




Country	Researcher	Affiliation	Unit's Logo	Bio note	Photo
Australia	Alexis Shub	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Melbourne		Alexis Shub works in conjunction with Dr Elizabeth McCarthy at University of Melbourne and the Mercy Hospital for Women investigating overweight and obesity in pregnancy. They've conducted two large randomized controlled trials investigating both weight gain in overweight and obese women, and also important obstetric and neonatal outcomes. Their research interest lies in the psychological outcomes for overweight and obese women of an increased professional focus on weight gain in pregnancy.	<i>Not available</i>
Australia	Kym Guelfi	School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health The University of Western Australia		Kym Guelfi is an Associate Professor at the School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health, The University of Western Australia. She is involved in a number of research projects investigating the role of exercise in disease prevention and management (particularly obesity and diabetes). She is particularly interested in the role of exercise during pregnancy for the prevention and management of gestational diabetes and other health-related complications.	<i>Not available</i>
Australia	Jodie Dodds	School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health, The University of Adelaide	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>	<i>Details to follow</i>



Australia

**Helena
Teede
&
Cheryce
Harrison**

**Monash Centre for
Health Research
and
Implementation**



Professor Helena Teede is Director of Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation -MCHRI, School of Public Health Monash University, a Reproductive Endocrinologist, Head of Diabetes at Monash Health and an National Health and Medical Research Council Practitioner Fellow and leads this work with Dr Cheryce Harrison, an exercise physiologist and National Heart Foundation Fellow at MCHRI and Dr Catherine Lombard (dietician and Head Healthy Lifestyle Program MCHRI). Professor Christine East, Professor of Nursing Monash University and Head of Midwifery Monash Health and Dr Jacqueline Boyle who is an obstetrician and NHMRC research fellow are also engaged. The team are focused on optimising healthy lifestyle and prevention of obesity with a focus on reproductive aged women including in pregnancy. They have completed multiple epidemiological studies, RCTs and are now undertaking implementation research to optimise lifestyle in reproductive aged women. They have a strong interest in the prevention of obesity and healthy lifestyle in PCOS, infertility, pregnancy, gestational diabetes and postpartum including in mothers of young children.

Not available



Belgium

Roland Devlieger

**UZ Leuven -
Universitair
ziekenhuis**



Roland Devlieger, MD, PhD, is the head of the department of Fetal and Maternal Medicine, University Hospitals Leuven and is Associate Professor at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He earned his medical degree, specialty certification and PhD from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium and completed subspecialty training in maternal and fetal medicine at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

Professor Devlieger's main research interests include fetal surgery and fetal infections, maternal obesity and pregnancy after bariatric surgery. He is vice-president of the Belgian association for the study of Obesity (BASO) and is Associate Editor of Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation. He (co) authored over 100 peer reviewed publications and book chapters, mainly on the subject of fetal medicine, maternal obesity and pregnancy after bariatric surgery.



Belgium

Annick Bogaerts

**Limburg Catholic
University College,
KHLim**



Annick Bogaerts (Mw, MSc, PhD) completed her master degree in 1996 'Licentiaat Medisch-Sociale Wetenschappen' and started to combine working as a midwife in the hospital with teaching at KHLim, Catholic University College in midwifery education. In 2002, she left clinical practice to continue working as a lecturer in midwifery education and in 2007 she started a project about Obesity and Pregnancy at KHLim and PHL, Limburg University College under the supervision of Ingrid Witters. In 2010, she started her PhD project under the supervision of Roland Devlieger (KU Leuven) and Bea Van den Bergh (Universiteit van Tilburg, The Netherlands). Her PhD thesis is published as: "Obesity and pregnancy, an epidemiological and intervention study from a psychosocial perspective" Antwerp-Apeldoorn





Brazil

Jose G Cecatti

Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Universidade Estadual de Campinas Sao Paulo



Jose G Cecatti obtained following degrees: MD, Ob&Gyn, MSc Ob&Gyn, PhD Ob&Gyn, MSc Epidemiology. Since 2006 he holds position of a full professor of Obstetrics at University of Campinas. To his main academic activities account: curricula for training undergraduate students and specialists, coordination of research activities of the unit, coordination of a network for multicenter national and international studies on maternal and perinatal health, administrative tasks in the Department of Ob&Gyn and in the Woman's Hospital. In 2011 he became a Coordinator of Graduate Program on Obstetrics and Gynecology at the same university. Furthermore he acts as a consultant for the Brazilian Ministry of Health, Woman's Health Unit and Department of Science and Technology and the World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland), RHR-Reproductive Health Research.

