



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Behavioural Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€2,000 in 2020
Title of project:	Developing an intervention to reduce natural-disaster related distress

Summary of findings:

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the progress of this project, the systematic review began later than was hoped and so is not yet complete. However the grant has enabled me to establish international collaborations with leading researchers in this area. The review findings will inform future collaborative development of perinatal mental health interventions during public health emergencies, including natural disasters and also pandemics.

Plans for continuing collaboration:

Professor King is due to retire shortly and so we will not be formally continuing our research collaboration. However, through this collaboration I have been introduced to other research leaders in the area, including Dr David Laplante in McGill University, and Prof David Olson in the university of Alberta. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with both Dr Laplante and Prof Olson and plan to continue to do so in the future.

Published work and publication plans:

The protocol for the systematic review has been registered on the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO). Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the progress of this project, the systematic review began later than was hoped and so is not yet complete. The final paper of the systematic review will be submitted for peer-review publication upon completion.

However, Prof King and I collaborated on throughout the period from receipt of the award. For instance, Prof King and I, with Dr Laplante, wrote and published a book chapter related to the collaborative project; details are below:

King, S., Matvienko-Sikar, K., Laplante, D. (2021) 'Natural Disasters and Pregnancy: Population-Level Stressors and Interventions' In: Wazana, A., Székely, E., Oberlander, T. F (eds). Prenatal Stress and Child Development. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

This research has not yet been disseminated at research conferences due to COVID-19. It will be disseminated in 2023 at the Society for Reproductive and Infant Health Conference and the European Public Health Conference.



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Collaborations and planned collaborations:

In addition to Prof King, as a result of this award I also collaborated with Dr David Laplante, McGill University on the book chapter noted above.

I also collaborated with Prof David Olson, and a team of experts he brought together, to prepare a large funding application on perinatal mental health and child health outcomes.

During the funding period, I received the following additional funding, which was related to the RIA funded work:

Evidence Synthesis Ireland and the HRB TMRN COVID-19 Emergency Evidence Response Service Summer Studentship: Prenatal mental health, health behaviours, and support needs during the COVID-19 pandemic (€2,000). 2020. Principal Investigator

Outreach and engagement activities:

Engagement activities and science communication has not yet taken place due to the delays in commencing the review, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I plan to develop a media brief with the UCC Media and Communications Office upon completion. I will also write an article for RTE Brainstorm on the research.