Description

Engaging Student Midwives in 34th ICM Triennial Congress: ‘One Million More Midwives’



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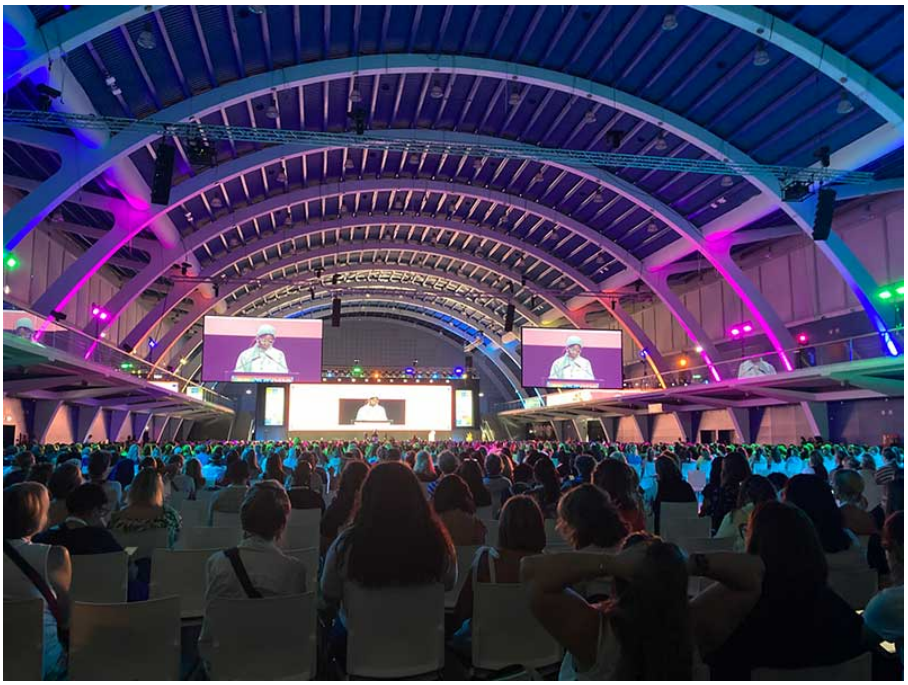
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As midwifery lecturers, we were afforded the opportunity to attend the 34th International Confederation of Midwives Congress in Lisbon, showcasing our research and educational innovations through poster presentations. The focus of the event was on expanding and strengthening the global midwifery workforce to reduce health inequalities and strengthen health systems.

> Using digital platforms is imperative in today's educational programmes..

To inspire and engage our midwifery students at the University of Salford, we facilitated a digital Padlet, in as 'real-time' as possible, of evolving events at the Congress. Using digital platforms is imperative in today's educational programmes and new learning models based on digitalisation can provide extensive information in new formats,[1] enabling students to enhance critical thinking[2] and improve engagement.[3] A 'Padlet' can be utilised as an online learning platform that can be formatted to suit user needs. In this instance, it was set up to not only update students of workshops and sessions lecturers were attending, but to also encourage students to add comments and reactions to those events as well as to try and provide a 'flavour' of the week.



> Workshops covered all healthcare contexts and provided opportunities to network and learn from midwifery initiatives and research globally.

Utilising Padlet facilitated comments and feedback as they were posted. It was our hope that students would feel involved in the events of the week, even if they could not be there in person due to learning and clinical commitments. Workshops covered all healthcare contexts and provided opportunities to network and learn from midwifery initiatives and research globally. Sessions included new thinking around management of post-partum haemorrhage (PPH), the number one cause of maternal deaths worldwide, particularly how blood loss is responded to in a timely manner. This included a drama in the reception area, emphasising the number of lives lost to PPH every year globally, and the pressing need for more midwives to address the cause of these, often preventable, deaths.

The event was both thought-provoking and inspiring..

All workshops were of interest to our student midwives and provided depth and context to many of the taught topic areas, looking into other causes of maternal morbidity and mortality, including gestational diabetes, care of marginalised groups, sexual violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), innovative thinking around care of individuals living with larger bodies, and the importance of improving midwifery education for a stronger more effective midwifery workforce.

The event was both thought-provoking and inspiring, our attendance supported by University of Salford. We look forward to sharing this learning further with our students, inspiring the next generation of midwives!

References

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