Not available

Brazil

Tânia T Scudeller

Depto de Gestão e Cuidados em Saúde Núcleo de Pesquisa Interdisciplinar em Saúde da Mulher e da Infância Universidade Federal de São Paulo - UNIFESP, Sao Paulo



Tânia T Scudeller obtained her degree in Physical therapy from Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho in 1990. She did her Masters (2002) and Ph.D. (2005) in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Breast Unit at the Faculty of Medicine of Botucatu (UNESP). Since October 2005 is works as an associate professor at Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). Between 2006 and 2009 she acted as a coordinator of course in Physiotherapy at UNIFESP. Her main interest and experience lies in physical therapy in high-risk and low risk pregnancies, physical therapy care in labour and around delivery, hydrotherapy for mothers and physical therapy in breast cancer patients.

Not available



Brazil

Marcia Vitolo

Departamento de Nutrição UFCSPA

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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Canada

Garry Shen

Departments of Internal Medicine and Physiology University of Manitoba

Dr. Garry Shen is a full Professor in the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Departments of Internal Medicine and Physiology in University of Manitoba. He received his medical degrees in Shanghai Second Medical University and received research training in University of Iowa, Cleveland Clinic Research Institute, University of Alberta and Joslin Diabetes Center in Harvard Medical School. He became a faculty member of University of Manitoba since 1991 and current served as the Associate Director of Diabetes Research Group and the group leaders of IDEA study for using lifestyle intervention to improve pregnancy outcomes. His research program has been supported by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Diabetes Association, Heart and Stroke Foundation. He has published more than 90 full sizes papers or book chapters. He has received a numbers of career awards including Alberta Heritage Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Award and New Investigator Award from Canadian Lipoprotein Conference. He has been served as the Editor-in-Chief of Cardiovascular and Hematological Disorders-Drug Targets Journal and Editorial Board for Canadian Journal of Diabetes





Denmark

**Christina
Vinter**

**Department of
Gynecology and
Obstetrics
Odense University
Hospital**



Defended PhD thesis in March 2012, with the title: The clinical effects of lifestyle intervention during pregnancy in obese women. Main research interests: Gestational weight gain, lifestyle intervention in pregnancy, obesity, gestational diabetes, preterm birth. Working as a specialist registrar in Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at Odense University Hospital in Denmark with a part time post.doc. fellowship at University of Southern Denmark.



Denmark

**Arne
Astrup**

**Department of
Nutrition, Exercise
and Sports (NEXS)
Faculty of Science,
University of
Copenhagen**



Arne Astrup is Head of The Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports at The Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He is Director of the OPUS Research Centre 2009-14 funded by the Nordea Foundation. Astrup attained his medical degree from the University of Copenhagen in 1982 and a Doctorate in Medical Science in 1986. He was appointed Professor of Nutrition at the Research Department on Human Nutrition at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark in 1990. His main areas of interest include the physiology and pathophysiology of energy and substrate metabolism, with special emphasis on the etiology and treatment of obesity. Major research collaborations include participation in the EU multicenter studies EUROSTAR, CARMEN, NUGENOB, DIABESITY, DIOGENES, EMOB, and HEALTHGRAIN. He is author/co-author of over 490 peer-reviewed original, review, and editorial publications, a number in journals such as The Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Nature, etc.; and over 900 other scientific publications.





