

PERSPECTIVES ON BIRTH AND PERINATAL CARE

Online conference



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Feb 5th – May 31st 2021



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This online conference brings together a faculty of leading experts from Australia and around the world to bring you the latest research and education in issues in birth and perinatal care.

Online conferences represent a cost effective and environmentally sustainable way of gaining education. We bring this learning experience right to your device – phone, tablet, laptop or computer. This conference will be accredited with CPDs and CERPs.

Accreditation:

CERPs Approval Number C202104

Total CERPS allocated: 5L CERPs,
7.5 R CERPs and 2.75 E CERPs

Total hours 15.25

ACM Endorsed program 15.25 CPDs

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Speakers and Topics

Elizabeth Newnham

Risk and safety in midwifery practice: Navigating the institutional paradox

Deborah Fox (with Vanessa Scarf and Rebecca Coddington)

Midwives, mothers and machines

Hazel Keedle

The four factors and models of care that impact women planning a VBAC in Australia

Neel Shah

Building trustworthy systems for childbirth

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Improving the safety and accessibility of vaginal breech birth through research

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A student midwives' perspective on coercion and consent in midwifery care

Speakers & Abstracts



Elizabeth Newnham PhD

Dr. Elizabeth Newnham is a midwife academic whose research interests centre on cultural and political analysis of birthing practice, and the role of midwives in promoting physiological and humanised birth. She has presented nationally and internationally. Her doctoral research findings led to the implementation of new statewide perinatal practice guidelines on analgesia in labour and the publication of the book *Towards the humanisation of birth: A study of epidural analgesia and hospital birth culture* by Palgrave MacMillan.

Risk and safety in midwifery practice: Navigating the institutional paradox

This presentation will focus on the nuances of risk and safety discourses within contemporary maternity care settings. After presenting a broad outline of historical and socio-political contexts, I discuss ways in which particular practices and technologies are represented as either safe or risky, and how knowledge around these is constructed, arguing that this knowledge impacts on the writing of policy documents, which in turn affects practice. These are important considerations for midwifery, given that the professional philosophy is based on central tenets of woman-centred care, the midwife-woman relationship and informed consent.



Hazel Keedle PhD candidate, RM, RN

Hazel Keedle is a midwifery researcher and lecturer at Western Sydney University and a PhD candidate. Hazel has worked in a variety of settings as a midwife. Hazel's passion for VBAC followed her own experience of having a VBAC with her daughter in 2008 and since then has published research on women's experience of having a homebirth after caesarean and in her PhD work, exploring women's experiences of planning a VBAC in Australia.

The four factors and models of care that impact women planning a VBAC in Australia

The majority of women who have had a caesarean go on to have a repeat caesarean, however vaginal birth after caesarean (VBAC) can be a safe and healing experience. A mixed methods study explored women's experiences of planning a VBAC in Australia, the results of the qualitative and quantitative parts of the survey will be discussed. Findings indicate that those who have had a caesarean go on a journey during their next pregnancy with both positive and negative experiences.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Dr Deborah Fox PhD, MSc, B Mid, RM

Dr Deborah Fox is Senior Lecturer in Midwifery, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Midwifery degree and a core member of the Centre for Midwifery, Child and Family Health at University of Technology Sydney. She is an Associate Editor of the Elsevier journal 'Midwifery' and supervises Masters and PhD research students in midwifery and public health.



Dr Vanessa Scarf

Dr Vanessa Scarf has been in the university sector since 2012 when she commenced in the position of Project Coordinator for an Australian based linked data study (the Birthplace in Australia Study). Prior to 2012, Vanessa was a clinical midwife. She completed a PhD in early 2020 which was a costing study of birth at home, in a birth centre or in a hospital for women at low risk of complications in New South Wales. She is currently a lecturer in midwifery and the Course Coordinator of the Graduate Diploma in Midwifery at the University of Technology Sydney.



Dr Rebecca Coddington

Dr Coddington is registered midwife and academic who has been researching maternity care for the past 10 years. In that time, she has also supported women to have positive and empowering birth experiences in both hospital and homebirth settings. Her PhD, completed in 2018, was a qualitative study exploring midwives' experiences of providing publicly-funded homebirth in Australia. She is currently an Associate Investigator on the TAM study, which aims to upscale the use of fetal monitoring technologies that enable freedom of movement for women in childbirth.

Midwives, mothers and machines

Increasing rates of intervention during childbirth are drawing attention to the deficits in the way we currently care for women giving birth. Over emphasis and reliance on technology has reduced the humanistic aspects of maternity care, focusing on machines rather than mothers, to the detriment of their wellbeing. There is an urgent need to reflect on our relationship with technology, particularly electronic fetal monitoring, so that physiological processes and positive experiences for women remain paramount.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Neel Shah MD, MPP, FACOG

Dr. Neel Shah is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School, and founding Director of the Delivery Decisions Initiative at Harvard's Ariadne Labs. He is an obstetrician-gynecologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. As a scientist and social entrepreneur, he is a globally recognised expert in designing solutions that improve health care.

