



International Working Conference on Maternity Care Systems

November 6, 2025



umcg:



Dear colleague,

We would like to invite you to the work conference detailed below.

International Working Conference on Maternity Care Systems

Discover how midwives make a difference around the world

Midwives play a crucial role in maternity care worldwide. But did you know that their responsibilities and positions can vary greatly between countries? These differences offer valuable insights for research, innovation, and improving practice. What works in one country may require adaptation in another healthcare system. That's why understanding each other's context is essential.

On **November 6, 2025**, the **Midwifery Science research group Northern Netherlands** is organizing a unique international working conference. Midwifery researchers and healthcare professionals from six countries will share how maternity care is organized in their countries and what role midwives play in their systems.

This event is **free and accessible online** to a broad audience. Midwives, researchers, client representatives, and policymakers are warmly invited to participate. The conference language is English.

Program & Speakers

Chair of the day:

Prof. Dr. Ank de Jonge – Amsterdam UMC, UMC Groningen, Midwifery Science

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Cornelis Boersma – University of Groningen, UMC Groningen

A global perspective on healthcare systems and the position of healthcare professionals

Contributions from:

Belgium: Prof. Dr. Katrien Beeckman – Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Canada: Dr. Beth Murray Davis – McMaster Midwifery Research Centre, Ontario

Germany: Prof. Dr. Nicola Bauer – University of Cologne

Ireland: Prof. Dr. Deirdre Daly – Trinity Centre for Maternity Care Research, Dublin

Norway: Dr. Hege Skytte – University of Oslo

Australia: Prof. Dr. Allison Cummins - University of Newcastle

The Netherlands: Renate Simmelink, MSc – Amsterdam UMC

Why you don't want to miss this

- Gain insight into how midwives work elsewhere and how systems are structured
- Be inspired by international colleagues
- Contribute ideas on how to translate knowledge into your own national practice
- Help build a joint scientific publication

Would you like to participate?

You can join the meeting online. Register via [this link](https://forms.office.com/e/KfbzHz7rsc)

Or copy this link into your browser:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KfbzHz7rsc>

After the conference, a closed working session will be held to further elaborate on the characteristics of the six maternity care systems. The results will be shared digitally with all (online) participants and will form the basis

for a joint scientific article.

This working conference is organized by the Midwifery Science research group Northern Netherlands, part of the UMCG and affiliated with the University of Groningen, Amsterdam UMC, AVAG, and Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

Best regards,

Dr. Liesbeth Kool, Educational Scientist, senior researcher Midwifery Science

Dr. Esther Feijen-de Jong, Midwife, Health Scientist, associated professor Midwifery Science

Midwifery Science Northern Netherlands, University Medical Centre Groningen, the Netherlands



Amsterdam UMC



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