

# Canadian Breastfeeding Research Network Planning and Consultation Meeting

## Attendee Profiles

June 8th and 9th, 2023



# List of Researchers

1. Jennifer Abbass Dick
2. Meghan Azad
3. Jo-Anna Baxter
4. Chantal Bayard
5. Britney Benoit
6. Jodie Bigalky
7. Merilee Brockway
8. Suzanne Campbell
9. Maria Vera Lúcia  
Moreira Leitão Cardoso
10. Allison Daniel
11. Cindy-Lee Dennis
12. Rosann Edwards
13. Darine El-Chaar
14. Nancy Feeley
15. Jane Francis
16. Laura Haiek
17. Rebecca Hoban
18. Kimberley Jackson
19. Michele McIntosh
20. Karen McQueen
21. Isabelle Michaud-  
Létourneau
22. Alison Mildon
23. William Montelpare
24. Leigh Anne Newhook
25. Maryam Razaghi
26. Christina Ricci
27. Smitha Rodrigues
28. Natalie Rodriguez
29. Misty Rossiter
30. Natalie Scime
31. Daniel Sellen
32. Sonia Semenic
33. Garry Shen
34. Marie Tarrant
35. Laurie Twells
36. Kyly Whitfield
37. Sanoji Wijenayake



# Jennifer Abbass Dick

Associate Professor

Ontario Tech University

✉ [Jennifer.abbassdick@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:Jennifer.abbassdick@ontariotechu.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Abbass Dick has worked with perinatal families as a Registered Nurse and an IBCLC lactation consultant throughout her career. Her program of research focuses on designing and evaluating interventions for new parents and their families to increase breastfeeding rates. This involves supporting mothers and co-parents in working as a team to meet their jointly determined child health goals, and developing eHealth tools in partnership with new mothers, fathers, partners, co-parents, and Indigenous families. Currently, her research focuses on working with health care providers to implement breastfeeding eHealth tools in health care organizations to increase health literacy and breastfeeding rates.



## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Abbass Dick, J., Stern, S. B., Nelson, L. E., Watson, W., & Dennis, C. L. (2015). Co-parenting breastfeeding support and exclusive breastfeeding: A randomized controlled trial. *Pediatrics*, 135(1), 102-110. doi: 10.1542/peds.2014-1416.
2. Abbass Dick, J., Brown, H. K., Jackson, K. T., Rempel, L., & Dennis, C. L. (2019). Perinatal breastfeeding interventions including fathers/partners: A systematic review of the literature. *Midwifery*, 75, 41-51.
3. Abbass Dick, J., Sun, W., Newport, A., Xie, F., Godfrey, D., Goodman, W. (2020). The comparison of access to an eHealth resource to current practice on mother and co-parent teamwork and breastfeeding rates: A randomized controlled trial. *Midwifery*, 90, 102812.



# Meghan Azad

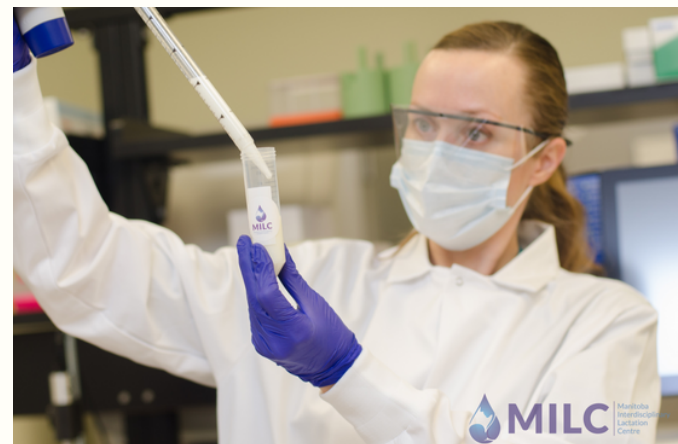
Professor

University of Manitoba

✉ meghan.azad@umanitoba.ca

## About Me

Dr. Azad is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Manitoba, where she holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Developmental Origins of Chronic Disease. Her research program is focused on the role of infant nutrition and the microbiome in child growth, development and resilience. Dr. Azad co-Directs the new Manitoba Interdisciplinary Lactation Centre (MILC) and leads the new International Milk Composition (IMiC) Consortium. She serves as Deputy Director of the CHILD Cohort Study, a national pregnancy cohort following 3500 children to understand how early life experiences shape lifelong health. Research in the THRiVE Discovery Lab is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Azad serves on the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation Executive Council and the joint US/Canada Human Milk Composition Initiative. She is a Fellow of the CIFAR Humans and the Microbiome Program and an elected member of the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars. Dr. Azad received the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation Erlich-Koldovsky Early Career Investigator Award (2018) and the International Human Milk Genomics Mid-Career Investigator Award (2020). She was named among the WXN Canada Top 100 Most Powerful Women (2020) and Canada's Top 40 Under 40 (2021).



## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Kumbhare SV, Jones WD, Fast S, Bonner C, Jong G, Domselaar GV, Graham M, Narvey M, AZAD MB. Source of human milk (mother or donor) is more important than fortifier type (human or bovine) in shaping the preterm infant microbiome. *Cell Rep Med*. 2022; 3(9):100712. DOI: 10.1016/j.xcrm.2022.100712. PMID: 36029771.
2. AZAD MB, Nickel NC, Bode L, Brockway M, Brown A, Chambers C, Goldhammer C, Hind Katie, McGuire M, Munblit D, Patel AL, Pérez-Escamilla R, Rasmussen KM, Shenker N, Young BE, Zuccolo L. Breastfeeding and the Origins of Health: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Priorities. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*. 2020 Nov 19:e13109. DOI: 10.1111/mcn.13109. PMID: 33210456
3. Fehr K, Moossavi S, Sbihi H, Boutin RCT, Bode L, Robertson B, Yonemitsu C, Field CJ, Becker AB, Mandhane PJ, Sears MR, Khafipour E, Moraes TJ, Subbarao P, Finlay BB, Turvey SE, AZAD MB. Breastmilk feeding practices are associated with the co-occurrence of bacteria in mothers' milk and the infant gut: the CHILD Cohort Study. *Cell Host & Microbe* 2020. S1931-3128(20)30350-4. DOI: 10.1016/j.chom.2020.06.009. PMID: 32652062



# Jo-Anna Baxter

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Toronto

✉ [joanna.baxter@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:joanna.baxter@mail.utoronto.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Jo-Anna Baxter is a CIHR-funded postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. Her fellowship focuses on investigating the relationship between maternal nutrition, breastmilk composition, and infant growth, as well as characterizing lactation and food supports offered to vulnerable mothers and infants within the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. During her PhD, Dr. Baxter focused understanding the inequalities that underlie nutritional status among late adolescent and young women in Pakistan in the context of a large trial looking at the effectiveness of maternal multiple micronutrient supplementation conducted with collaborators at the Aga Khan University.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Baxter J, Barac R, Davidson M, Salim S, Zlotkin S, Barwick M. Evaluating Programmatic Effectiveness and Implementation: An Assessment of Factors Affecting Change in the Practice of Exclusive Breastfeeding in Ethiopia and Mali. *The FASEB Journal*. 2016;30(S1):1149.1.

