

Extended Abstract

Overcoming the burden of maternal, newborn and infant mortality rate in low resource countries through telemedicine

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The Global Network (GN) Maternal Newborn Health Registry (MNHR) is a prospective, population-based observational study that includes all pregnant women and their pregnancy outcomes in defined geographic communities in six low-middle income countries (India, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Kenya, Zambia). Study staff enroll women in early pregnancy and follow-up soon after delivery and at 42 days to ascertain delivery, neonatal, and maternal outcomes. We analyzed the maternal mortality ratios (MMR), neonatal mortality rates (NMR), stillbirth rates, and potential explanatory factors from 2010 to 2018 across the GN sites. The prevalence of high maternal and infant mortality rate in developing countries continues to be listed among the major global health challenges. The most vulnerable groups are adolescents, women in childbearing age, newborn babies and infants in the remote areas. It takes more creativity to find sustainable solutions to a difficult problem. This workshop will highlight the inequities in access to maternity care and present innovative strategies developed to improve maternal, newborn and infant health in low resource countries, and the role of telemedicine in overcoming this global health challenge. The workshop will discuss lessons learned through designing, implementation, financing, collaboration and partnership. The interactive part of this workshop will: • Guide participants through the experience. • Provide a forum for participants to explore the educational model used. • Exchange ideas and discuss new concepts. Participants working for the common cause will be spurred to examine the transferability of this model, in order to fit it into their own context. The United Nations' establishment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5 – to improve child and maternal health, respectively, brought high maternal and neonatal mortality to the forefront of the global stage. These goals included a three-quarters reduction in the 1990 maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and a two-thirds reduction in the 1990 under-5 mortality rate, both to be achieved by 2015. Knowledge about rates and trends in maternal and neonatal mortality, as well as for stillbirths, can identify particular sub-populations that may be at higher risk for death, and inspire strategies to reduce this risk.

Biography:

Agnes Kanyanya graduated in general Nursing from the McCord Hospital Nursing College in South Africa, and graduated in Advanced midwifery & Neonatal intensive care nursing from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa. She is the founder of PROSAMI, an international non-profit organization for the promotion of maternal & infant health, of which she is also the training coordinator. As such, she has designed and implemented a program to strengthen midwifery education in the rural areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, using Telemedicine technology sponsored by the department of Telehealth at the University of Virginia. Agnes is the recipient of the Community builder award (UVA 2010); Global Telehealth Champion (UVA 2016); Community Service award (Sigma Teta Tau international 2016).