

Dr Marjorie ATCHAN Assistant Professor in Midwifery (Clinical) School of Nursing, Midwifery and Public Health



Biography

I am a registered midwife with a clinical background that includes postnatal care and breastfeeding / infant feeding support. I have been working at the University of Canberra since 2012, convening and teaching into various Midwifery units. I am the Program Director for the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Public health, ensuring the quality assurance of delivered programs. I co-supervise higher degree research students. I am a practitioner member of the ACT Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

My Doctoral study examined the impact of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) in the Australian setting and provided recommendations which have informed national public health policy direction. I chair the Australian College of Midwives Advisory Committee for the BFHI in Australia. I am also an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant and accredited BFHI assessor.

I am currently working with midwifery colleagues across Australia and New Zealand on several different projects: examining Australian and New Zealand women's early parenting experiences during a pandemic; exploring the factors that influence breastfeeding practices at discharge from accredited and non-accredited Australian BFHI hospitals and investigating the support offered to undergraduate midwifery students.

Areas of Teaching and Research

Postnatal issues for women and babies and early parenting

Breastfeeding and infant feeding

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative

Student support and the learning experience

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Qualifications

Doctor of Philosophy - University of Technology Sydney

Master of Education and Work - Macquarie University, Sydney

Bachelor of Nursing - University of Technology, Sydney

Graduate Certificate of Adult Education (Community) - University of Technology Sydney

Child & Family Health Nursing Certificate – Tresillian, Sydney

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant – International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners

Neonatal Intensive Care Certificate – King George V Hospital, Sydney

Midwifery Certificate - King George V Hospital, Sydney

General Nursing Certificate - Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney

Research outputs

Promoting breastfeeding in women with gestational diabetes mellitus in high-income settings: an integrative review

Otter, G., Davis, D., Kurz, E., Hooper, M. E., Shield, A., Samarawickrema, I., Spiller, S. & Atchan, M., 18 Jan 2024, In: International Breastfeeding Journal. 19, 1, p. 1-21 21 p., 4.

The holistic maternity care needs of women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: A systematic review with thematic synthesis

Davis, D., Kurz, E., Hooper, M-E., Atchan, M., Spiller, S., Blackburn, J., Bushell, M., Lewis, V., Leung, M., Samarawickrema, I. & Knight-Agarwal, C., 6 Sept 2023, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Women and Birth*. p. 1-11 11 p.

Either 'a blessing in disguise', or 'I couldn't get help,': Australian and Aotearoa NZ women's experiences of early infant feeding during COVID-19

Atchan, M., Graham, K., Hartney, N., Martis, R., Kearney, L., Davey, K., Daellenbach, R., Hall, H. & Sweet, L., May 2023, In: *Women and Birth*. 36, 3, p. e305-e313 9 p.

The needs and experiences of women with gestational diabetes mellitus from minority ethnic backgrounds in high-income nations: A systematic integrative review

Tzotzis, L., Hooper, M. E., Douglas, A., Kurz, E., Atchan, M., Spiller, S. & Davis, D., Mar 2023, In: *Women and Birth*. 36, 2, p. 205-216 12 p.

Factors influencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's breastfeeding practice: A scoping narrative review

Zheng, C. X., Atchan, M., Hartz, D., Davis, D. & Kurz, E., Feb 2023, In: *Women and Birth*. 36, 1, p. 11-16 6 p.

Infant and young child feeding during natural disasters: A systematic integrative literature review

Ratnayake Mudiyansele, S., Davis, D., Kurz, E. & Atchan, M., Nov 2022, In: *Women and Birth*. 35, 6, p. 524-531 8 p.

Predictors and impact of women's breastfeeding self-efficacy and postnatal care in the context of a pandemic in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

Sweet, L., Muller, A., Kearney, L., Martis, R., Hartney, N., Davey, K., Daellenbach, R., Hall, H. & Atchan, M., Nov 2022, In: *Midwifery*. 114, p. 1-11 11 p., 103462.

A systematic integrative review examining the impact of Australian rural and remote maternity unit closures

Bradow, J., Smith, S. D-V., Davis, D. & Atchan, M., Dec 2021, In: *Midwifery*. 103, p. 1-9 9 p., 103094.

Development of the Woman-Centred Care Scale- Midwife Self Report (WCCS-MSR)

Davis, D. L., Creedy, D. K., Bradfield, Z., Newnham, E., Atchan, M., Davie, L., McAra-Couper, J., Graham, K., Griffiths, C., Sweet, L. & Stulz, V., 23 Jul 2021, In: *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 21, 1, p. 523

The future in their hands: Graduating student midwives' plans, job satisfaction and the desire to work in midwifery continuity of care

Evans, J., Taylor, J., Browne, J., Ferguson, S., Atchan, M., Maher, P., Homer, C. S. & Davis, D., Feb 2020, In: *Women and Birth*. 33, 1, p. 59-66 8 p.

