth. It will examine new developments in the current evidence base on the nature of and cultures around birth, and on associated processes and outcomes of labour and birth. The Conference will be hosted by Hangzhou Normal University (HNU) and managed by the School of Nursing of the University, in collaboration with the University of Central Lancashire, UK. This event is also run in collaboration with the Royal College of Midwives, UK, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Canadian Association of Midwives; Canadian Midwifery at the University of British Colombia and the Midwives Alliance of North America.

In modern societies, medical science and medical technology are becoming highly developed. Because of the economic, cultural and social reasons, unnecessary medical intervention in otherwise healthy childbirth has become a global phenomenon. This is especially so in the industrialized countries. This has become an international concern for midwives, obstetricians, sociologists and anthropologists since the end of 20th century. There is no doubt that the highly developed medical technology has played a tremendous role in the reduction of world maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. Researchers have pointed out that unnecessary use of medical technology in healthy childbirth will not benefit but only harm the well-being of the mother and the baby. There should be a concept of ‘normal birth and labour’. Human childbirths are very complex physiological, social and cultural processes. There are different ideas and debates as to what constitutes a ‘normal birth’. Through exchanges, we shall further understand our different ideas and practices. The understanding will provide us with sound theoretical base to develop health care in childbirth.

In order to exchange and develop research, The first International Normal Labour and Birth Research Conference was held in 2002 at the University of Central Lancashire, Grange-Over-Sand, England. Since then, the event has been held there three times, in 2004, 2006, and 2009, and the 5th was in Vancouver, Canada. Each conference had over 200 to 300 of the world’s leading researchers, academics, policy makers and strategists in the field of normal birth research.

The conference has been held annually since 2009. The conference attendants are midwives, maternity care researchers, obstetricians, policy-makers of health authorities, social anthropologists, women and people with an interest in maternity care. This conference facilitates inter-professional dialogue, and knowledge translation related to physiological labour and birth. The conference discusses policy decision, midwifery education, holistic care of women, the relationship between medicine and nursing to establish a framework of a better maternity service for the right, interest and health of
women, babies and their families.

Since 2007, the School of Nursing of Hangzhou Normal University has learned about the service model of midwife-led normal birth unit in other countries. They take normal labour and birth as a theoretical base in maternity care, considering local conditions. Through a collaboration between the School, Hangzhou First People’s Hospital and the University of Edinburgh, the first Chinese midwife-led normal birth unit was set up in 2008. The Unit was more than welcome by women, their families and health workers; and has also attracted international interests. With this development we believe that hosting the Conference in China will have a great impact on Chinese midwifery returning birth to normality.

Conference Aims

The Conference is to provide an opportunity for international exchanges between midwives, to disseminate research evidence in the practice of normal labour and birth, to enhance clinical practices, education, management, supervision, and policy design in midwifery, and to further research.

Objectives

1. To disseminate ongoing and completed research on physiological labour and birth
2. To provide an opportunity for future collaboration and debate in designing maternity care education that supports normal labour and birth.
3. To discuss an agenda for the future in the area of normal labour and birth and to create a dynamic framework for optimal maternity care for women, their babies and families.

Conference themes

The conference motive is “learning from each other’s”, on the following themes or topics.

1. Defining and Describing Normal Birth:

- Defining normal birth;
- Development and modulation of belief systems in maternity care;
- Descriptive data on characteristics of normal, undisturbed labour and birth;
- Physical and psychosocial consequences of physiological birth.
2. Practice:

- Practice model or components of care that promote physiological birth;
- Multidisciplinary strategies to promote physiological birth;
- Conflict resolution in labour and delivery;
- Impact of obstetric interventions and/or pharmacological agents in labour and birth;
- Measuring outcomes of physiological labour and birth.

3. Education:

- Curriculum to enhance knowledge about physiological birth;
- Education and guidance to midwives and women to promote normality of birth;
- Strategies to develop knowledge, skills and confidence to support physiological birth;
- The function of "being with woman";
- Interprofessional education;
- Fear and childbirth;
- Research and birth and theoretical construction of normality of birth.

4. Public Information:

- Social and cultural implications of optimal childbirth;
- Evaluations of client satisfaction;
- Client-led/community-based research;
- Public perceptions of use of pharmacological agents and obstetric technology in birth care.

5. Policy:

- Cost-effectiveness of normal birth care;
- Access to maternity care resources;
- Linkages between normal birth and primary health care reform;
- Initiatives aimed at low-intervention care, and
- leadership.

Participants

This conference will be of interest to:
• academics and researchers working in the area of maternity services, birth and women's and health;
• those providing maternity care (professional, lay, state-funded,, independent, midwifery, medical, nursing, and other groups);
• policy makers and leaders with an interest in maternity care;
• Service users;
• Anthropologists, sociologists, psychologist with an interest in promoting normality of childbirth.