Building Trustworthy Systems for Childbirth

People who are starting or growing their families are uniquely vulnerable during humanitarian disasters, and history indicates that their wellbeing is an important bellwether for the wellbeing of us all. During the period spanning pregnancy through parenthood, daily life is disrupted by shifting biological and social circumstances. Without attention, care, and support, these disruptions lead to multiple forms of suffering: under treated illnesses, economic disempowerment, isolation. People of colour, immigrants and those living in underserved settings suffer most.



Shawn Walker PhD, RM

Shawn Walker is a midwife who researches how to make vaginal breech birth safer, how to nurture competence and expertise and the philosophy of physiological breech birth methods. She is a Senior Research Fellow at King's College London and a Consultant Breech Specialist Midwife at Chelsea and Westminster NHS Hospitals Trust.

Improving the safety and accessibility of vaginal breech birth through research

Qualitative research can give us insight into how professionals acquire vaginal breech birth skills. Detailed, systematic observation of breech birth videos can help us understand what is 'normal for breech,' and therefore help professionals know when intervention is indicated. This presentation will discuss how we can combine novel research findings in order to create an innovative care pathway that may improve outcomes and experiences for women and their babies.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Claire Eccleston RM

Claire is a registered midwife specialising in homebirth and a Spinning Babies® approved trainer and educator with the New Zealand college of midwives. She is a practicing craniosacral therapist - integrating bodywork and birth work. She teaches and presents nationally, in New Zealand, and internationally.

Physiology before force, applying a Spinning Babies® approach to birth

Human bodies are innately intelligent. Spinning Babies® seeks to optimise ease in birth by supporting physiology via anatomical understanding and simple hands on skills to support the birth process. This is particularly useful in regards to posterior positioned (OP) babies. Posterior births have higher maternity and neonatal morbidity rates. A baby who has experienced a posterior labour may have physical discomfort from birth that may affect breastfeeding.



Hannah Tizard

Hannah is a Registered Midwife, Midwifery Educator and master's student at the University of Central Lancashire, she has previously worked with All4Maternity.com and was the Editor-In-Chief of the Student Midwife Journal in 2018-2019. Hannah founded the BloodtoBaby campaign to raise global awareness about optimal cord clamping through dissemination of materials and education. She has had materials for Optimal Cord Clamping endorsed by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in the UK and because of this work won the Royal College of Midwives Evidence into Practice Award in 2016.

Physiological transition with optimal cord clamping

This presentation looks at the strong evidence base for optimal cord clamping. Hannah is keen to support change in practice, believing it is a fundamental right for all babies, especially those who may be born in poor condition, pre-term and by caesarean section.

Website: www.bloodtobaby.com

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Karen Strange CPM

Karen Strange is a Certified Professional Midwife and Neonatal Resuscitation Program Instructor. Karen is creator and instructor of the Integrative Resuscitation of the Newborn workshop, which includes the physiology of newborn transition, evidence-based studies on neonatal resuscitation, and the “When, Why and How” to provide neonatal resuscitation in the least traumatic way. Her specialty is in debriefing after resuscitation with birth professionals.

Why and how to breathe for a baby at birth: More than neonatal resuscitation

Strange delves into the subject that she knows best: neonatal resuscitation. Karen has accumulated over 950 hours of case reviews surrounding neonatal resuscitation, and has taught over 10,000 people worldwide. She focuses on what gets missed, what is misunderstood and the role of fear and panic. In this lecture, Karen sheds light on the most common failures and misconceptions that come up for midwives and birth professionals. She'll explain the key failures as well as the key components to successfully breathing for a newborn. You'll leave her lecture feeling a new sense of clarity and deep confidence in how you respond to babies who are not breathing or not breathing well.

Supporting the golden hour: Fostering baby-parent communication and connection

In reviewing the education surrounding birth (midwifery, nursing, obstetrics) there seems to be a lack of understanding of the emotional/psychological needs of both the mother and baby. Currently, all dialogue is from the mother's perspective/experience of prenatal, labor, birth and immediate postpartum. There seems to be no discussion of the mother's species specific response to natural birth. Although there is some common knowledge and discussion about the physiology of the hormones at the time of birth, there is very little credence to the full physical, emotional, and psychological experience of birth. Very little attention is paid to the growing body of evidence and research regarding the prenatal period being more than simply growing the baby's physical body. The current curriculum focuses solely on the physical cardinal movements the baby makes without regarding the psychological dynamics of the baby's journey and experience. The evidence suggests that the brain, nervous system and the temperament are all laid down in utero, which is hardwired during the prenatal period. In the current birth education, there's no acknowledgement of the newborn being a conscious, aware, sentient being that is laying down memory. More education is needed focusing on the healing methods for babies who have had complications, interruptions or interventions in their birth journey (sequence). There is a lot of breastfeeding support. But, there's very little education on the benefits and perspective of the self-attachment (breastcrawl) sequence relating to breastfeeding and why it is critical to include in midwifery care and education.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Mark Williams

Mark Williams is a writer, speaker and international campaigner. After suffering in silence from depression after the birth of his child, he founded International Fathers Mental Health Day and #Howareyoudad campaign to advocate for support for all parents. Mark was awarded Inspirational Father of the year and local hero at the Pride of Britain Awards and awarded the Point of Light Award in 2019 from the Prime Minister.