Denmark

Nina Geiker

Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports (NEXS)
Faculty of Science,
University of Copenhagen



Nina Geiker is Post-Doctoral fellow and project leader at EFFECT, Copenhagen University Hospital Herlev. Nina Geiker attained her MSc in Human Nutrition from Copenhagen University in 2008 and defended her PhD thesis "Optimizing patient nutrition" in 2013. Nina Geiker is leading a large RCT "APPROACH - An optimized programming of healthy children" including 390 obese pregnant women and their children. The aim is to investigate the effect of optimizing the gestational diet and weight gain on foetal programming. The study started recruiting in December 2013 and will continue until December 2015. In the following cohort the children's growth and development will be assessed until the age of nine years. Furthermore, Nina Geiker is investigating the effect of weight loss as sole treatment or pre-surgical for several patient types.



Denmark

Kristina Renault



Kristina Renault, MD, conducted "the TOP (Treatment of Obese Pregnant Women) - study", a RCT of 425 pregnant women with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m² in 2009-2012 at Hvidovre Hospital, University of Copenhagen. In 2013 she was certified by the Danish Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology as a subspecialist in practical obstetrics at an expert level. She has been responsible for writing the Danish National guidelines in "Obesity and Pregnancy" and "Pregnancy after bariatric surgery". Now she is working as a consultant obstetrician at Odense University Hospital, University of Southern Denmark. Main Research interest: Obesity, Gestational Diabetes, diet and lifestyle intervention, bariatric surgery.





Egypt

**Nermeen
El Beltagy**

**Department of
Obstetrics and
Gynecology,
Alexandria
University**



Dr Nermeen El Beltagy MD, PhD, MS, MPH, is an Associate Professor of in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Alexandria University, Egypt. She received her medical degrees from Egypt, but her PhD in environmental health, and MPH in epidemiology degrees were from Saint Louis University in the USA. She earned her Professional Certificate in women's health from Exeter University, UK. She (co) authored over 10 peer reviewed publications mainly on the subjects of preeclampsia, maternal obesity and contraception. She is an editor of the American journal of cancer prevention.

She is involved in a number of research projects investigating the role of exercise in disease prevention (especially diabetes and obesity) and the assessment of the role of breakfast intake during pregnancy on the rate of post-partum obesity. Also, she participated in a research project of the lipid profile in obese women. Her research interest lies in preeclampsia relation with obesity and frequency of sexual relations.





Finland

Riitta Luoto

UKK Institute for Health Promotion, Tampere



Riitta Luoto is a lead of a NELLI research group. NELLI trial (Lifestyle, counselling and physical activity in maternity and child health care) is a randomized controlled study on lifestyle among pregnant women, collected during 2007-2009 in Finland. Women included to the study had at least one risk factor for gestational diabetes (GDM). Above 2000 women were screened for GDM in Pirkanmaa county and approximately 700 women were randomized to cluster-randomized trial, where areas were clusters. Women in intervention areas received individually tailored counseling concerning physical activity, diet and weight gain-women in control areas received usual counseling including mostly information on diet. 440 women continued until the end of pregnancy. Women were followed also one year after delivery and a 5-year follow-up will be conducted during year 2014.



Finland

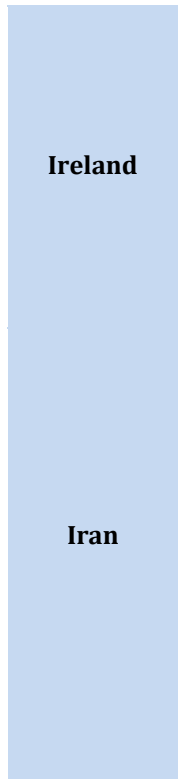
Tarja Kinnunen

University of Tampere



Tarja Inkeri Kinnunen obtained her MSc in nutrition in 2001 at University of Helsinki. She defended her PhD in epidemiology in 2009 at University of Tampere where she currently works as a university lecturer (School of Health Sciences), Alike Riitta Luoto she is a member of NELLI research group.





