

IMPRINT

Immunising pregnant women and infants network



Acronym

IMPRINT

Full Title

Immunising pregnant women and infants network

Programme

CRF Networks in Vaccines Research and Development, co-funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

Contract Number

MR/R005990/2

Websiteimprint-network.co.uk**ABSTRACT**

IMPRINT is a network focusing on maternal and neonatal immunisation, funded by the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) which supports challenge-led interdisciplinary research and aims to strengthen capacity for research and innovation within the UK and in developing countries. IMPRINT is coordinated by Network Director Prof. Beate Kampmann (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and Co-Director Dr. Chrissie Jones (University of Southampton).

IMPRINT aims to build a sustainable network of stakeholders from basic science, immunology, vaccinology, social sciences, industry, public health, and national and international policy makers to tackle the key challenges in the best use of vaccines in pregnancy and in newborns, and in the long term to improve maternal and newborn health. With nearly 300 members from 50 countries that all share the same passion for maternal immunisation, IMPRINT has quickly become a highly productive, multi-disciplinary and innovative network that is ready to make an impact.

Specifically, the IMPRINT network is implementing collaborative research projects to answer fundamental biological questions about antibody transfer across the placenta, how to induce the „best“ antibody, and its effect on the maturing newborn immune system. IMPRINT is investigating if maternal vaccines interfere with the way in which the baby responds to vaccines later in infancy and childhood to ensure that protection is not compromised at any stage. Co-factors such as nutrition or other infections might also change the way in which mothers and infants are protected by vaccines. Hence there is a need to take them into consideration to ensure optimal protection of vaccines in pregnancy and early life. IMPRINT is also trying to find out why women decide to receive or not to accept vaccines in different countries to optimise the uptake of current and new vaccines. The network endeavours to work out how vaccine safety and effectiveness can be best monitored, given the different health care systems in different countries. Addressing these implementation challenges will provide a better understanding of the issues and site-preparedness in the many geographical areas and populations in which IMPRINT investigators work.

IMPRINT supports public and scientific engagement projects. The scientific activities consist of pump priming grants which are organised around six thematic challenges representing the network's focus areas:

1. Mechanism of production and transfer of maternal antibody via the placenta and breast milk
2. Effects of maternal immunisation on the subsequent development of immunity in the infant
3. Impact of globally important co-factors on maternal and neonatal immunity
4. Vaccine acceptancy and preparedness for maternal immunisation, including in emergencies
5. Vaccine safety monitoring in low and middle-income countries (LMIC)
6. Development of comparable methodologies for assessing efficacy in clinical trials

The public engagement projects' purpose is to facilitate high-quality and inclusive public engagement which reaches new, global and diverse audiences and improves the public's awareness of maternal vaccination, builds confidence and addresses risk perceptions.

In addition, IMPRINT offers post-doctoral fellowships which enable career development for scientists from LMIC with a keen interest in maternal and neonatal immunisation science. The fellowships run for up to 1.5 years and cover salary, overseas living allowances, training and consumables up to a maximum of £150,000 per fellowship.

Duration

48 months (01/06/2017 – 31/05/2021)

Project Funding

2,531,355 GBP

Network Director

Prof. Beate Kampmann MD PhD
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Steering Committee

- Beate Kampmann (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Chrissie Jones (University of Southampton)
- Clare Cutland (University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg)
- Sonali Kochhar (Global Healthcare Consulting)
- Beth Holder (Imperial College London)
- Kirsty Mehring-Le Doare (St George's, University of London)
- Alison Elliott (MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit)
- Alexander Drakesmith (University of Oxford)
- Ed Clarke (MRC Unit The Gambia)
- Heidi Larson (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Roma Chilengi (Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia)
- Neil French (University of Liverpool)

Project Management

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