

Safe and Appropriate Cesarean Delivery in Low-Resource Settings Community of Practice: Sharing Innovations in Quality Care and Patient Follow-Up in DRC, India, and Rwanda



Event Agenda & Speaker Biographies

Agenda

TOPIC

SPEAKER(S)

Introduction to the Community of Practice and Panelists

Vandana Tripathi, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics, EngenderHealth

Cesarean Safety Checklist: Overview of design principles, human-centered design, prototype preview, and potential for use in India

Rose L. Molina, Harvard Medical School
Meghan Long, Ariadne Labs
Manoj Pal, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics, EngenderHealth India

A Tale of Two Innovations: Improving Cesarean Outcomes in Rwanda

Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, Harvard Medical School

Postnatal Outcome Surveillance by Telephone: Initial results from the PARLE (*Postpartum Surveillance by Telephone*) study in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Ona McCarthy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
Maxine Pepper, LSHTM
Jean-Lambert Chalachala, MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics, EngenderHealth DRC

Reflections on Opportunities and Needs

Debbie Armbruster, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Discussion: Audience Q&A
Closing and Thanks

Vandana Tripathi

Thursday, November 14
8:00 to 9:30 AM EST
1:00 to 2:30 PM GMT



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Speaker Biographies (listed alphabetically)



Deborah Armbruster, United States Agency for International Development

Deborah Armbruster is a nurse-midwife with a master of public health and a fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She has over 30 years of experience in safe motherhood and reproductive health programs in over 25 countries. Deborah is currently with USAID as a Senior Maternal and Newborn Health Advisor. She came to USAID from PATH where she was the director of the research project, the Oxytocin Initiative and from 2004 to 2009, and the Director of the Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative project. She previously led USAID's work with the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children and is currently a technical advisor on the maternal and child health and nutrition commodities and supply chain team, a co-lead on the Safe Blood project, and a technical advisor for two MOMENTUM projects and to several USAID Missions.



Jean Lambert S. Chalachala, EngenderHealth

Jean Lambert S. Chalachala, EngenderHealth's Country Representative for the DRC, manages maternal and obstetric care programming in the country, including the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project. He has over 20 years of experience working as a clinical provider and supporting public health programs, including serving at the Ministry of Health. He is the local investigator for the PARLE study, overseeing implementation and contributing to data collection and analysis. Jean Lambert earned a medical doctorate from the University of Kisangani and a master of public health focusing on maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, Harvard Medical School

Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, is a biostatistician specializing in health systems and implementation science research in Sub-Saharan Africa. Bethany leads a portfolio of research aimed at improving surgical access and outcomes in rural Rwanda, including evaluating digital health tools to support community health workers to provide home-based postoperative care.



Meghan Long, Ariadne Labs

Meghan Long is a healthcare innovation leader with 10 years of experience driving transformative change. Her expertise spans design thinking, project management, and improvement science to successfully implement lasting solutions in areas such as maternal health, primary care, geriatrics, and surgery. As Assistant Director of the Innovation Platform at Ariadne Labs, Meghan leads a team of human-centered design and project management specialists to source, generate, and develop impactful products that enhance healthcare delivery. She also oversees the Spark Grant Program, empowering staff and faculty to rapidly design and test innovative solutions.

Presenter Biographies (continued)



Ona McCarthy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

With a background in epidemiology, Ona McCarthy has 20 years of experience in the development and evaluation of reproductive and sexual health interventions, many of which are telephone-based. With some international nongovernmental organization experience, Ona has primarily worked in academic institutions based in the United Kingdom. She has been based at LSHTM since 2013.



Rose L. Molina, Harvard Medical School

Rose Molina is passionate about applying language and immigration status as critical lenses for understanding and eliminating inequities in maternal health. She is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School and a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist at The Dimock Center and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She is the Lawrence Director of Professionalism, Humanism, and Health Equity in Medicine and the inaugural Director of the Medical Language Program at Harvard Medical School. Rose works at Ariadne Labs to design, test, and spread solutions to enhance the quality and equity of pregnancy care around the world.



Manoj Pal, EngenderHealth

Manoj Pal is the Associate Director of Programs and lead for the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project in India. He has over 20 years of progressive experience in designing, implementing, and managing diverse public health programs with focus on maternal health, family planning, adolescent health, and mental health. He was a part of team that developed guidelines for maternal health. He contributed to implementation research for the World Health Organization's safe childbirth checklist in India and was a lead trainer for implementing the checklist at the state level. He is a trainer for various family planning methods including surgical methods. Manoj co-led the development of the safe cesarean checklist in India.



Maxine Pepper, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

After completing her bachelor of science in human sciences at University College London and her master of science in control of infectious diseases at LSHTM, Maxine joined LSHTM as a member of staff in 2022 and started her doctoral project in April 2024. She has been working on the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project since joining LSHTM, leading a scoping review of postpartum follow-up approaches which informed the development of the PARLE study.



Vandana Tripathi, EngenderHealth

Vandana Tripathi is EngenderHealth's Director for the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics project and previously served as the Director for its predecessor Fistula Care Plus project. She brings demonstrated expertise and more than 20 years of experience in the fields of maternal and obstetric care (including fistula prevention, care, and treatment) and sexual and reproductive health. Vandana earned a doctor of philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and a master of public health in maternal and child health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.