



ELIZABETH BRYAN MULTIPLE BIRTHS CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Issue 6/ December 2019 Promoting Excellence in Education, Practice and Research

MULTIPLE REALITIES

The *Multiple Realities* photography exhibition took place 3rd September – 10th October 2019 at the Library of Birmingham. The purpose of the exhibition was to explore the experiences and realities of living as a multiple birth family.

Multiple Realities was the inspiration of Liz Hingley, internationally renowned photographer, social anthropologist and creative adviser to the Multiple Births Foundation. The aim of the photographic exhibition was to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the EBMBC and the 30th anniversary of the Multiple Births Foundation (MBF).

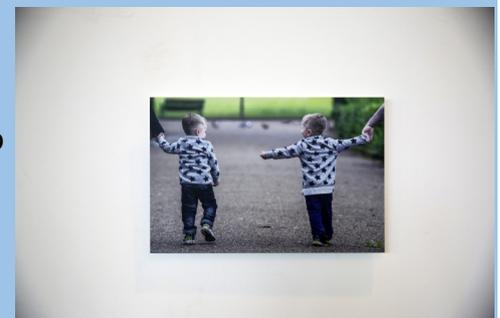
Multiple birth families in the West Midlands were matched with students and lecturers from the School of Visual Communication to create the images. The families chose a setting that was important to them for their photographs. These settings included the home, local parks and sporting venues.

The official launch of the exhibition took place 3rd September 2019, with 100 people attending including the families and photographers. The presentation of the best student photograph was made by Liz Hingley to Godfrey Pitt and his images of Seeley and Spencer who are surviving triplets. Hannah Dooley received the award of highly commended student photograph.

An online survey was opened for the duration of the exhibition to obtain feedback from attendees. The image by Godfrey Pitt was the most frequently chosen as having the most impact. The results from the online survey are currently being collated and we will share these with you in the next newsletter.



Photograph: Launch of exhibition.



© Godfrey Pitt . Winning image.

The EBMBC would like to thank the School of Visual Communication, the Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences, Library of Birmingham, and the Multiple Births Foundation for their support of this exhibition. In particular, our thanks go to Liz Hingley and the photographers and, most importantly, the families.

THE EBMBC TEAM

There have been recent changes to the EBMBC team. We say goodbye to Professor Merryl Harvey who has retired from EBMBC and Birmingham City University. Merryl joined BCU in 1995 and held many roles including teaching pre and post-registration nursing, conducting and supervising research and Chair of the Faculty Academic Ethics

Committee. In 2017, Merryl and Jane Denton worked together to establish the EBMBC and Merryl co-lead it with Jane. Merryl's hard work and dedication to supporting fam-

ilies, colleagues and students, has been a constant feature of her career and she will be greatly missed.

Nathalie Turville is now acting as interim Co-Lead for the EBMBC with Jane. She is a Senior Lecturer from the Department for Children and Young People's Health and specialised in neonatal cardiology and surgery. Nathalie is also the Module Leader for the online module and is studying for a professional

Doctorate in Education exploring the experiences of multiple birth families on starting in Reception class.

Nathalie can be contacted on 0121 331 7187 or by email: Nathalie.turville@bcu.ac.uk or

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Photograph: Nathalie Turville, Jane Denton, Lara Alamad, Merryl Harvey (left to right)

MULTIPLE BIRTHS ONLINE MODULE

We have now come to the end of the second delivery of the online module: 'The Individualised Care of Multiple Birth Families from Conception to One Year'.

The module was delivered in April and September 2019. The cohorts were made up of neonatal nurses, specialist Midwives, Health Visitors and Children's Nurses. There were also two students from China who were able to share with us their experiences of nursing multiples in a neonatal unit.

The feedback from the participants has been very positive:

- * 'The course was so amazing and interesting I learnt so much!'
- * 'It's made me realise the gaps in our knowledge and teaching on the unit!'
- * 'This Moodle was excellent. Easy to access and navigate, everything labelled properly, the information for each week was broken up nicely.'



Several of the participants have identified how they will use the information to improve and develop practices where they work. One participant redeveloped the poster that she had submitted for her assessment and presented it at the Neonatal Nurses Association Annual Conference.

If you would like further information about the module, please email: mbm@bcu.ac.uk or visit the website where details about the application process can also be found: www.bcu.ac.uk/births

ONLINE MODULE BURSARIES

Bursaries will be made available for health care professionals who wish to study the module starting 3rd March 2020:

- Three bursaries for **midwives, neonatal nurses and children's nurses** funded by the Multiple Births Foundation
- Five bursaries for **Health Visitors** funded from the Health Visitor legacy.

The closing date for applications for both bursaries is **Sunday 2nd February 2020**.

For further information about how to apply for a bursary, please email: Multiple.births@bcu.ac.uk

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

You may find the following recent publications of interest:

- ◆ **NICE guideline [NG137] Twin and triplet pregnancy.**

This was published in September. The aim of the guideline is to reduce the risk of complications and improve outcomes for women and their babies by providing the best standard of care. New and updated recommendations include guidance on determining chorionicity, monitoring and support during pregnancy and care needed during delivery. The Guidelines can be found on the NICE website here: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng137>

There are two new publications from **MBRRACE-UK**:

- ◆ **MBRRACE-UK: Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care. Lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths and Morbidity 2015–17.**
- ◆ **MBRRACE-UK Perinatal Mortality Surveillance report for births in 2017.**

This report identified that the reduction in both the stillbirth and neonatal death rate ratios associated with twin pregnancies over the period 2014 to 2016 has not been sustained

Both reports can be found on the website: <https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk/reports>

- ◆ **Conversations in Twin Research.** You may be interested in this website that features a series of occasional papers that demonstrate the variety of different research projects that take place with twins: <https://www.twins.org.au/research/tools-and-resources/125-conversation-in-twin-research>



Image: Johan L Pixaby

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