

Health in Preconception, Pregnancy and Postpartum Global Alliance: International Network Pregnancy Priorities for the Prevention of Maternal Obesity and Related Pregnancy and Long-Term Complications

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

pregnancy

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

Identification of key pregnancy research priorities for the prevention of maternal obesity and related pregnancy and long-term complications is important to advance the field and generate international guidelines and policy directives that will inform practice and deliver public health impact. To meet this need, the Health in Preconception, Pregnancy and Postpartum (HiPPP) Global Alliance was formed and an international forum was convened in Prato, Italy in September 2018. This inaugural meeting of the HiPPP Global Alliance, expanded from the Australian national HiPPP Collaborative established in 2013, included key experts in preconception, pregnancy and postpartum lifestyle, health and obesity prevention, from diverse disciplines worldwide. The five initial objectives of the Alliance were to: (i) develop a set of agreed priorities for research in preconception and pregnancy lifestyle, health, and care with the ultimate goal to prevent maternal obesity and related short- and long-term complications; (ii) review guidelines internationally on lifestyle modification in the preconception period and during pregnancy to grade quality and identify gaps; (iii) develop an agreed consumer involvement and advocacy strategy for HiPPP research and translation activities; (iv) develop agreed workforce capacity building strategies; and (v) develop capacity in early career researchers (ECRs) in HiPPP fields.

What was the objective?

to establish agreed international research priorities for pregnancy to target the global challenge of unhealthy lifestyles and rising maternal obesity, specifically for the prevention of maternal obesity and related clinical pregnancy outcomes and long-term complications

What was the outcome?

a list of 6 research topics

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants were asked to rank eight pregnancy research priorities according to their opinion on relevance for maternal obesity prevention, participants were asked to suggest additional priorities. Step 2: workshop with nominal group technique: participants were provided with round 1 rankings, then participants were divided into small groups to discuss research priorities, groups reviewed priorities and completed a sense-making activity to reach shared definitions and understanding for priorities and to consider whether any priorities could be consolidated, followed by facilitated whole group discussion to consolidate and integrate inputs with all members' voices captured. Step 3: Delphi round 2: during workshop participants were asked for their private rankings. Step 4: group discussion of round 2 rankings: during workshop participants were provided with round 2 rankings and discussed in groups the priorities with reference to 9Ps priority setting framework. Step 5: Delphi round 3: during workshop participants were asked for their private rankings, mean ranking scores were then computed, resulting in eight research priorities. Step 6: achieving consensus: during workshop facilitated discussion resulted in minor modifications of priorities, resulting in final list of top six priorities

Which stakeholders took part?

Stakeholders of international standing in preconception and pregnancy. 20 participants from endocrinology, psychology, obstetrics, gynaecology, exercise physiology, dietetics, health economics, epidemiology, nursing, public health and 2 experts in consumer advocacy and consumer experience in Science Center

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How were stakeholders recruited?

Thirteen expert who were world leaders in their field based on publications, considering geographic and discipline diversity, were invited to take part. Two consumer representatives from non-governmental women's health and consumer representative organizations, who were trained in participating as consumer experts in research activities