# Chantal Bayard

PhD candidate

Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

✉ [chantal.bayard@uqtr.ca](mailto:chantal.bayard@uqtr.ca)

## About Me

Chantal Bayard is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Social Communication at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. Her thesis explored the discourses and representations of breastfeeding celebrities and social media influencers. She is also interested in companies' digital marketing practices on social media. For several years, she has been analyzing the discourses rhetoric of public health and formula feeding industry, as well as their effects on mother's mental health. She is currently working as a community organizer in an Integrated University Center for Health and Social Services (Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de Services sociaux) in Quebec.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Bayard, Chantal and Phyllis L.F Rippey. 2023. « Cornering the Market on Maternal Affect: A Discourse Analysis of a Social Media Marketing Campaign for Infant Formula », *International Journal of Feminist Approaches of Bioethics* (Accepted. In Press).
2. Bayard, Chantal and Laurence Charton. 2022. « Partenariat rémunéré entre une entreprise et une influenceuse sur Facebook: entrecroisement des voix des femmes autour de l'alimentation des nourrissons ». *Nouvelle Revue Synergie Canada* 15. <https://doi.org/10.21083/nrsc.v2022i15.6524>
3. Bayard, Chantal. 2019. « Les mères célèbres sur Instagram : ce que nous révèlent leurs mises en scène de l'allaitement », *Enfances Familles Générations*, n 31. <https://journals.openedition.org/efg/4791>





# Britney Benoit

Assistant Professor

St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia Health

✉ [bbenoit@stfx.ca](mailto:bbenoit@stfx.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Britney Benoit is a Registered Nurse and Assistant Professor in the Rankin School of Nursing at St. Francis Xavier University and Affiliate Scientist at Nova Scotia Health. Her current research is focused on supporting parent-led interventions for pain management and fostering supportive environments for breastfeeding. Several key projects include: (1) Co-development of implementation interventions to support parent-led (breastfeeding, parent-infant skin-to-skin contact) infant pain management in rural communities; and (2) Identification of barriers, facilitators, and context-driven strategies to support implementation of the Baby Friendly Initiative in hospital and community care environments in Nova Scotia.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Benoit B, Cassidy C, van Wijlen J, Correll Q, Hendra S, Campbell-Yeo M, Martin-Misener R, Leuschner J, Cameron A. (2022). Co-development of implementation interventions to support parent-led care for pain in infants: Protocol for a qualitative descriptive study. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 11(8): e33770. doi: 10.2196/33770
2. Benoit B, Newman A, Martin-Misener R, Latimer M, Campbell-Yeo M. (2021). The influence of breastfeeding on cortical and bio-behavioural indicators of procedural pain in newborns: Findings of a randomized controlled trial. *Early Human Development*, 154(2021), 105308. doi: 10.1016/j.earlhumdev.2021.105308
3. Benoit B, Semenic S. (2014). Barriers and facilitators to implementing the baby friendly hospital initiative in neonatal intensive care units. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynaecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*, 43(5): 614-624.



# Jodie Bigalky

RN Assistant Professor

University of Saskatchewan

✉ [jodie.bigalky@usask.ca](mailto:jodie.bigalky@usask.ca)

## About Me

Jodie Bigalky is a registered nurse with extensive background in perinatal and women's health. She is currently an Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan. Her research interests include people in circumstances of disadvantage including women with substance use disorders. Her recent work has also explored human lactation, menstrual hygiene, and intimate partner violence. In her spare time, Jodie maintains a clinical practice on the Labour and Birth unit at the Regina General Hospital. Jodie obtained her undergraduate and Master's degrees in nursing from the University of Saskatchewan and her PhD from the University of Regina. Her dissertation research was a narrative inquiry that explored the storied experiences of pregnant women with substance use disorders. Jodie holds current certification in perinatal nursing through the Canadian Nurses Association and is a member of the Canadian Association of Perinatal and Women's Health Nurses.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Bigalky, J., Dietrich Leurer, M., McCabe, J., Mackey, A., Laczko, D., & Deobald, V. (2021). Advice from Canadian mothers who express human milk: An interpretive description qualitative study. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 26(2) pp. 342-350 doi: 0.1007/s10995-021-03237-w
2. Dietrich Leurer, M., McCabe, J., Bigalky, J., Mackey, A., Laczko, D., & Deobald, V. (2020). "We just kind of had to figure it out": A qualitative exploration of the information needs of mothers who express human milk. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 36(2) 273-282. doi: 10.1177/0890334419883203



# Merilee (Meredith) Brockway

Assistant Professor

University of Calgary

✉ [mbrockwa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mbrockwa@ucalgary.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Merilee (Meredith) Brockway is a registered nurse and IBCLC with expertise in maternal-child health, infant feeding, and patient engagement. She completed her PhD in nursing at the University of Calgary, examining maternal breastfeeding self-efficacy and infant feeding outcomes in moderate and late preterm infants. Merilee completed her post-doctoral training at the University of Manitoba in Dr. Meghan Azad's lab, exploring clinical applications of donor human milk for preterm infants. Merilee is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and developing a program of research examining the use of human milk as a clinical intervention to mitigate early life perturbations to the infant microbiome.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Brockway M, Benzies K, Hayden KA. Interventions to Improve Breastfeeding Self-Efficacy and Resultant Breastfeeding Rates: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Human Lactation*. 2017;33(3):486-499. doi:[10.1177/0890334417707957](https://doi.org/10.1177/0890334417707957)
2. Brockway, M, Benzies, KM, Carr, E, Aziz, K. Does breastfeeding self-efficacy theory apply to mothers of moderate and late preterm infants? A qualitative exploration. *J Clin Nurs*. 2020; 29: 2872– 2885. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jocn.15304>
3. Brockway M, Mcleod S, Kurilova J, Fenton TR, Duffett-Leger L, Benzies KM. Breastfeeding self-efficacy predicts breastmilk feeding in preterm infants at discharge from the neonatal intensive care unit. *Nurs Open*. 2023 Mar;10(3):1863-1870. doi: 10.1002/nop2.1450. Epub 2022 Dec 17. PMID: 36527730; PMCID: PMC9912448.



# Suzanne Campbell

Professor

The University of British Columbia - Vancouver

✉ [suzanne.campbell@ubc.ca](mailto:suzanne.campbell@ubc.ca)

## About Me

Suzanne Hetzel Campbell PhD, RN, FCNEI, IBCLC, CCSNE Professor at UBC School of Nursing is a seasoned global educator who uses technology and experiential learning pedagogy to build capacity in interdisciplinary perinatal health practitioners, specifically in the area of lactation. An Internationally Board-Certified Lactation Consultant since 2002, she is advancing interprofessional education, research, and practice in lactation. Professor Campbell's clinical work in the area of lactation with underserved populations has led her team to the development of open education resource modules and global and interdisciplinary work including award winning texts on lactation for interdisciplinary core curriculums and as a strategy for health promotion. Professor Campbell's team's website: <http://nursing-sim.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Wambach, K., Campbell, S. H., Gill, S., Dodgson, J., Abiona, T., Heinig, M. J. (2005). Clinical lactation practice: 20 years of evidence. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 21, 245-258.

