

Postpartum Psychosis Timeline – Compiled by Teresa Twomey, J.D.

This timeline gives a general idea how far we've come. It is not a comprehensive history of advocacy and awareness around PPP. - TMT

1790s: "Puerperal Mania" medically described.

1920s: British Infanticide Law

1980s: PSI (created by Jane Honikman), Marce Society and DAD (Depression After Delivery) form.

1983: Angela Burling loses her son, Michael, to infanticide. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, she was interviewed on over a dozen talk shows in the U.S. and one in Canada, including Oprah and Larry King Live. Patty Duke narrated a documentary on her story.

1985: *The New Mother Syndrome* by Carol Dix, the **first** non-academic book that I know of that has good information and does more than simply mention PPP.

1989: Angela Burling was instrumental in working on California Senate Concurrent Resolutions 23 and 39 calling for improvement in the assessment of women who commit infanticide and of the protocols for peace officer training and education.

1990s:

1992: *Postpartum Psychiatric Illness: A Picture Puzzle* by James Alexander Hamilton and Patricia Neel Harberger was published - had significant coverage of PPP among other PMADs.

1996: Action on Puerperal Psychosis - the precursor of Action on Postpartum Psychosis - the **first** organization dedicated to PPP (postpartum psychosis) - was started in the UK.

2000s:

2000: *Women's Moods* by Sichel and Driscoll. Good information across lifetime, includes postpartum and PPP.

2002: *Breaking Point* - "True Crime" novel by Suzy Spencer - instead of simply sensationalized, it provided much accurate and informative information about PPP.

Infanticide by Meg Spinelli - **first** really good resource for legal cases involving PPP.

NPR article by Joanne Silberner featuring Shelley Ash, one of the **first** women to go public nationally with her story.

2003 - Melanie's Battle website launched by Melanie's mother Carol – **first U.S. website** to feature PPP.

Beyond the Blues by S. Bennett and P. Indman included a small section on PPP.

2004 - *Beth: A Story of Postpartum Psychosis* was self-published by Beth's mother Shirley - **first** in US to have PPP in title.

Dangerous Motherhood: Insanity and Childbirth in Victorian Britain, by Hilary Marland.

2005 Memory Quilt grant/debut. **First** travelling exhibit featuring PPP.

2007: *Postpartum Depression for Dummies*, by S. Bennett. Has a section on PPP that is more thorough and accurate than other non-academic books in print at the time.

2008: Houston TX PSI Conference: **First** PSI Conference Keynote Panel on PPP – G. Parnham, M. Spinelli, D. Barnes and T. Twomey.

2009: *Understanding Postpartum Psychosis: A Temporary Madness* by Teresa Twomey (with S. Bennett). **First** commercially produced to have PPP in title; **first** book-length focus on the various aspects of PPP.

2010s: PSI published a position paper on psychosis-related crimes

2010: Reinstatement of Legal Resources position and the Pen Pal Network at PSI. (I do not have dates/timeline before this point.)

Prof. Ian Jones awarded Marce Medal for his work including PPP at PSI/Marce conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

First PSI conference presentation on "Post-Recovery Recovery" for those who experienced PPP.

First PPP - specific Facebook page is created "Postpartum Psychosis Forum" (originally "Understanding Postpartum Psychosis").

2014: *A Mother's Climb Out of Darkness*, a memoir by Jennifer Moyer is published.

Back in Six Weeks, a novel by Sharon Gerdes is published.

A group of survivors begins a "conversation" with support from PSI president and others, about having a "workgroup" to address how PSI handles PPP.

PSI starts conversation/action on putting together legal training sessions. Primarily for PPP child-harm.

First official PPP coordinator for PSI appointed: Michelle Davidson

2015: Melissa Bang's **first** performance of "Playing Monopoly With God" (**First** one-woman show on PPP.)

First in-person PPP survivors support group at PSI conference (Proposed by Friedman, Twomey, and Moyer & facilitated by Moyer and Gerdes)

PSI held Legal Resources Training specific to PPP featuring George Parnham and Meg Spinelli., "Motherhood and Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System." Angela Burling spoke about her tragic loss while suffering PPP.

First significant PPP resources page at PSI for issues not confined to symptoms or legal issues.

2016 Second annual PPP survivors support group to be held in San Diego at PSI Conference. Facilitated by Burling & Gerdes. PPP Alliance meets informally and creates a Facebook page and Twitter handle @PPPalliance to speak publicly about PPP.

Upcoming (in the wings):

First documentary film focused on PPP

First documentary film covering creative work about PPP.

First screening tool specific to PPP (being developed by Davidson).