

IMPRINT

Immunising pregnant women and infants network



Acronym

IMPRINT

Full Title

Immunising pregnant women and infants network

Programme

Medical Research Council UK (MRC)

Contract Number

MR/Y033752/1

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

IMPRINT is a network focusing on maternal and neonatal immunisation, funded by the UK's Medical Research Council (MRC). IMPRINT is coordinated by Network Director Prof. Beate Kampmann (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and Co-Director A/Prof. 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 more than 400 members from 54 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 scientific and public engagement projects. The scientific activities consist of pump priming and progression 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 fellowships which enable career development and exchange visits.

Duration

101.5 months (01/06/2017 – 14/11/2025)

Project Funding

4,213,468 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)
- Paul Heath (City St George's, University of London)
- Clare Cutland (University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg)
- Sonali Kochhar (Global Healthcare Consulting)
- Beth Holder (Imperial College London)
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