**Website**

The Conference Announcement, Call for Papers, booking form and all future information will be available on-line at [http://hlxy.hznu.edu.cn/index.asp](http://hlxy.hznu.edu.cn/index.asp) (This is the website of the HNU School of Nursing)

The West Lake scenery: The spring sun at Su Dike

The West Lake scenery: Music pavilion overlooking lotus in the wind

The West Lake scenery: The tranquility of the Lake with the autumn moon

The West Lake scenery: The evening sun of Leifeng pagoda
The West Lake scenery: The melting snow on the east end of the Bridge as if the bridge is broken

**Hangzhou City**

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province on the southeast coast of China. It was one of the seven ancient capitals in Chinese history. It is known as “the earthly paradise”, famous for its beautiful scenery. Hangzhou is also the home of silk, the land of fish and rice and the place of tea, fans and umbrella. The silk production has a history of 4700 years. The Italian traveller, Marco Polo praised Hangzhou as “the most luxurious city in the world”.

Hangzhou is rapidly emerging as an international city with its thriving economy, diversity and high quality of life.

During the break of the Conference, apart from boating on West Lake, tasting West Lake Longjing tea in tea houses, cycling on the dikes of West Lake or visiting ancient towns around Hangzhou, delegates who are interested in a tour in China may consider the following two routes:

1) Hangzhou ---- Beijing, visiting the Imperial Palace, and the Great Wall of China;
2) Hangzhou ---- Xi An, visiting the Terracotta Army of the First Emperor of China.

For more information about tours in and around Hangzhou, please visit [http://www.gotohz.com/](http://www.gotohz.com/).

**Hangzhou Normal University (HNU)**

Hangzhou Normal University has a history of one hundred years, dated back to 1908 when it was established as the Zhejiang School of Education training primary and secondary school teachers. In 1913, it was renamed as the First Provincial Normal School of Zhejiang, with educationist Jing Hengyi as the first Principal of the School. Today, it has become a comprehensive University with four faculties: humanities, social sciences, sciences and medicine with 23 Schools and Colleges. There are 21142 undergraduates and 1561 postgraduate students in the university. The total number of the staff is 2799, of whom 700 are professors and associate professors.
Many well-known Chinese educationists and literary thinkers, such as Lu Xun, Ye Shengtao, Li Shutong, Ma Xulun and Zhu Ziqing, have taught here. In the Second World War, one of the ‘Seven Gentlemen of the War of China’, the then Chairman of the Democratic Alliance Party of China, Mr. Shen Junru was the Principal of the School. In its early days, the School had produced excellent graduates, among who were renowned scholars and political figures Yu Xiusong, Feng Zikai, Pan Tianshou, Feng Xuefeng, Xu Zhimo, Yu Dafu, Yang Xianjiang, and Rou Shi.

A corner in the HNU main campus

The HNU front gate (photo inserted here)

Annual sport's ceremony

**School of Nursing, HNU**

The School of Nursing, Hangzhou Normal University was formally known as Hangzhou School of Nursing which was established in 1917. The School has a team with academic strength, quality, rigorous and careful teaching style, and a good management. In recent years, it collaborates with Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Management, Boise State University, University of Edinburgh, Queen Margaret University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Taipei Medical University on the programmes of exchange visits, teacher exchanges, student exchanges, cooperation and scientific research projects.

**Midwifery Research Unit, School of Nursing, HNU**
Midwifery Reach Unit (MRU) was established on 8th July, 2008. Its proposal on normal labour and birth is not a refusal for science, instead it is a scientific process for understanding the healthy birth in a complicated system. The MRU leads the Chinese midwifery joining in some research programs, for example, establishing the first midwife-led normal birth unit in China; doing research on midwifery development and childbirth modernization; joining in the 4 years research project: Childbirth Cultures, Concerns and Consequences carried out by European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST). The Unit raises normal birth as the basic theory for childbirth nursing. Just as healthy discussion and complexity, there are some disputed area in normal birth. The results of this MRU will encourage the professional development of the staff in midwifery.

It’s a great honor that the 7th International Conference of Normal Labour and Birth will be held in China, with such a large population. The event will inject new motivity and push the Chinese midwifery forward. We, as a member of the steering committee sincerely invite you to attend this Conference and to meet in beautiful Hangzhou.

School of Nursing, Hangzhou Normal University

A capping ceremony: The former HNU outstanding graduates Ms Zhang Shuihua, Yu Yaju and the others putting on the caps for new nursing students before beginning their clinical placement.

12th May 2010 International Nurses Day