# Maria Vera Lúcia Moreira Leitão Cardoso

Visiting Professor - UBC

University of British Columbia

✉ [mariavera.cardoso@ubc.ca](mailto:mariavera.cardoso@ubc.ca) AND [cardoso@ufc.br](mailto:cardoso@ufc.br)

## About Me

Full professor at Federal University of Ceará/Brazil, Scholarship Productivity CNPq 1B/Brazil, coordinator of project Health Technologies - actions and strategies for health promotion/PRINT/CAPES/Brazil, Leader of the Research Group in Neonate and Child's Health (NUPESNEC) is a Visiting Professor for University of British Columbia -UBC, expertise in Neonatal and Pediatric care, Health technology working with Suzanne Campbell on developing simulation education related to sleep of hospitalized preterm infants. She has been supervising master and PhD students in areas like breastfeeding, pain, intravenous therapy, sleep behavior, COVID-19, Clinical simulation, instruments evaluation. Methodological studies and Clinical trial.

# Allison Daniel

Consultant

World Health Organization

✉ [adaniel@who.int](mailto:adaniel@who.int)

## About Me

Dr. Allison Daniel is a consultant in the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety at World Health Organization working on the guideline for prevention and treatment of wasting. She holds a PhD in Nutritional Sciences with a Collaborative Specialization in Global Health from the University of Toronto.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqaa410>
2. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzab100>
3. <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/breastfeeding-babies-during-war>



# Cindy-Lee Dennis

Professor

University of Toronto

✉ [cindylee.dennis@utoronto.ca](mailto:cindylee.dennis@utoronto.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Cindy-Lee Dennis is a Professor in the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. She holds the Women's Health Research Chair at Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital and is a senior investigator at Lunenfeld-Tannenbaum Research Institute at Sinai Health in Toronto. She is currently the principal investigator of seven large, multi-site studies and is a co-investigator on twenty-four other research projects concerning maternal, paternal, and infant health outcomes with a clinical focus on perinatal mental health and breastfeeding and methodological expertise in clinical trials and systematic reviews. She developed the Breastfeeding Self-Efficacy Scale, the most widely used breastfeeding measure in the world that has been translated into over 20 different languages.

# Rosann Edwards

## Assistant Professor

University of New Brunswick Saint John

✉ [rosann.edwards@unb.ca](mailto:rosann.edwards@unb.ca)

## About Me

Rosann Edwards is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of New Brunswick Saint John. In her research and community involvement she seeks to better understand the many, many ways of mothering. Rosann's work focuses on breastfeeding, m/othering under the external influences of systems, and exploring how Nurses can empower vulnerable populations of women and their children while improving health outcomes. Rosann is also an experienced front line public health nurse, lactation consultant, lover of karate, and mother of boys

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Edwards, R. (2023). Older First-time Mothers in the 21st Century: Challenging (and Changing) the Norms of Early Motherhood. In Andrea O'Reilly (Ed.), *Normative Motherhood: Regulations, Representations, and Reclamations*. Demeter Press, Brantford, ON.
2. Edwards, R., Cragg, B., Peterson, W., & Dunn, S. (2021). The Breastfeeding Experiences of Older First-time Mothers: A Constructivist Grounded Theory Study. *Midwifery*, vol 96, pp.1-9
3. Edwards, R. (2020). Breastfeeding as a Site of Quiet Rebellion and Finding Their Own Path to Motherhood for First-Time Mothers Over 35. In P. Drew & R. Edwards (Eds.), *Breasts Across Motherhood: Lived Experiences and Critical Examinations*. Demeter Press, Brantford, ON.

# Darine El-Chaar

## Clinician Scientist

The Ottawa Hospital

✉ delchaar@toh.ca

## About Me

Dr. El-Chaâr completed her Obstetrical and Gynecology residency at The University of Ottawa in 2012. She was extensively involved in research projects during her residency at the Ottawa hospital which gathered several achievement awards, publications, national and international presentations. Research initiatives included the risks of obesity on maternal and neonatal obstetrical outcomes and interventions. Her research also explored funding for this project which would help look at the postpartum outcomes in this patient population. In July of 2014, Dr. Darine El-Chaâr completed her Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship training at the University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital. Throughout her training, she maintained a keen interest in obstetrical research and its impact on women's health. She joined the Maternal Fetal Medicine Department at The Ottawa Hospital as of July 2014. She completed a Masters in clinical Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2017. Current research initiatives include maternal health conditions and pregnancy outcomes, Caesarian Delivery by Maternal Request and Provincial outcomes, COVID-19 in pregnancy, Cannabis use in pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Diabetes: maternal and neonatal obstetrical outcomes and interventions. She has secured funding through CIHR and other grant funding agencies. Dr. El-Chaâr is actively involved in resident and fellow teaching, in addition to continuing development of the residency/fellowship research educational curriculum. She has just completed a term of program director of Maternal Fetal Medicine. She continues to take part in national and international conferences where she is invited to speak out on maternal and fetal medicine initiatives. Through many platforms, Dr. Darine El-Chaâr is dedicated to provide excellent patient care, and that is what motivates her daily in her research and educational activities. Making a positive impact on a patient's care experience is always the main priority in her approach to care.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Foudil-Bey I, Murphy MSQ, Dunn S, Keely EJ, El-Chaâr D. Evaluating antenatal breastmilk expression outcomes: a scoping review. *Int Breastfeed J*. 2021 Mar 12;16(1):25. doi: 10.1186/s13006-021-00371-7. PMID: 33712049; PMCID: PMC7971107.
2. Alibhai KM, Murphy MSQ, Dunn S, Keely E, O'Meara P, Anderson J, El-Chaâr D. Evaluation of a breastmilk hand expression toolkit: the M.I.L.K survey study. *Int Breastfeed J*. 2022 Jan 15;17(1):8. doi: 10.1186/s13006-021-00448-3. PMID: 35033140; PMCID: PMC8760591.
3. Mu W, Huang YH, Chaumont A, Létourneau I, El-Chaar D, Xia T, Wu Wen S. Breast feeding after caesarean delivery on maternal request: protocol of a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Open*. 2020 Aug 13;10(8):e038309. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-038309. PMID: 32792447; PMCID: PMC7430420.



# Nancy Feeley

## Senior Researcher

Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Jewish General Hospital

✉ nancy.feeley@mcgill.ca

## About Me

Nancy Feeley RN PhD FCAN is a Senior Researcher at the Lady Davis Institute and the Centre for Nursing Research of the Jewish General Hospital and Full Professor (post-retirement) at McGill University. Her program of research has focused on the psychological adjustment and parenting of mothers and fathers of newborns requiring neonatal intensive care. This work is relevant to the current preoccupations of neonatology: the central role of parents in their infant's care during hospitalization and promoting parental mental health to optimize the development of children requiring neonatal intensive care.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Feeley, N., Robins, S., Genest, C., Stremmler, R., Zelkowitz, P., & Charbonneau, L. (2020). A comparative study of mothers of infants hospitalized in an open ward neonatal intensive care unit and a combined pod and single-family room design. *BMC Pediatrics*, 20, 38. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-020-1929-1> (Examines breastfeeding self-efficacy)
2. Bujold, M., Feeley, N., Cinquino, C., & Axelin, A. (2018). Expressing human milk in the NICU: Coping mechanisms and challenges shape the complex experience of closeness and separation. *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 18(1), 38-48. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ANC.0000000000000455>



