



# Project Newsletter

Transnational Reproduction: An exploratory study of UK residents who travel abroad for fertility treatment.



## Data collection is underway

Since the last edition of the transrep newsletter, progress on the project has been excellent and we are pleased to bring you news of several developments in the study.

During April, May and June we completed the 'key informant' interviews for the project, which included discussions with clinicians, support group representatives, nurses, counsellors and other key stakeholders. The data from these interviews was used to inform the development of the interview questions currently being used in phase two of the study.

In May, data collection for the main phase (phase two) of the study got underway and after several successful pieces of publicity about the project, we began to recruit volunteers to the study.

So far, we have interviewed 25 women and 6 men for the study

and have confirmed interviews with a further 14 people.

The interviewees have visited, or are planning to visit, a range of countries including: Spain, Greece, Cyprus, USA, Ukraine, South Africa, Turkey, Hungary, Czech Republic, Barbados, Norway, and Russia.

Although we have not yet begun to analyse the data from these interviews, our preliminary observations highlight that, as expected, people are choosing to go overseas for treatment for a number of reasons. These include:

- Waiting times
- Availability of donor gametes (especially eggs)
- Cost of treatment
- Dissatisfaction with services in UK
- UK regulation

- Technological advances in overseas clinics

The data also contains important information on how individuals, many of whom are 'expert patients', gain knowledge and of treatment options and carefully consider the implications of going abroad.

We plan to interview a further small number of individuals and would specifically like to talk to people who have travelled to countries other than those listed here, as well as people who have been abroad for surrogacy. If you are aware of anyone who might fit these categories please pass on the study contact details.

Data collection is due to conclude in Spring 2010. In June 2010 we will be holding a workshop to discuss the findings and develop recommendations from the research. The final report for the study is due in the Autumn of 2010.

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## The 'Transrep' Project

'Transrep' is a qualitative study, designed to explore the experiences of people who are involved in the process of going overseas for fertility treatment.

## Literature review

We have collated a large number of articles on this topic. At least 24 papers and book chapters and a collection of 'grey' literature will be analysed and presented as a literature view in the next few months. We are keen to have any clippings of news/media items you may come across, as its more difficult to keep up with media coverage, so please forward to Nicky if you come across anything of interest (contact details below).

## Conference papers

'Fertility Tourists or Global Consumers? Constructions of cross border reproductive travel' paper presented to The Fourth International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, University of Athens, Greece, 8-11 July 2009

'Reproductive tourism': exploring experiences, challenging popular discourses. Paper presented at the BSA Medical Sociology Group Annual Conference, Thursday, 3rd-Saturday, 5th September 2009, University of Manchester, UK

'Crossing Boundaries: exploring professional discourses on 'reproductive tourism'', paper presented at International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Health (RC 15) Mid-term Conference "Health for All: Opportunities and Challenges", Jaipur, India, September 21-23, 2009

## Website

A project website has now been developed and can be found at [www.transrep.co.uk](http://www.transrep.co.uk). Further details on the aims and objectives of the projects and details of the ongoing work will be posted here.

## Media coverage

Lorraine was invited to take part in Women's Hour on Radio 4 on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009. You can listen again at: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/03/2009\\_21\\_fri.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/03/2009_21_fri.shtml)

Lorraine was interviewed for an article in the Guardian on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009. You can access the article at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/may/22/fertility-treatment-nhs-waiting-lists>

## Meet the project team...



Prof. Lorraine Culley, Principal Investigator, De Montfort University



Dr Nicky Hudson, Project Researcher, De Montfort University



Prof. Eric Blyth, Co-applicant, University of Huddersfield



Ms Wendy Norton, Co-applicant, De Montfort University



Dr Allan Pacey, Co-applicant, University of Sheffield



Prof. Frances Rapport, Co-applicant, University of Swansea

**The Transrep project brings together research and practice expertise from Sociology, Social Work, Nursing, Reproductive Science and Health Services Research.**

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## Project contact details

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Please contact Nicky Hudson on the details above for all project related enquiries.