Understanding parental information needs in the first year of life of a child; Expanding a digital intervention for injury prevention

Nipuna Cooray, Injury Division, The George Institute for Global Health - ncooray@georgeinstitute.org.au

About The George Institute for Global Health (TGI)

TGI is an independent medical research institute headquartered in Australia with offices in China, India and the United Kingdom.

Our mission is to improve the health of millions of people worldwide, particularly those living in disadvantaged circumstances, by challenging the status quo and using innovative approaches to prevent and treat non-communicable diseases and injury.

The Injury Division

More than 5.8 million people die each year as a result of injuries, accounting for 10% of the world's deaths. Injury is the leading cause of death and disability in people of working age, both globally and in Australia.

Associate Professor Julie Brown is the Program Head of the Injury Division at TGI Australia. works across the continuum of the public health model from defining problems, identifying risk and protective factors to developing and testing prevention measures with the ultimate aim of reducing the health burden attributable to unintentional injury.

The Injury Division works across a range of topics from surveillance, observational studies and large-scale pragmatic intervention trials through to program evaluation and policy research. Our research cuts across the causes of unintentional injury that contribute most to the global burden – road injury, falls, burns and drowning.

Background

- Injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalisation of children in Australia
- Parental behaviour is central for preventing child injury
- Currently we are working on a digital intervention to help parents to prevent child injuries <1 year, but during user testing we understood parents expect more from a digital intervention, to perceive it as useful
- With that we are planning to expand this intervention to include other information needs of parents

Current application

Aim

- To understand parental information needs in the first year of life of a child

Method

- Systematic review of current literature to understand information needs of parents

AND

- Conducting focus group studies with,
  1. Parents with a child <3 years – 3-4 focus groups
  2. With early childhood professionals – 3-4 focus groups

Expected outcomes

Using the research conducted, expanding the mobile app to be useful for information needs of parents within first year of life of a child

You will be a good match if you are interested in,

- Early childhood development
- mHealth
- User centered intervention development