# Jane Francis

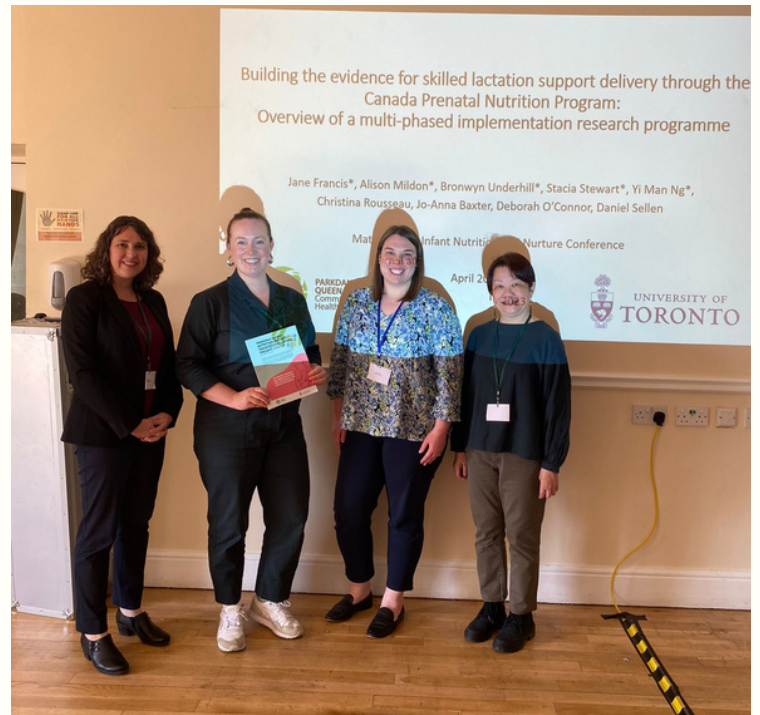
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Acadia University

✉ jane.francis@acadiau.ca

## About Me

Dr. Jane Francis completed her PhD in the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Toronto. She is currently a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Sociology at Acadia University and a registered dietitian specializing in infant nutrition. Her research focuses on improving nutrition and reducing health disparities among marginalized populations in Canada through community-based and mixed-method research approaches. Within this area, she is particularly interested in the implementation of lactation support interventions and the investigation of infant food insecurity.



## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Francis J, Mildon A, Stewart S, Underhill B, Tarasuk V, Di Ruggiero E, Sellen DW, O'Connor DL (2021): Breastfeeding rates are high in a prenatal community support program targeting vulnerable women and offering enhanced lactation support: A prospective cohort study. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 20:71
2. Francis J, Mildon A, Stewart S, Underhill B, Tarasuk V, Di Ruggiero E, Sellen D, O'Connor DL (2020): Vulnerable mothers' experiences breastfeeding with an enhanced community lactation support program. *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, 16(3), e12957.
3. Mildon A, Francis J, Stewart S, Underhill B, Ng Y, Rousseau C, Tarasuk V, Di Ruggiero E, Dennis CL, Kiss A, O'Connor DL, Sellen DW (2023): Household food insecurity and breastfeeding practices among vulnerable women enrolled in the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. *Public Health Nutrition* (e-pub ahead of print).



# Laura N. Haiek

MD, MSc

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec, Québec, Canada  
Assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine, McGill University, Montreal,  
Québec, Canada Researcher, St. Mary's Research Centre, Montreal, Québec/McGill  
University

✉ [laura.haiek@msss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:laura.haiek@msss.gouv.qc.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Laura N. Haiek is a Montreal family physician working for Québec's Ministry of Health and Social Services and as an assistant professor at the McGill University Department of Family Medicine. Her public health and research activities are focused on the implementation and the evaluation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and its expansions to community health centers and neonatal wards. She is also a physician the community-based breastfeeding clinic of the GMF Queen Elizabeth.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Maastrup, R., Hannula, L., Hansen, M. N., Ezeonodo, A., Haiek, L. N. The Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative for neonatal wards. A mini review. *Acta Paediatr* 2022;111:750-5.
2. Cabrera-Lafuente, M., Alonso-Diaz, C., Pumarega, M. T. M., Diaz-Almiron, M., Haiek, L. N., Maastrup, R., Pallas-Alonso, C. Breastfeeding practices in neonatal wards in Spain. Neo-BFHI international survey. *An Pediatr (Engl Ed)* 2022;96:300-8.
3. Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux. Initiative des amis des bébés : Orientations pour la mise en œuvre dans les établissements de santé et de services sociaux du Québec. 2021. (Accessed March 31, 2023, Available at <https://publications.msss.gouv.qc.ca/msss/document-003166/>.)

# Rebecca Hoban

Director of Breastfeeding Medicine and Staff  
Neonatologist

Hospital for Sick Children/University of Toronto

✉ rebecca.hoban@sickkids.ca

## About Me

Dr. Rebecca Hoban is a neonatologist and Director of Breastfeeding Medicine at SickKids, and Associate Professor at University of Toronto. Dr. Hoban graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed pediatric residency at Cincinnati Children's, neonatology fellowship at Tufts, and a MPH at Harvard before joining Chicago's Rush Medical Center. Dr. Hoban transitioned to the Hospital for Sick Children/Sickkids in 2017, where her focus is human milk (HM). Current projects include improving HM provision in high-risk neonatal populations, HM sodium and other biomarkers to predict lactation success, inflammatory markers in HM, and HM as potential stem cell therapy for intraventricular hemorrhage.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Hoban R, Bowker RM, Gross ME, Patel AL. Maternal production of milk for infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. *Semin Perinatol.* 2021 Mar;45(2):151381. doi: 10.1016/j.semperi.2020.151381.
2. Hoban R, McLean L, Sullivan S, Currie C. Proactive Lactation Care is Associated with Improved Outcomes in a Referral NICU. *J Hum Lact* 2022 Feb;38(1):148-155. doi: 10.1177/0890334421993467.
3. Hoban R, Poeliniz CM, Somerset E, Lai CT, Janes J, Patel AL, Geddes D, Meier PP. Mother's Own Milk Biomarkers Predict Coming to Volume in Pump-dependent Mothers of Preterm Infants. *J Pediatr.* 2021 Jan;228:44-52.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2020.09.010. Epub 2020 Sep 9



# Kimberley T. Jackson

Assistant Professor

Western University

✉ [kim.jackson@uwo.ca](mailto:kim.jackson@uwo.ca)

## About Me

Kimberley Jackson, RN PhD, Assistant Professor, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University, Co-Lead -Women's Health Matters Research. Dr. Jackson's program of research is focused on improving health outcomes for women and their children, with a particular focus on nursing care in the antenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods to provide trauma-and violence-informed approaches to assess and address breastfeeding, perinatal pain, and mental health.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Jackson, K.T., Mantler, T., Stoyanovich, E., Davidson, C. A., Walsh, E., Lemenchick, O., Merner, K., & Castles, L. (2021). A guide to anticipatory guidance for breastfeeding-related pain: A concept analysis. *Nursing Forum*, 56, 752-757.
2. Jackson, K.T., Mantler, T., & O'Keefe-McCarthy, S. (2019). Women's experiences of breastfeeding-related pain. *The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*, 44(2), 66-72.
3. Jackson, K.T., O'Keefe-McCarthy, S., & Mantler, T. (2018). Moving toward a better understanding of the experience and measurement of breastfeeding-related pain. *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 40(4), 318-325.

