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FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

**Doctoraat in de Sociale
Gezondheidswetenschappen**

Academiejaar 2010-2011

UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Katrien Beeckman

vrijdag 6 mei 2011

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Katrien Beeckman

**'Antenatal Care in Brussels.
Determinants of care trajectories'**

Op **vrijdag 6 mei** om **17 uur** in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

Antenatal care is considered to be important in following-up pregnancy with the purpose to prevent worse pregnancy outcomes and to initiate early treatments when necessary. Not all women however, receive the care needed during pregnancy.

In this dissertation a prospective observational study was conducted in the Brussels Metropolitan Region and provided insight in (1) differences in antenatal care trajectories (2) determinants that influence the antenatal care trajectory and (3) the relation between the appropriateness of the antenatal care trajectory and the risk of preterm birth. In order to achieve these goals a new tool was developed to define antenatal care trajectories incorporating elements of content and timing of care during pregnancy.

Our results showed that when considering a whole range of determinants, especially women with a foreign origin or a lower education had less chance on an appropriate antenatal care trajectory. Continuity of care was positively related with the likelihood to complete an appropriate care trajectory. Furthermore, a more appropriate care trajectory was associated with lower risks of preterm birth.

This study demonstrated the need for special attention and extra support for vulnerable women during their pregnancy. Additionally, the new tool which included elements of content and timing of care, provided some answers to the demands of including more than simply the number of visits when evaluating antenatal care trajectories.

Curriculum Vitae

Katrien Beeckman, born June 5th, 1980 (Aalst, Belgium), studied Sciences-Mathematics in high school and graduated as a midwife at the Arteveldehogeschool (2001). She obtained a Masters' degree in the Social Health Sciences (Ghent University, 2004) and an aggregate in the Social Health Sciences (Ghent University, 2004).

She started her career as midwife at the Onze-Lieve-Vrouw Ziekenhuis (campus Asse). Later on, she combined her clinical work with a job as researcher in the domain of perinatal health (care) at the Arteveldehogeschool (Ghent). Early 2005, she became research assistant in the Department of Medical Sociology and Health Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. One year later, she was successful in obtaining financial support from the Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation to conduct her research project on antenatal care trajectories in Brussels.