



School of Health Professions

After Work Lectures

The Lancet Series on Midwifery: a new approach to quality maternity care and interprofessional collaboration

Dr. Alison McFadden

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Wednesday, 8th July 2015, 17.00 – 18.00 h
TN E0.58, Technikumstrasse 71, 8400 Winterthur



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Dr. Alison McFadden

Alison McFadden's research focuses on inequalities in maternal and infant health and nutrition, particularly the experiences and support needs of women and babies from low-income and marginalised groups. She is a member of the Executive Group and co-author of three papers in the Lancet Series on Midwifery. Her contribution to the first paper in the Series: Midwifery and quality care: findings from a new evidence-informed framework for maternal and newborn care, was to review the evidence-base for the Framework for Quality Maternal and Newborn Care.

Alison is a midwife and health services researcher. She has many years of experience as a midwife and midwifery lecturer in the UK and Malawi. In 2006 she studied with Professor Mary Renfrew to gain a PhD in Health Sciences. From 2010 Alison has worked in the Mother and Infant Research Unit, first at the University of York and then from 2013, at the University of Dundee.

The Lancet Series on Midwifery: a new approach to quality maternity care and interprofessional collaboration

The Lancet Series on Midwifery, published in June 2014, comprises four papers developed collaboratively by a multidisciplinary group, including academics, researchers, advocates for women and children, clinicians, and policy-makers. Together, the papers address key issues on the contribution of midwifery, and challenge much of the current thinking and attitudes among health professionals, decision-makers, and the public.

The Lancet Series proposes a new evidence-based Framework for Quality Maternal and Newborn Care that firmly places the needs of women and their newborn infants at its centre. The framework is based on a definition of midwifery that takes account of skills, attitudes and behaviours rather than specific professional roles.

The findings support a shift from fragmented maternal and newborn care provision that is focussed on identification and treatment of pathology to a whole-system approach that provides skilled care for all. This requires effective interprofessional collaboration and integration of services.

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