# Michele McIntosh

Associate Professor

Trent University

✉ [Michelejm McIntosh@trentu.ca](mailto:Michelejm McIntosh@trentu.ca)

## About Me

I am an Associate Professor at the Trent-Fleming School of Nursing. I was among the first 10 IBCLCs in Canada, was Canadian Delegate (ILCA), retired La Leche League Leader (started first group in Gander, NL). I obtained MOH funding to launch the Breastfeeding Friendly Campus Initiative @bfcampuses. Main interests: women's health including breastfeeding, Qual research methods, ethics.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. McIntosh M. (2001). The Social Construction of Breastfeeding knowledge. Thesis.

# Karen McQueen

## Associate Professor

Lakehead University

✉ [kmcqueen@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kmcqueen@lakeheadu.ca)

## About Me

Karen McQueen, RN, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Lakehead University. She has extensive experience in the area of perinatal and women's health as an educator, researcher, and Registered nurse. Her program of research focuses on breastfeeding interventions, breastfeeding and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, and supporting individuals with perinatal mood disorders. She is also part of a multi-disciplinary research team conducting qualitative research exploring sexual assault disclosure experiences.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Marcellus, L., Cleveland, L., Maguire, D., Blythe, S., Goodman, D., Buus-Frank, M. & McQueen, K. (2022). Developments in nursing practice to address substance use in the perinatal period. *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing*, 51(4), 361-376. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogn.2022.03.004>
2. McQueen, K. Taylor, C. & Murphy-Oikonen, J. (2019). Systematic review of newborn feeding method and outcomes related to neonatal abstinence syndrome. *Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Nursing*, 48(4), 398-407. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jogn.2019.03.004>
3. Murphy-Oikonen, J. & McQueen, K. (2018). Outpatient pharmacologic weaning for neonatal abstinence syndrome: A systematic review. *Primary Health Care Research & Development*, 9, 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1463423618000270>



# Isabelle Michaud-Létourneau

## Adjunct Professor

Université de Montréal

✉ [isamichaudletourneau@gmail.com](mailto:isamichaudletourneau@gmail.com)

## About Me

Isabelle Michaud-Létourneau has worked in clinical, community, public and international nutrition in the last 20 years. Globally, she has completed projects with approximately 20 countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia. Recently, she has worked for the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition and applied implementation science to improve nutrition programs and policies. In Quebec, Isabelle is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the School of Public Health of Université de Montréal. She is the chair of a strategic committee of professors from 7 professions that work to enhance breastfeeding education for health professionals.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Michaud-Létourneau, I., Gayard M, Lauzière J, Beaudry M, Pascual LR, Chartier I, Herzhaft-LeRoy J, Chiasson S, Fontaine-Bisson B, Pound C, Gaboury I. Understanding the challenges related to breastfeeding education and barriers to curricular change: a systems perspective for transforming health professions education. *Canadian Medical Education Journal/Revue canadienne de l'éducation médicale*, 2022. 13(3): p. 91-104.
2. Michaud-Létourneau, I., M. Gayard, and D.L. Pelletier, Translating the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes into national measures in nine countries. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, 2019. 15: p. e12730.
3. Hernández-Cordero, S., Pérez-Escamilla R, Zambrano P, Michaud-Létourneau et al., Countries' experiences scaling up national breastfeeding, protection, promotion and support programmes: Comparative case studies analysis. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, 2022.



# Alison Mildon

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Toronto

✉ [alison.mildon@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:alison.mildon@mail.utoronto.ca)

## About Me

Alison Mildon is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Toronto, investigating determinants of breastfeeding inequities and community-based interventions to address them. In particular, her work explores opportunities to increase access to skilled lactation support through the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program. Alison received her Masters and PhD in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Toronto, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of British Columbia. She is a Registered Dietitian with extensive experience supporting community-based interventions to improve maternal, infant and child nutrition among marginalized populations in Canada and globally.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Mildon A, Francis J, Stewart S, Underhill B, Ng YM, Richards E, Rousseau C, Di Ruggiero E, Dennis C-L, Sellen D, O'Connor DL. Effect on breastfeeding practices of providing in-home lactation support to vulnerable women through the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program: protocol for a pre/post intervention study. *International Breastfeeding Journal* 2021;16:49. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13006-021-00396-y>
2. Mildon A, Francis J, Stewart S, Underhill B, Ng YM, Rousseau C, Di Ruggiero E, Dennis C.-L, O'Connor DL, Sellen, DW. High levels of breastmilk feeding despite a low rate of exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months in a cohort of vulnerable women in Toronto, Canada. *Maternal and Child Nutrition* 2021; e13260. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13260>
3. Mildon A, Francis J, Stewart S, Underhill B, Ng YM, Rousseau C, Di Ruggiero E, Dennis C.-L, Kiss A, O'Connor DL, Sellen, DW. Associations between use of expressed human milk at two weeks postpartum and human milk feeding practices to six months: a prospective cohort study with vulnerable women in Toronto, Canada. *BMJ Open* 2022;12(6):e055830. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2021-055830>

# William Montelpare

Professor, Research Chair Hum Dev & Health

University of Prince Edward Island

✉ [wmontelpare@upei.ca](mailto:wmontelpare@upei.ca)

## About Me

I am a senior professor and the Margaret and Wallace McCain Chair in Human Development and Health at UPEI. I have been a professor for 37 years teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in health, human physiology, research methods and design, biostatistics and epidemiology, beginning at Brock University, Lakehead University, the University of Leeds, and now UPEI. Through teaching, research, and community service I have gained tremendous experience working with a diverse group of colleagues, across multiple areas of health research.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Bryanton, J., Montelpare, W., Drake, P., Drake, R., Walsh, D., Larter, K., (2020). Relationships Among Factors Related to Childbirth and Breastfeeding Outcomes in Primiparous Women. *JOGNN*, 49, 437– 451.
2. McQueen, K.A., Sieswerda, L., Montelpare, W.J., Dennis, C.L., Prevalence and Factors Affecting Breastfeeding among Aboriginal Women in Northwestern Ontario. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing*. 2015; 44, 51-68.
3. McQueen, K.A., Montelpare, W.J., Dennis, C.L., Breastfeeding and Aboriginal Women: Validation of the Breastfeeding Self-Efficacy Short Form. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 2013; 45(2): 58-75.