The importance of fathers' mental health

As an international campaigner for fathers' mental health, Mark Williams shares his story of coming through depression following the birth of his son, and how this experience inspired his fight to raise awareness and bring about change. Supporting all parents has far better outcomes for the whole family and the development of the child.



Mathew Appleton MA, RCST, UKCP

Matthew Appleton is a Body Psychotherapist, Craniosacral Therapist and Integrative Baby Therapist living and working in Bristol, England. In 2006 he founded Conscious Embodiment Trainings to facilitate experiential Prenatal and Birth Process Workshops for adults and teach Integrative Baby Therapy to health professionals throughout Europe.

Birth from the baby's perspective

Babies reveal a lot about their experience of birth and prenatal life through their body language (Baby Body Language). This is an introduction to baby body language and is of interest to anyone who works with babies and their parents. This enables a greater empathy for babies and insight into how they show their 'birth stories' and can also support parents to understand behaviours and emotional expressions that may leave them bewildered and may impact breastfeeding. Drawing from more than 20 years of working therapeutically with babies and their families, this talk is supported by film clips of working with babies.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Nicki Hartney RN, RM, MProf Ed & Trng

Nicki has been a midwife for over 30 years. She became a lactation consultant in 1997, maintaining this credential until 2016. At this time, her midwifery educator role in a large regional teaching hospital eventually led her to academia, when she began her role as a lecturer and course director in Midwifery at Deakin University. She continues to draw on her lactation skills and knowledge inspiring the next generation of midwives in this current role.

Hormones in play – Understanding the hormones of lactation

When offering support and advice to women who are breast feeding, it's vital to have a sound understanding of breastfeeding physiology. This presentation will draw on the instructional animation, "Breastfeeding hormones in Play" as a foundation to explore how breastfeeding physiology translates to clinical practice when supporting women to breastfeed.



Jen Kamel BA

Jen Kamel is the Founder & CEO of VBAC Facts® and an internationally recognized consumer advocate, her mission is to increase VBAC access through education, legislation, and amplifying the consumer voice. She helps perinatal professionals, and caesarean parents, achieve clarity on the VBAC evidence through her educational courses, continuing education training programs, and consulting services.

The VBAC imperative: The intersection of reproductive rights and public health

The desire to plan a VBAC is sometimes dismissed as simply a "birth preference" whose end goal is reduced to a "birth experience," - a very narrow perspective of a complex issue. The truth is, VBAC access is interwoven with public health outcomes. Research is clear that the risks significantly increase with each prior caesarean. In this session, we will compare and contrast the most serious complications of VBAC and repeat caesarean: uterine rupture and placenta accreta. Informed consent, the obstacles of hospital policy and provider preference will also be examined.

Speakers & Abstracts (continued)



Julie Brill IBCLC, CCCE, CLD

Julie Brill is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. In addition to her holistic lactation practice, she also teaches childbirth classes, and mentors childbirth educators and labour doulas as a Childbirth and Postpartum Professionals Association (CAPPA) faculty member. Julie is the author of the doula anthology *Round the Circle: Doulas Share their Experiences* and the mother of two grown daughters.

Building on what came before: How birth impacts breastfeeding

Many parents are often unaware of how their decisions during pregnancy and labour might impact breastfeeding. Common interventions can impact when mature milk transitions, milk production even beyond the postpartum period, how well babies can latch and transfer in the early days, newborn weight loss, and even the composition of human milk. We will explore how birth interventions effect breastfeeding and techniques that can help mitigate these impacts.



Kirsty Benson

Kirsty Benson is a final year midwifery student from Queensland, Australia. Kirsty has a strong woman-centred philosophy in which pregnancy, birth and the postpartum are viewed as elements of a rite of passage. Kirsty has experienced coercion in midwifery care as a woman herself and now sees this in her practice as a student midwife. These experiences have Kristy to speak up about this human rights injustice and shine light on a way of providing care to women that ushers them into.

A student midwives' perspective on coercion and consent in midwifery care

As a student midwife, Kristy will share her views on what she sees as a primary issue in maternity care. Kristy believes that mothers can enter parenting and breastfeeding in an empowered way when they are supported to make choices in their care that aligns with them. How can we work towards this vision together?

Registration

It's easier to register online

To register just go to

www.breastfeedingconferences.com.au

Conference streaming

February 5th – May 31st 2021

Need help with registration?

Call Barb on 0488 757 334

Or email info@breastfeedingconferences.com.au

Group Education:

Special prices for group education exist.

Please see our website for details or email

info@breastfeedingconferences.com.au

Prices:

Full prices **\$205 AUD**

Earlybird Price **\$169 AUD** (if Registered before Jan 10th 2021)

Student/Unwaged **\$120 AUD**

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CERPs Approval Number C202104

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Positions are available in our virtual exhibit hall for

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