Exploring the diversity of Australian Bachelor of Midwifery programs

Atchan, M., Sept 2019, In: *Women and Birth*. 32, S1, p. 27-27 1 p.

An instrumental case study examining the introduction and dissemination of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative in Australia: Participants' perspectives

Atchan, M., Davis, D. & Foureur, M., Jun 2018, In: *Women and Birth*. 31, 3, p. 210-219 10 p.

An integrative review of the psychosocial facilitators and challenges of continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion therapy in type 1 diabetes

Payk, M., Robinson, T., Davis, D. & Atchan, M., 1 Mar 2018, In: *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 74, 3, p. 528-538 11 p.

"Mapping the diversity of Australian Bachelor of Midwifery programs." Inaugural Trans-Tasman Midwifery Education Conference Transforming midwifery practice through education

ATCHAN, M. & BOWMAN, R., 2018, p. 4. 1 p.

Review of effective strategies to promote breastfeeding

Smith, J., Cattaneo, A., Iellamo, A., Javanparast, S., ATCHAN, M., Gribble, K., Hartmann, B., Salmon, L., Taiwa, S., Hull, N., Linkson, M., Blake, M. & Elliott-Rudder, M., 2018, The Sax Institute. 204 p.

**'Woman centeredness: Walking the talk in midwifery education'. Inaugural Trans-Tasman Midwifery Education Conference
Transforming midwifery practice through education**

DAVIS, D., ATCHAN, M., FERGUSON, S. & Zakharoff, K-A., 2018, p. 22. 1 p.

An historical document analysis of the introduction of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative into the Australian setting

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 1 Feb 2017, In: Women and Birth. 30, 1, p. 51-62 12 p.

Exploring the barriers to the uptake and development of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) in Australia from its beginnings in 1992

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2017, p. 1. 1 p.

A methodological review of qualitative case study methodology in midwifery research

Atchan, M., Davis, D. & Foureur, M., 2016, In: Journal of Advanced Nursing. 72, 10, p. 2259-2271 13 p.

Is the Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) essential to the support of breastfeeding in Australia?

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2016, p. 36-37. 2 p.

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative in Australia – twenty years on

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2015, In: Women and Birth. 28, S1, p. 7-7 1 p.

Applying a knowledge translation model to the uptake of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative in the Australian health care system

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., Jun 2014, In: Women and Birth. 27, 2, p. 79-85 7 p.

Operationalising a global strategy in a national setting: the implementation of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative in Australia

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2014, p. 19-19. 1 p.

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative Australia: early influences on uptake and development.

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2014, p. 6-6. 1 p.

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative in Australia: Desirable strategy or lame duck?

ATCHAN, M., 2013, p. s22-s23. 2 p.

The impact of the Baby Friendly Health Initiative in the Australian healthcare system: a critical narrative review of the evidence.

ATCHAN, M., DAVIS, D. & Foureur, M., 2013, In: Breastfeeding Review. 21, 2, p. 15-22 8 p.

The decision not to initiate breastfeeding--women's reasons, attitudes and influencing factors--a review of the literature.

Atchan, M., Foureur, M. & Davis, D., 2011, In: Breastfeeding Review. 19, 2, p. 1-1 1 p.

Research Projects, Awards, Grants and Income

My research focus is the health and well-being of women and babies. The infant feeding decisions and practice of women affects not only themselves but also their baby's life and health potential. Breastfeeding according to international recommendations prevents or reduces the risk of a number of short and long-term health conditions. Premature weaning has a negative impact at an individual and societal level as the burden of increasing health care costs for chronic conditions is attributable to infant formula usage.

The Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) is a global strategy designed to protect, promote and support breastfeeding through health facilities' adoption of "The Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding", a set of evidence-based minimum quality standards. My research has shown the BFHI has a positive influence on breastfeeding initiation and duration despite experiencing numerous challenges to uptake and sustainability. It has also revealed the BFHI is highly sensitive to political will. Clear unequivocal leadership in the form of public policy accompanied by adequate human and fiscal resourcing is required to incentivise the entire health system and create changes in clinical practice and the maternity care

workplace.