# Leigh Anne Newhook

Pediatrician

Memorial University

✉ [lnewhook@mun.ca](mailto:lnewhook@mun.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Leigh Anne Allwood Newhook is a Pediatrician and Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University. Dr. Newhook's clinical work includes general pediatrics and since 2019 she has been a pediatrician for the Children and Youth in Alternate Care (CAYAC) clinic. Dr. Newhook's research has focused on topics such as infant feeding and nutrition, Type 1 diabetes, health needs of children and youth in alternate care, and pediatric mental health which has advanced local and provincial health care and services for families in Newfoundland and Labrador. She is a co-chair of the Baby-Friendly NL breastfeeding research working group. She has over 50 scientific publications and has mentored and supervised many research trainees at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25425631/>
2. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23844590/>
3. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20364536/>

# Maryam Razaghi

## Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Toronto

✉ [maryam.razaghi@utoronto.ca](mailto:maryam.razaghi@utoronto.ca)

## About Me

I am Dr. Maryam Razaghi, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Toronto in collaboration with Ontario Human Milk Bank. In fall 2022, I was awarded the Mitacs Elevate Research Fellowship and began my postdoctoral fellowship in February 2023. Before that, I earned my PhD in Human Nutrition from McGill University in 2022. My research focuses on determining if providing donor milk as a supplement to a parent's milk for infants admitted to a mother-baby unit improves exclusive human milk feeding at 4 months of age, compared to supplementing with formula.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

I recently began a postdoctoral fellowship to promote the use of donor human milk and to emphasize the importance of exclusive breastfeeding. My PhD thesis focused on vitamin D status in early life and body composition, with implications for programming a lean body phenotype. My publications to date are related to this topic.



# Christina Ricci

Epidemiologist

Public Health Agency of Canada

✉ christina.ricci@phac-aspc.gc.ca

## About Me

Christina Ricci is an epidemiologist at the Public Health Agency of Canada in the Child and Youth Division. She has worked closely with the maternal health team at PHAC to produce updated national statistics on exclusive breastfeeding in Canada as well as assessed factors related to the length of breastfeeding. She has worked previously in neonatal health examining in-utero exposures (acetaminophen, influenza) which could impact the development of the child.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Ricci, C., Otterman, V., Bennett, TL. et al. Rates of and factors associated with exclusive and any breastfeeding at six months in Canada: an analysis of population-based cross-sectional data. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth* 23, 56 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-023-05382-2>
2. Ricci, C, Albanese, CM, Pablo, LA, et al. In utero acetaminophen exposure and child neurodevelopmental outcomes: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol.* 2023; 00: 1- 12. doi:10.1111/ppe.12963
3. Stephen G. Fung, Romina Fakhraei, Georgia Condran, Annette K. Regan, Sheryll Dimanlig-Cruz, Christina Ricci, Damien Foo, Mohinder Sarna, Eszter Török, Deshayne B. Fell. Neuropsychiatric outcomes in offspring after fetal exposure to maternal influenza infection during pregnancy: A systematic review, *Reproductive Toxicology*, Volume 113, 2022, Pages 155-169, ISSN 0890-6238, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.reprotox.2022.09.002>.

# Smitha Rodrigues

Professor

Confederation College

✉ [ssrodrig@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:ssrodrig@lakeheadu.ca)

## About Me

I am a nursing professor, and a Registered Nurse, and have worked as a Lactation Consultant. With over a decade of experience working with mothers and babies, I have the expertise needed in supporting mothers and babies in achieving their breastfeeding goals. In my role as a professor at the nursing college, I leverage my knowledge from the lactation field for educating future nurses on the latest research, techniques, and best practices in this field. My research interests include breastfeeding promotion and interventions to improve breastfeeding outcomes.



# Natalie Rodriguez

Director of Operations, Diversity, & Inclusion

THRiVE Discovery Lab, University of Manitoba

✉ natalie.rodriguez@umanitoba.ca

## About Me

Pediatric Research Integrating Data with Clinical Application

In an acclaimed career of truly transformative and translational work, Natalie has implemented new systems, technologies, platforms, initiatives and discovery worldwide. A myriad of credentials, awards, appointments and certifications reflect her fierce commitment to research and ongoing learning. She defies boundaries with a determination to make a lasting difference in the world, one child at a time.

A Visionary Approach Designed to Improve Children's Lives Viewing problems through a multi-disciplinary lens, Natalie sees opportunities. Leading initiatives to address some of the world's most urgent issues, she melds discovery and clinical applications with a human touch to find common ground anchored by research and hope.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Brockway M, Daniel A, Reyes S, Gauglitz J, Granger M, McDermid J, Chan D, Refvik R, Sidhu K, Musse S, Patel P, Monnin C, Lotoski L, Geddes D, Jehan F, Kolsteren P, Bode L, Eriksen K, Allen L, Hampel D, Rodriguez N, AZAD MB\*. Human milk bioactive components and child growth and body composition in the first 2 years: a systematic review. (Submitted to Advances in Nutrition 02/2023).
2. AZAD MB\*, Brockway M, Daniel A, Reyes S, Granger M, McDermid J, Chan D, Refvik R, Sidhu K, Musse S, Patel P, Monnin C, Lotoski L, Geddes D, Jehan F, Kolsteren P, Allen L, Hampel D, Eriksen K, Rodriguez N. Human milk macronutrients and child growth and body composition in the first 2 years: a systematic review. (Submitted to Advances in Nutrition 02/2023).
3. Reyes S, Brockway M, McDermid J, Chan D, Granger M, Refvik R, Sidhu K, Musse S, Monnin C, Lotoski L, Geddes D, Jehan F, Kolsteren P, Allen L, Hampel D, Eriksen K, Rodriguez N, AZAD MB\*. Human milk micronutrients and child growth and body composition in the first 2 years a systematic review. (Submitted to Advances in Nutrition 02/2023).

# Misty Rossiter

Associate Professor

UPEI

✉ [mdrossiter@upei.ca](mailto:mdrossiter@upei.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Misty Rossiter is interested in infant feeding and early childhood development, with a particular focus on responsive feeding practices and nutrition policy. Dr. Rossiter is a Registered Dietitian and an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Human Sciences at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). She is a Jeanne and J.-Louis Lévesque Research Professor in Nutrisciences and Health. Misty's research seeks to promote early learning environments that foster a healthy relationship with food by encouraging self-regulation through a respectful and reciprocal approach to feeding and by celebrating a variety of foods in a supportive atmosphere.

# Natalie Scime

## Banting Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Toronto Scarborough

✉ [natalie.scime@utoronto.ca](mailto:natalie.scime@utoronto.ca)

## About Me

Natalie Scime is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Health & Society at the University of Toronto Scarborough and in the Life Stage Research Program at ICES, supervised by Dr. Brown. Dr. Scime is an epidemiologist specializing in reproductive and women's health. Her program of research investigates the relationships between reproductive factors, such as breastfeeding patterns, and women's health and chronic disease risk across the life course. Dr. Scime holds a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary and an MSc in Health Promotion from Western University.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-023-05407-w>
2. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-0528.17274>
3. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13006-021-00413-0>



# Daniel Sellen

Professor

University of Toronto

✉ [dan.sellen@utoronto.ca](mailto:dan.sellen@utoronto.ca)

## About Me

Daniel Sellen directs the Joannah and Brian Lawson Centre for Child Nutrition in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Professor of Anthropology, Nutritional Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Health Sciences, and President of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation. Dan actively facilitates sustainable and equitable capacity building of global health resources through training, mentoring and innovation research to strengthen understanding and monitoring of programs and systems influencing human nutrition across the lifespan. Dan's past roles include 3 years as Associate Dean Research in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, Senior Resident Scholar at the Centre for Global Child Health at SickKids and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology & Global Health in the Faculty of Arts & Science, Associate Professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and Honorary Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dan trained in zoology & biological anthropology (MA, University of Oxford), anthropology (MA, University of Michigan), theoretical ecology & international nutrition (PhD, University of California, Davis) & evolutionary demography (Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow, University College London).