Ireland

**Fionnuala
McAuliffe**

**University
College Dublin
National
Maternity
Hospital,
Dublin**

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Iran

**Narges
Motahari**

**School of
Nursing and
Midwifery
Nasibeh
Mazandaran
University of
Medical
Sciences**



Narges Motahari obtained her bachelor of science (BSC) in midwifery of Tehran university of medical science, Iran, in 1990. She has worked as a senior lecture in midwifery department school of nursing and midwifery Nasibeh Mazandaran University of Medical Science, Iran, from 1991. She completed her master degree in Sports Science in Mazandaran university in 2004 and has worked on various aspects of exercise effect on women, such as Quality of life, pregnancy outcome, dysmenorrhea and diabetes. Furthermore, she did research about sexuality of elderly women.

Not available



Italy

**Fabio
Facchinetti**

**University
Hospital of
Modena and
Reggio Emilia,
Obstetric Unit
of Mother-
Infant
Department**



Fabio Facchinetti MD is full Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at the University Hospital of Modena and Reggio Emilia, head of the department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of the Policlinico Hospital of Modena since 2013 and Director of the “School of Midwifery” at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia from 2002. His main research areas are obese pregnant women with their related unfavourable outcomes, birth after cesarean section, preterm labour, menstrual migraine and premenstrual syndrome, hypertension in pregnancy, nitric oxide in reproduction and stillbirth. Author of more than 400 papers in journals of the Science Citation Index. He organized and gave oral presentation in several national and international Congresses.



Italy

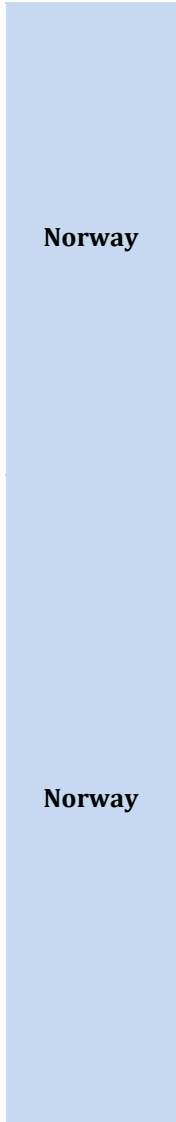
**Elisabetta
Petrella**

**University
Hospital of
Modena and
Reggio Emilia,
Obstetric Unit
of Mother-
Infant
Department**



Elisabetta Petrella MD, she works as gynaecologist at the University Hospital of Modena and Reggio Emilia, in the Obstetric Unit of Mother–Infant Department. Her main research areas are obese pregnant women with their related unfavourable outcomes during pregnancy and delivery, the management of a correct lifestyle (a proper diet and a physical activity prescription) in pregnant women with BMI>25, the vaginal birth and the induction of labour in women with prior caesarean delivery, caesarean scar evaluation through ultrasound and 3-Tmagnetic resonance, the L-Arginine/NO pathway on diabetes and vasodilatation in obese pregnant women, HIV-infected pregnant women. She has published several original research articles/abstracts, as well as given oral presentations in national and international Conferences, such as SMFM Annual Meeting in 2013 about obesity and pregnancy.





Norway

**Janette
Khoury**

**Oslo University
Hospital**



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Norway

**Serena
Tonstad**

**Oslo University
Hospital**



Serena Tonstad MD PhD is a head physician practicing at the Ullevaal Department of Preventive Cardiology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway and a professor of preventive medicine at Loma Linda University in California. Earlier, she practiced at the Lipid Clinic in Oslo and completed a PhD on familial hypercholesterolemia in children in 1997. She is an associate editor of the journal Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Disease and of the journal Nicotine & Tobacco Research. Since 1990 she has promoted the integrated, preventive care of patients with tobacco addiction, obesity, metabolic syndrome and lipid disorders and is actively involved in research in these areas. She has contributed to over 220 peer-reviewed publications of which she is the lead or senior author in over 100. Her major research interests are obesity, metabolic syndrome, tobacco addiction, dyslipidemia and atherosclerosis.





