

IMPROVED

The first steps of the IMPROVED study

The IMPROVED study commenced at Cork University Maternity Hospital on 29th November 2013. Since then we have increased our staff numbers with a view to helping us increase our recruitment numbers. Our overall target is 1500 from Cork University Maternity Hospital, to date 300 women are participating.

**First time moms,
help make pregnancy safer !**



First UCC recruit Amanda McCarthy & husband Ken with midwife Maeve O' Connell.

“If we can help in any small way in the development of the preeclampsia test that could save lives of pregnant mothers and babies then we are delighted”
Amanda, 1st IMPROVED

The Facts

- Currently over 300 women participating at CUMH
- Globally over 800 women participating
- Over 100 babies born
- Recruitment continues

Preeclampsia, a pregnancy complication involving high blood pressure.

Main aim of this study is to develop a simple blood test to predict the level of risk of developing preeclampsia.

Preeclampsia affects 5% of first time mothers. It accounts for 17-24% of maternal deaths in Europe.

To be eligible you need to be a first time mom, in general good health, less than 17 weeks pregnant.

What is required of the woman who participates?

- Two compulsory visits, 14-16 weeks + 6 days and 19-21 weeks + 6 days**
- Two optional visits, 9-13 weeks + 6 days and 32-34 weeks + 6 days**
- Growth Scan will be performed at 20 weeks approx.**
- Bloods and urine sample at each visit**
- Medical and family history documented**
- All details collected and stored in confidence**





IMPROVED Midwifery Team
 from left: Aimee Tebay,
 Maeve O'Connell, Colleen
 Curran.

IMPROVED Study - who and where?

We are fast approaching the 1000th recruit in this Europe-wide study, sponsored by University College Cork with Primary Investigator Professor Louise Kenny, Project Manager Yvonne Clune and Clinical Coordinator Nicolai Murphy. Our staff includes three midwives: Maeve, Aimee, Colleen and three lab technicians: Rachel, Zeina and Klaudia. Other centers involved are Liverpool & Keele / United Kingdom, Rotterdam / Netherlands, Stockholm / Sweden and Cologne / Germany.

We are located in Cork University Maternity Hospital. To be eligible to participate you need to be a first time mother (can have a history of miscarriage / TOP). You must be in general good health and be less than 17 weeks pregnant. All visits have a nice personal touch and allow first time moms the opportunity to spend a little extra time with a midwife. Most importantly you will be helping us make pregnancy safe for women in the future .

Each visit takes 40 minutes approx. You are given an appointment time with one of the midwives and will be seen at that time. Our appointments run Monday to Friday, we will do our best to accommodate you with a time that suits you.





Proud parents Catriona and Damian Hennessy with newborn daughter Aisling

“As well as saving lives of mothers and babies, this test will change how we deliver care to pregnant women in a very positive way”
Nicolai Murphy , Clinical Coordinator



“Our goal is to save the lives of affected mums and babies by reducing and eventually preventing the life-threatening complications associated with pre-eclampsia. Mums-to-be can be confident that they are in excellent hands as we in UCC have well-established track records and outstanding reputations for the research and management of pre-eclampsia”.
Prof Louise Kenny

To join:

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have participated so far, as well as those that have referred women to us. A special thank you to CUMH staff for helping us to achieve our aim of making pregnancy safer.