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Oosterhoff, Alberta T; Sellen, Daniel; Haisma, Hinke; The Content and Sources of Breastfeeding Knowledge for New Mothers in the Netherlands *The Open Nursing Journal* 16 1 2022
2. Kamau, Elizabeth; Ngethe, Henry; Sellen, Daniel; Breastfeeding at the Workplace in Kenya *The Journal of Nutrition* 152 12 2638-2639 2022 Oxford University Press
3. Mildon, Alison; Francis, Jane; Stewart, Stacia; Underhill, Bronwyn; Ng, Yi Man; Rousseau, Christina; Tarasuk, Valerie; Di Ruggiero, Erica; Dennis, Cindy-Lee; O'Connor, Deborah L; Household food insecurity is prevalent in a cohort of postpartum women who registered in the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program in Toronto *Public Health Nutrition* 1-10 2023 Cambridge University Press



# Sonia Semenic

Associate Professor

Ingram School of Nursing

✉ [sonia.semenic@mcgill.ca](mailto:sonia.semenic@mcgill.ca)

## About Me

I am an Associate Professor at the Ingram School of Nursing, McGill University (Montreal, Quebec) and a Nurse Scientist at the McGill University Health Center. I have an extensive clinical background as a board-certified lactation consultant and Clinical Nurse Specialist in maternal-child health, and co-led the development of the RNAO's Best Practice Guideline "Breastfeeding – Promoting and Supporting the Initiation, Exclusivity and Continuation of Breastfeeding for Newborns, Infant and Young Children". I'm currently a member of the Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System Advisory Board. My research program involves knowledge translation processes in the field of perinatal health, with a special focus on evidence-based practices to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.



## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Dayan, N., ....Semenic, S. (2023). Study protocol for the sheMATTERS study (iMproving cardioAscular health in new moThERS): A randomized behavioral trial assessing the effect of a self-efficacy enhancing breastfeeding intervention on postpartum blood pressure and breastfeeding continuation in women with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 2023 Jan 26;23(1):68., doi: 10.1186/s12884-022-05325-3.
2. González de Armas, A.\*, Ochoa Marin, S. C., Semenic, S. (2021). Identifying priorities for practice improvement related to breastfeeding support in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in Medellin, Colombia. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 27(2), 94-99. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnn.2020.07.001>
3. Semenic, S., Childerhose, J.E., Lauziere, J. & Groleau, D. (2012). Barriers, facilitators, and recommendations related to implementing the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI): An integrative review. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 28(3) (August: Special issue on the BFHI), 317-34.

# Garry Shen

Professor

Dept Internal Medicine, University of Manitoba

✉ [garry.shen@umanitoba.ca](mailto:garry.shen@umanitoba.ca)

## About Me

Faculty member of Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism in Dept of Internal Medicine, University of Manitoba since 1991. Research Interests including gestational diabetes, Indigenous health, prenatal education and breastfeeding promotion. Ongoing projects including: 1) Moms in Motion in prenatal education and care in First Nations communities; 2) Impact of COVID-19 on prenatal education and pregnancy outcomes in Manitoba; 3) Role in breast milk and infant gut microbiome in pregnancy maternal and offspring outcomes; 4) Influence Saskatoon berry intake on glucose metabolism and gut microbiome in healthy subjects. Study educational website: [www.momsinmotion.ca](http://www.momsinmotion.ca).

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Martens PJ, Shafer LA, Dean HJ, Sellers E, Yamamoto J, Ludwig S, Phillips-Beck W, Heaman M, Prior HJ, McGavock J, Morris M, Dart AB, Campbell R, Shen GX, Breastfeeding Initiation Associated with Reduced Incidence of Diabetes in Mothers and Offspring. *Obst Gynecol* 2016;128:1095-1104.
2. Hui A, Philips-Beck W, Campbell R, Sinclair S, Kuzdak C, Courchene E, Roulette M, Mousseau W, Beaulieu D, Wood E, Munroe G, Desjarlais F, Ludwig S, Wicklow B, McGavock J, Sellers E, Nickel N, Jiang D, Thiessen K, Pylypjuk C, Morris M, Shen GX. Impact of Remote Prenatal Education on Program Participation and Breastfeeding in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities. *E Clin Med*. 2021;35:100851.



# Marie Tarrant

Dean, Faculty of Health and Social Development

The University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus

✉ [marie.tarrant@ubc.ca](mailto:marie.tarrant@ubc.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Marie Tarrant is a Professor in the School of Nursing and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Development at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus. Her research is in maternal and child health, with a focus on breastfeeding, the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, and maternal and childhood vaccinations. Study methodologies include large longitudinal cohort studies, population-based cross-sectional studies, and randomized controlled trials. The goal of Dr. Tarrant's research is to improve maternal and child health outcomes, inform public health policies and transform perinatal healthcare services. Dr. Tarrant is the lead investigator at the UBC Okanagan's School of Nursing Maternal and Child Health Lab and is a frequently cited UBC expert on maternal and child health, breastfeeding, influenza vaccine in pregnancy, and childhood vaccinations. Prior to coming to UBC, Dr. Tarrant worked in the School of Nursing at the University of Hong Kong for 18 years.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Shing, J. S. Y., Lok, K. Y. W., Fong, D. Y. T., Fan, H. S. L., Chow, C. L. Y., Tarrant, M.\* (2022). The influence of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and Maternity Care Practices on breastfeeding outcomes. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 38(4), 700-710. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/08903344221086975>
2. Fan, H. S. L., Fong, D. Y. T., Lok, K. Y. W., Tarrant, M.\* (2022). Association between expressed breast milk feeding and breastfeeding duration in Hong Kong mothers. *Women and Birth*, 35(3), e286-e293. Available: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2021.06.007>.
3. Tarrant, M., Chooniedass, R., Fan, H. S. L., Del Buono, K., & Masina, S. (2020). Breastfeeding and postpartum glucose regulation among women with prior gestational diabetes: A systematic review. *Journal of Human Lactation*, 36(4), 723-738.



# Laurie Twells

Professor

Memorial University

✉ [ltwells@mun.ca](mailto:ltwells@mun.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Laurie Twells is a Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Assistant Dean of Clinical Research in the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University. Dr. Twells has been the co-chair of the Breastfeeding Research Group under the umbrella of the Baby Friendly Council of NL for 15 years.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Blackmore A, Howell B, Romme K, Gao Z, Nguyen H, Allwood Newhook LA, Twells L. The Effectiveness of Virtual Lactation Support: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of Human Lactation*. 2022 Aug;38(3):452-65.
2. AlKusayer NM, Midodzi WK, Newhook LA, Burrage L, Gill N, Halfyard B, Twells LK. Psychometric assessment and precision remodeling of the Iowa infant feeding attitude scale to improve clinical use and efficacy among prenatal women in Canada. *Journal of Human Lactation*. 2018 Feb;34(1):20-9.
3. Taylor AK, Chowdhury S, Gao Z, Van Nguyen H, Midodzi W, Gill N, Halfyard B, Allwood-Newhook LA, Twells LK. Infant Feeding Mode Predicts the Costs of Healthcare Services in One Region of Canada: a Data Linkage Study.





