Presentation – WMS Research Students’ Symposium 2018

Slot – Wednesday 23rd May at 11.45am

Presenter: Sarah English, Translational Medicine, Division of Biomedical Sciences

Title: Depression and pregnancy: novel psychosocial and biological insights from the Warwick Perinatal Depression Study.

Abstract:

Perinatal depression (PND) refers to depression occurring specifically during pregnancy or postpartum. The Coventry and Warwickshire Genetic Association of PND (CW-GAPND) study was a successful pilot of 200 pregnant women and provided valuable insights into genetic risk factors for PND. For the second phase of the study, we are in the process of recruiting 2000 pregnant women to further examine both psychosocial and biological risk factors. In addition to genetics, this study focuses on biological indicators of inflammation in association with PND, as well as a number of psychosocial risk factors. Although the study is ongoing an analysis of N=480 women who have completed the study protocol at this stage has used novel statistical methods to elucidate heterogeneity of PND with distinct timings of onset and remission, and associated risk factors. Further laboratory analysis is working towards profiling these women for markers of inflammation and genetic markers. It is likely that employing both biological and psychosocial risk factors in early screening during pregnancy could improve the currently poor detection of perinatal depression.