Norway

Lene Haakstad

Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Department of Sports Medicine, Oslo



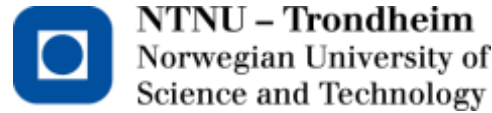
Lene A. H. Haakstad is currently working as an Associate Professor and researcher at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NSSS), Department of Sports Medicine and academic Chair at the division of Fitness. Her main research area is maternal exercise and pregnancy outcomes. In this field she has published several original research articles, as well as given oral presentations in national and international Sports Medicine Conferences. Lene defended her thesis: "Physical activity and weight gain during pregnancy" at NSSS in 2010. In the period from 2005-2014, she has been the mentor for fourteen master students, and are currently supervising two PhD student that is working towards their PhD degree.



Norway

Signe Nilssen Stafne

Department of Public Health and General Practice NTNU, Faculty of Medicine, Trondheim



Signe Nilssen Stafne is a physiotherapist and post doctor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and St. Olavs Hospital, Trondheim University Hospital. She was the project coordinator for the RCT "Effects of regular exercise during pregnancy in preventing and treating pregnancy related diseases" performed in Trondheim, Norway in 2007-2010 and included 855 pregnant women. Signe finished her thesis "Exercise during pregnancy" in 2012.





Norway

Linda Reme Sagedal

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Sørlandet Hospital Kristiansand

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Spain

Ruben Barakat Carballo

Facultad de Ciencias de la Actividad Física y del Deporte-INEF, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



Ruben Barakat is a Professor at the Technical University of Madrid and Director of the research group "Physical Activity and Pregnancy". The group examines effects of moderate and programmed physical exercise on the process of pregnancy and delivery outcomes, especially on critical maternal and fetal parameters such as gestational age, maternal weight gain, prenatal depression, fetal development, birth weight, Apgar Score, and events occurring after birth. The group is currently investigating whether exercise during pregnancy can be used as a factor in preventing the growing prevalence of overweight and obesity in early childhood.





The Netherlands

Mireille van Poppel

Department of Public and Occupational Health, EMGO Institute VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam



Since 2000, she works within research line 'Sport, Lifestyle and Health' of the Department of Public and Occupational Health, VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam. In recent years, her research has focussed on determining barriers to be physically active, evaluating lifestyle interventions, and studying the physiologic changes associated with physical activity in pregnant women.



The United Kingdom

Lucilla Poston

Women's Health King's College London



Professor Lucilla Poston is Head of the Division of Women's Health in the School of Medicine at Kings College London, and research lead in Women's Health for the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. She graduated in Physiology from University College London, and undertook her PhD at King's College London. Her research team focuses on pre-eclampsia, obesity in pregnancy and the developmental origins of disease.

Professor Poston is a Fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, an NIHR Senior Investigator (UK) and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK).





United States

SeonAe Yeo

School of Nursing
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Dr. Yeo is Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has studied the role of physical activities on pregnancy outcomes. She completed a randomized controlled trial, Regular Exercise Among Women at Risk for Preeclampsia (R01, NINR) in 2008. Dr. Yeo was also a co-investigator on a study of pregnant and postpartum African-American and Latino women in an urban low-income area in the Mid-west (funded by NIDDK, 2002-10) to reduce physical and social environmental barriers to adopting healthy lifestyles. The group program was attractive, but even with on-site childcare and transportation provided; attending 9 group meetings during pregnancy was a challenge.



United States

Suzanne Phelan

Kinesiology
Department
California
Polytechnic
State University
San Luis Obispo



Suzanne Phelan, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Kinesiology at California Polytechnic State University. She earned her Master's degree and Ph.D. in Clinical and Health Psychology from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. She completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship in Behavioral Medicine at Brown University and continues to hold an Adjunct Associate Professor position there. Dr. Phelan's principal research is on the treatment of obesity by interventions that have included behavior modification and medications. She is Co-Investigator of the National Weight Control Registry, which is an ongoing longitudinal study evaluating over 6,000 successful weight losers. Dr. Phelan is also conducting studies looking at the prevention of pregnancy-associated weight gain and obesity. She has several publications and numerous professional presentations in the area of obesity.