Current Projects

- Chief Investigator: The diversity of clinical education support in Australia: mapping the midwifery landscape. This UC project will create a contemporary national profile of the support provided to students by Australian midwifery programs and provide UC an opportunity to benchmark against the nation. Results will be presented at the inaugural Trans-Tasman Midwifery Education Conference in September 2018.
- Co-investigator: "I am just a different creature on this world." This School of Nursing and Midwifery unfunded project is exploring international nursing students' experiences of assimilating into the local socio-economic environment; meeting the requirements of tertiary study/university life and transitioning into Australian clinical practice settings. Results will be published in a peer reviewed journal
- Co-investigator: Evaluating the development of cultural competence in undergraduate health students. This Faculty of Health unfunded pilot project is exploring the extent to which short-term international study abroad programs enable learning about a country and its people as well as increasing cultural awareness. Results will be published in a peer reviewed journal and used to inform a larger project.
- Co-investigator: Promoting Workplace Health. This UC Discipline of Midwifery/Synergy Nursing & Midwifery Research Centre/ACT Health funded practice development project aims to enhance the workplace health and culture in one ward area of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children.
- Co-investigator: This Trans-Tasman Consortium project is re-validating the Australian Midwifery Standards Assessment (AMSA) Tool using the newly released Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Midwifery Standards for Practice. The AMSA Tool is a vital element of UC's Midwifery programs. It is used as a comprehensive summative and formative form of assessment in determining the competency of student midwives' clinical practice and work readiness.

Awards

2018 Nomination, Midwifery Excellence in Educational Practice, ACT Nurses and Midwives Excellence Awards, ACT Health

2017 Recipient, HSP Research Student Development Award, University of Technology Sydney. A competitive award for final-year students to assist research related costs where there is a strong likelihood of an output; used to offset the costs of presenting my PhD findings at an international midwifery conference in Canada

2016 Nomination, Faculty of Health Teaching Award, University of Canberra

2015 Nomination, Faculty of Health Teaching Award, University of Canberra

2014 Co-recipient, ACM ACT Division Rhodanthe Lipsett Award. Bestowed on the UC Midwifery team in recognition of the significant contribution to midwifery. Recipients demonstrate they have raised the visibility of midwifery in the community, influenced the practice of midwifery in a positive way, a positive impact on the experience of birthing women and a commitment to supporting women and their families.

Grants

2018 Nissen, J., Ferguson, S., and Atchan, M. Promoting Workplace Health. SYNERGY Nursing & Midwifery Research Centre Practice Development Scholarship. Funding awarded: \$9,904.40

2017 Atchan, M., Bowman, R., Davis, D., Taylor, J., and Ferguson S. The diversity of clinical education support in Australia: mapping the midwifery landscape. Faculty of Health Research Funding Support. Funding awarded: \$2,700

Grant Applications

2017 Davis, D., Ferguson, S., Atchan, M. and Nissen, J. "Diabetes stole my pregnancy": Improving the pregnancy experience for women with diabetes. Diabetes Australia. Funding requested: \$44,183 - unsuccessful

2015 Smith, J., Bagheri, N., McRae, I., Javanprast, S. and Atchan M. "Inequitable access to Baby Friendly accredited maternity facilities – does it affect breastfeeding practice?" Ethics application submitted to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to access de-identified data for stage one of the project and to use as leverage for further funding applications – application unsuccessful.

2014 Smith, J., Bagheri, N., McRae, I., Javanprast, S. and Atchan M. "Inequitable access to Baby Friendly Hospitals – does it affect breastfeeding uptake?" Bupa Health Foundation. Funding requested: \$127,000 – unsuccessful.

'Other' Income

2017 Browne J., Taylor J., Davis D., Kinnear A., Atchan M., Ferguson S. and Belconnen Rotary Presentation of an International Leadership program delivered to Western Pacific Midwives in October 2017 as a consultancy for the Australian College of Midwives. Rotary grant: \$15,000.

2016 Browne J., Taylor J., Davis D., Kinnear A., Atchan M., Ferguson S. and Belconnen Rotary Presentation of an International Leadership program delivered to Western Pacific Midwives in October 2016 as a consultancy for the Australian College of Midwives. Rotary grant: \$15,000.

2015 Browne J., Taylor J., Davis D., Kinnear A., Atchan M., Ferguson S. and Belconnen Rotary Development of an International Leadership program to be delivered to Western Pacific Midwives in October 2015 as a consultancy for the Australian College of Midwives. Rotary grant: \$15,000.

2014 Collaboration with Discipline of Midwifery to achieve: I. Database development (\$25,000); II. Review of the UC Bachelor of Midwifery curriculum (\$60,000); III. Online transformation of the Master of Midwifery (\$40,000). SAFFire Funding. Funding awarded: \$125,000.