



INOSS–ItOSS international meeting: maternal health between evidence, health systems and care practices

Rome, October 2nd, 2026

organized by

ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ
National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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Rationale

Maternal health remains a global public health priority, requiring continuous improvement in surveillance, evidence generation, and translation of research into clinical practice and health policy. Severe maternal morbidity, maternal near miss events, and preventable maternal mortality continue to challenge health systems, even in high-resource settings. In this context, international obstetric surveillance systems represent essential tools for generating robust evidence on rare and severe pregnancy complications, supporting quality improvement, and informing prevention strategies and policy decisions.

The INOSS–ItOSS international meeting: maternal health between evidence, health systems and care practices provides a multidisciplinary forum for the exchange of scientific knowledge and experiences among researchers, clinicians, public health professionals and policymakers engaged in maternal health. Through the integration of perspectives on surveillance, health system organization and models of care, the meeting promotes reflection on current challenges and opportunities to improve maternal outcomes, reduce inequalities and strengthen the translation of evidence into practice. The event is particularly relevant for fostering international collaboration, sharing innovative approaches to maternal health monitoring and care, and supporting coordinated actions aimed at improving the quality, safety and appropriateness of maternal care.

Aims

The meeting aims to promote scientific exchange and strengthen international collaboration on maternal health, with a focus on the relationship between evidence generation, health systems and care practices. It intends to provide an opportunity to discuss current evidence and methodological developments in obstetric surveillance, share experiences and good practices in prevention and management of severe maternal complications, and encourage dialogue on priorities for research, surveillance and quality improvement in maternal care.

Methodology

Lectures with presentations and plenary discussion.



PROGRAMME

- 08:30 Registration
- 09:00 Welcome
Rocco Bellantone, President; **Andrea Piccioli**, Director General, Istituto Superiore di Sanità
Maria Rosaria Campitiello – Italian Ministry of Health
Giovanni Capelli – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità
- 09:15 Introduction
Serena Donati - National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità

SESSION 1

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FROM RESEARCH ON SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY

Haemorrhagic conditions

Chairs: Justine Mufenda, Laura Sarno

- 09:25 ItOSS prospective case-control study on peripartum hysterectomy
Edoardo Corsi Decenti
- 09:40 Re-laparotomy following caesarean section in Italy compared with other INOSS countries
Simona Mastroeni
- 09:55 Open discussion

Cardiovascular conditions

Chairs: Marian Knight, Daniele Farsetti

- 10:05 Pregnancy-related cardiometabolic diseases in India: the beginning of a new era for MaatHRI
Manisha Nair
- 10:20 The Canadian Obstetric Survey System Cardiovascular (CanOSS-Cv) Study: methodological considerations and participatory approach
Isabelle Malhamé
- 10:35 Prospective population-based study on cardiomyopathy in Italy
Martina Ventura
- 10:50 Open discussion

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- 11:05 Coffee break
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SESSION 2

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Chairs: Marie-Pierre Bonnet, Sara Ornaghi

- 11:35 Measurement and Improvement Strategies for Reduction of Severe Maternal Morbidity
Elliott Main
- 11:45 PRiSMM: Preventing Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality through a programme of national interventions
Claire Carson
- 11:55 A human-centred approach to prevent severe maternal morbidity
Isabelle Malhamé
- 12:05 Open discussion



SESSION 3

ORGANISATION OF CARE: AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT DIMENSION OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

Chairs: *Nicola Vousden, Michaela Centofanti, Elsa Viora*

- 12:20 Risk of preventable peripartum maternal mortality according to maternity hospital characteristics
Catherine Deneux-Tharaux
- 12:30 Perinatal care organisation and maternal outcomes in Latvia: implications for small health systems
Anna Miskova
- 12:40 Implementing a risk-appropriate maternity care-based triage model to optimise risk and resources: lessons from a tertiary care teaching institute in India
Anish Keepanasseril
- 12:50 Proposal of a classification of maternity hospitals according to their maternal critical care resources
Marie-Pierre Bonnet
- 13:00 *Open discussion*
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- 13:20 *Light lunch*
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SESSION 4