# Kyly Whitfield

Associate Professor

Department of Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University

✉ [kyly.whitfield@msvu.ca](mailto:kyly.whitfield@msvu.ca)

## About Me

Kyly Whitfield is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Human Nutrition at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, where she leads the Milk and Micronutrient Assessment (MAMA) Lab. Kyly is passionate about maternal and infant nutrition, with interests in identifying and combating micronutrient deficiencies, and understanding feeding during ‘the first thousand days’ window, from conception through 2 years. Currently, she is exploring fortification to address thiamine deficiency among breastfed infants in Southeast Asia. Another focus of the MAMA Lab is to examine breastfeeding culture and social infant feeding norms, and well as to study infant feeding behaviours, namely responsive feeding.



## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Chan K, Labonté JM, Francis J, Zora H, Sawchuk S, Whitfield KC. 2023. Breastfeeding in Canada: predictors of initiation, exclusivity, and continuation from the 2017-18 Canadian Community Health Survey. *Applied Physiology, Nutrition, and Metabolism* 48(3):256-69. <https://doi.org/10.1139/apnm-2022-0333>
2. Chan K, Whitfield KC. 2022. “Too old” and “too cold”: Discomfort towards photographs of breastfeeding beyond infancy and public breastfeeding among adults in Nova Scotia, Canada. *Journal of Human Lactation* 38(2):353-63 doi: 10.1177/08903344211046191
3. Chan K & Whitfield KC. 2019. High confidence, yet poor knowledge of infant feeding recommendations among adults in Nova Scotia, Canada. *Maternal & Child Nutrition* 16(2):e12903. doi: 10.1111/mcn.12903



# Sanoji Wijenayake

Assistant Professor

The University of Winnipeg

✉ [s.wijenayake@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:s.wijenayake@uwinnipeg.ca)

## About Me

Dr. Wijenayake is an Assistant Professor at the University of Winnipeg. She is an early career researcher with expertise in cell & molecular biology, biochemistry, epigenetics, extracellular vesicles, developmental biology, and bioinformatics. She is passionate about uncovering the therapeutic potential of milk-derived extracellular vesicles, especially in the context of improving neonatal health.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0257633>
2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yfrne.2021.100924>
3. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S2040174422000149>

# Additional Attendees

1. Kelly deCoste
2. Stephanie George
3. Narges Khodabandehloo
4. Gabriela Morningstar Mizrahi
5. Brenda Oldford
6. Anja Salijevic
7. Megan Vanderkloet

# Kelly DeCoste

Nurse Educator/ Master of Nursing Student

St. Francis Xavier University/ Athabasca University

✉ [kdecoste@stfx.ca](mailto:kdecoste@stfx.ca)

## About Me

Ms. DeCoste is a Nurse Educator with the Rankin School of Nursing at St. Francis Xavier University; her clinical expertise is in medical-surgical and perioperative nursing. As a Master of Nursing student at Athabasca University, Ms. DeCoste is currently completing her thesis research titled "Supporting Maternal Mental Health in Nova Scotia: The Experiences of Registered Nurse Lactation Consultants" and was awarded a Canadian Nurses Foundation Scholarship (\$5000) in 2022 to assist with this research. Ms. DeCoste's research interests are maternal mental health, breastfeeding, access to healthcare services, and nurse well-being; she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Nursing after completing her master's.

# Stephanie George

Community Breastfeeding Coordinator

Six Nations Birthing Centre

✉ [sgeorge@sixnations.ca](mailto:sgeorge@sixnations.ca)

## About Me

I am Mohawk/Turtle Clan from Six Nations. Indigenous Midwife, IBCLC. Past President of ILCA. Sessional Instructor at McMaster University.

## Top or Most Recent Publications

1. Nutrients. 2022 Apr 22;14(9):1736. doi: 10.3390/nu14091736.
2. Impact of Maternal Health Behaviours and Social Conditions on Infant Diet at Age 1-Year: Results from a Prospective Indigenous Birth Cohort in Ontario, Canada
3. Gita Wahi 1 2, Julie Wilson 3, Melanie Burning 3, Stephanie George 3, Phyllis Hill 3, Janet Homer 3, Laurie Jacobs 3, Ashley Lickers 3, Sharon Smoke 3, Albertha D Davis 4, Dipika Desai 5, Susan M Jack 2 6, Natalie Williams 7, Russell J de Souza 2 5, Sonia S Anand 2 5 7

# Narges Khodabandehloo

M.Sc. student in Community Health Sciences

University of Manitoba

✉ [khodaban@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:khodaban@myumanitoba.ca)

## About Me

I have a bachelor of science in Midwifery from Iran University of Medical Sciences and I am an M.Sc. student in Community Health Sciences at University of Manitoba in Dr. Meghan Azad's lab (THRIVE Discovery Lab). My thesis project is closely related to breastfeeding.

# Gabriela M. Mizrahi

Graduate student (RN, IBCLC)

University of Ottawa

✉ [gmizr007@uottawa.ca](mailto:gmizr007@uottawa.ca)

## About Me

As a registered nurse, lactation consultant (IBCLC) and DONA International certified birth doula, I have the opportunity to see pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care from many different perspectives. I recently completed my Master of Science Nursing at University of Ottawa. My thesis explored collaboration between intrapartum nurses and birth doulas in the hospital setting from the perspective of nurses. I currently work primarily as a lactation consultant (IBCLC) in private practice. I offer lactation preparation and support for families as well as continuing education workshops for nurses about evidence-based labour support and collaboration with doulas.

# Brenda Oldford

## Division Manager NL Health Services

Administration Clinician in Health Care NL OBS and BFI

✉ [brenda.oldford@easternhealth.ca](mailto:brenda.oldford@easternhealth.ca)

### About Me

Brenda Oldford MN RN BN 1996 MN 2009 Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador (MUN). Nursing with Children's and Women's Health since 1997 Halifax, St. Pete FL, and St. John's NL. Clinician with Postpartum and NICU. 2002 - 2010: Nurse Educator, Skills Laboratory Instructor Faculty of Nursing MUN. 2010-2015: Quality and Clinical Safety Leader. 2015 to present: Division Manager Children's and Women's Health Program, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Health Sciences Center St. John's, NL.

# Anja Salijevic

## Health Educator

University of Prince Edward Island

✉ [asalijevic@upei.ca](mailto:asalijevic@upei.ca)

### About Me

Anja graduated from the University of Utah in 2012 with a BSc in Health Promotion & Education with an emphasis in Community and became CHES Certified (Certified Health Education Specialist). In 2014, she worked with the PEI Chapter of the Canadian Cancer Society as the Health Promotion Coordinator educating Islanders on Cancer Prevention and Smoking Cessation. During her time with the society, she became a Certified Tobacco Educator (CTE) implementing and evaluating a workplace wellness smoking cessation program. Anja has worked in the Health Centred Research Clinic as a Health Educator and Project Coordinator since 2017 for a variety of projects and programs.

# Megan Vanderkloet

Dietetic Intern (student)

UPEI Health research network

 [Mvanderkloet@upei.ca](mailto:Mvanderkloet@upei.ca)