# Birth, babies and breastfeeding in a time of COVID





#### **Dates:**

Conference opens May 14<sup>th</sup>

Streaming until September
30<sup>th</sup> 2022

## **Program**

**Amy Brown** – Pregnancy, birth and caring for babies during the Covid-19 pandemic

**Liz Crowe** – The impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of health professionals

**Kristin Tully** – Birth and breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19: Strengthening systems of perinatal care to better accommodate what families need to know, feel, and have happen

**Sarah Turner** – Breastfeeding in the pandemic: Mother's experiences and emerging research

**Nurul Husna Mohd Shukri** – Maternal postnatal life experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic: Are mothers coping well?

**Britt Van Keulen** – Breastfeeding in times of COVID 19: What do we know about human milk antibodies against SARS-CoV-2?



Amy Brown PhD

Prof. Amy Brown directs the research centre 'LIFT": Lactation, Infant Feeding and Translation at Swansea University in the UK. She

has spent the last sixteen years exploring psychological, cultural and societal barriers to breastfeeding, alongside experiences of perinatal mental health and caring for babies. She is particularly interested in how we can shift our perception of breastfeeding and infant care from an individual mothering issue, to a wider public health problem. Professor Brown has published over 100 research papers and is author of 9 books including her most recent *Covid babies* – how pandemic health measures undermined pregnancy, birth and early parenting.



**Sarah Turner** MSc, PhD (cand.)

Sarah Turner is a Vanier Scholar and PhD Candidate in the Dept of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba.

She has a BSc in Human Ecology and her MSc in Community Health Sciences. Her research focuses on how breastmilk and breastfeeding contribute to child cognitive development and behaviour. She is interested in how both the nutritional qualities of breastmilk and the social-emotional benefits of breastfeeding, such as the mother-child relationship, contribute to infant neurodevelopment. During the pandemic, Sarah began a new research project focusing on how COVID-19-related precautions influenced mother's breastfeeding experiences.



Kristin Tully PhD

Dr. Kristin Tully is a Research Assistant Professor in the Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of North Carolina with expertise on

engaging perinatal patients, family members, and clinicians to understand and address their unmet needs. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame, doctorate in Biological Anthropology at Durham University, England, and postdoctoral fellowship in Developmental Science at the University of North Carolina and Duke University. At UNC, she is a member of the 4th Trimester Project and currently serves as a Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator.



Liz Crowe BSW, PhD (cand.)

Liz Crowe is an experienced social worker who has spent her career in paediatric intensive care specialising in crisis, trauma and end-of-life care with

children and families. In the last two years her focus has shifted to the wellbeing of health care professionals and has submitted a PhD thesis investigating the risk and protective factors for the wellbeing of health care professionals. Liz is a passionate and humorous educator who regularly speaks internationally and is an active podcaster. Liz is the successful author of *The little book of loss and grief you can read while you cry*.



Nurul Husna Mohd Shukri PhD

Nurul Husna Shukri is a senior lecturer in the Dept of Nutrition, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia. She obtained her PhD at University College London, where she conducted a trial looking at the mother-infant relationship through physiological and psychological signalling during breastfeeding using relaxation therapy. Her current research interests are in the influence of maternal psychology on breastfeeding outcomes, including human milk composition, and their relation to infant growth and behaviour. Nurul also serves as a nutritionist and lactation counsellor based in Malaysia.



#### Britt Van Keulen PhD

Britt Joan van Keulen started medical school in 2011 at the University of Amsterdam. She completed her bachelor degree with honors (cum laude) in 2014.

During her internships, she became particularly interested in pediatrics, and therefore, did her final clinical internship and her research internship within this field. After graduating in 2017, she had the opportunity to start as a PhD candidate in pediatric endocrinology at the VU University Medical Center. She worked on her thesis from 2017 to 2020, which focused on variability in cortisol production and metabolism. During this period, she worked at the Dutch National Human Milk Bank. In the beginning of the corona pandemic, she received the question whether human milk may contain antibodies against the coronavirus. Together with Hans van Goudoever (director of the Dutch National Human Milk Bank) she rapidly set up a new research line as a postdoctoral researcher; the COVID-MILK studies. These studies focus on the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies and on several aspects which could influence these antibodies. Thousands of women were included in these studies.

#### **Accreditation:**

CERPs Accreditation Number CL2021-1AU Australian College of Midwives CPD Endorsed hours 5.5

Total L CERPs - 2.5 Total R CERPs - 1 Total: 3.5 Cerps

### Registration

Name	
Address	
	Postcode
Phone	
Email	
Occupation	
Pricing (please tick)	
☐ Full Price – <b>\$129</b>	
Earlybird Price – <b>\$98</b>	
(Earlybird Registrations by May 7th 2022)	
TOTAL AMOUNT: \$	
Payment options	
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