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN MATERNAL HEALTH

Chairs: *Anke Heitkamp, Antonella Cromi*

- 14:20 Ongoing analysis of the risk of maternal mortality in migrant women
Elie Azria
- 14:30 International practice in routine identification of social determinants in maternity care
Nicola Vousden
- 14:40 “You think, like, you're neutral but you're not”: a mixed-methods study of racial/ethnic bias in pain assessment, management and treatment in maternal and newborn care in the Netherlands
Kitty Bloemenkamp
- 14:50 *Open discussion*

SESSION 5

PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH

Chairs: *Thomas van den Akker, Lorenza Driul*

- 15:05 Maternal suicides in Italy
Serena Donati
- 15:20 Maternal suicides: women’s characteristics and opportunities for prevention – a 6-year descriptive study
Catherine Deneux-Tharaux
- 15:35 National study on prevalence and risk factors of postpartum suicidal ideation
Catherine Deneux-Tharaux
- 15:50 Music & motherhood
Ilaria Lega
- 16:05 *Discussion*
- 16:20 *Closing remarks*
- 16:30 *Closing of the conference*



SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Elie Azria – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hôpital St Joseph, – Obstetrical Perinatal and Pediatric Life course Epidemiology, OPPaLE, CRESS U1153, INSERM, Université Paris Cité, France

Kitty Bloemenkamp – Department of Obstetrics, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Marie-Pierre Bonnet – Department of anesthesiology, Hôpital Trousseau, Université Paris Cité and Université – Obstetrical Perinatal and Pediatric Life course Epidemiology, OPPaLE, CRESS U1153, INSERM, Université Paris Cité, France

Claire Carson – National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, UK

Michaela Centofanti – Local Health Authority 5 (ASL TO 5); National Federation of the Orders of Midwives (FNOPO), Rome, Italy

Edoardo Corsi Decenti – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Antonella Cromi – Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Insubria, F. Del Ponte Hospital, ASST Sette Laghi, Varese, Italy

Catherine Deneux-Tharaux – Obstetrical Perinatal and Pediatric Life course Epidemiology, OPPaLE, CRESS U1153, INSERM, Université Paris Cité, Paris, France

Serena Donati – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Lorenza Driul – University of Udine, Udine, Italy

Daniele Farsetti – University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Anke Heitkamp – Amsterdam University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Anish Keepanasseril – Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, India

Marian Knight – National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, UK

Ilaria Lega – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Elliott Main – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, US

Isabelle Malhamé – Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada

Simona Mastroeni – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Anna Miskova – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia

Justine Mufenda – Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Katutura State Hospital, Windhoek, Namibia

Manisha Nair – Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen; Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford, UK

Sara Ornaghi – Unit of Obstetrics, University of Milan-Bicocca, Fondazione IRCCS San Gerardo dei Tintori, Milan, Italy

Laura Sarno – University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy

Thomas van den Akker – Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Martina Ventura – National Centre for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

Elsa Viora – Italian Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (SIGO), President, Rome, Italy

Nicola Vousden – National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, UK

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference venue

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Aula Pocchiari - Viale Regina Elena 299, Roma

Official language

The official language is **English**, with simultaneous interpretation **English-Italian**.

Target audience

Physicians, midwives, nurses, National Health Service professionals, students

Maximum number of attendants: 200

Registration and selection

Participants are kindly requested to fill out the registration form available online at the following links: [REGISTRATION FORM](#) (English) - [DOMANDA DI ISCRIZIONE](#) (Italian) by **September 25, 2026**.

Attendance at the event is free of charge. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Attendance is subject to confirmation. Only participants who receive a confirmation email from the organizers will be admitted to the conference venue. Attendance will be recorded by signing the attendance register upon arrival and departure. At the end of the event, all participants will be asked to complete an online feedback questionnaire.

Participants will be selected by giving priority to representatives of ItOSS and, thereafter, according to the order in which applications are received, until all available places have been filled.

Participant substitution is not allowed.

Certificates

A certificate of attendance will be issued, upon request by email to monica.pirri@iss.it, once the verification procedures have been completed. Certificates will be issued exclusively to participants who have attended at least 75 per cent of the event and completed the online feedback questionnaire.

This event does not provide any CME credits.

For any further information about the conference, please contact the Organizing Secretariat.