

Biographies for Maternity Safety working Group

Professor Asma Khalil (Chair)



Asma is currently the RCOG Vice President for Academia and Strategy. Asma has been a Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetal Medicine at St George's University Hospital since 2012 and Director of Fetal Medicine at Liverpool Women's Hospital since 2021. At St George's, Asma set up and led the first Twins Trust Centre for Research and Clinical Excellence.

Asma is the Obstetric Lead of the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit, and Trustee and Treasurer of ISUOG. She also founded the first UK national registry of complicated multiple pregnancies.

Asma chaired the Twins and Multiple Births Association Maternity Engagement Project Steering Committee, a Department of Health-funded quality improvement project covering 30 maternity hospitals. She also successfully led several international initiatives. Over the years Asma has received over 15 national and international awards; the latest was FIGO's Recognising Female Obstetricians and Gynaecologists award.

Jane Plumb- MBE FRCOG FRSA, Chief Executive and Founder



Jane co-founded Group B Strep Support with her husband Robert in 1996 after their middle child died from group B Strep infection, and is its Chief Executive.

Jane is Women's Voices Lead and Chair of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Women's Network. Jane led the GBSS team in contributing to the development of the WHO's Defeat Meningitis by 2030 Road Map. She is the Chair of the Council for the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations and a trustee for the Meningitis Research Foundation. Jane has been on the Scientific Committees for the International Symposium on Streptococcus Agalactiae Disease for 2018, 2021 and 2023, leading the Patient Voice Stream. Jane was a member of the Department of Health's priority-setting workshops for group B Strep research in 2015/6, and has sat on several National Institute of Health & Care Excellence guideline development committees. Jane has been and is a co-applicant on many group B Strep research projects, including the GBS3 trial, where she co-leads the Patient & Public Involvement work. Jane was awarded an MBE in 2012 for services to child health, a Fellowship of the RSA in 2020 and a Fellowship Honoris Causa of the Royal College & Obstetricians in 2021.

Joanne Hughes- Patient engagement expert



Joanne is an expert in patient engagement for patient safety and restorative approaches to harm. She co-founded the Harmed Patients Alliance in 2020. She has authored the website www.mothersinstinct.co.uk since 2013. She became involved with patient safety following the loss of her daughter.

Joanne works with NHS trusts on understanding restorative values and principles and improving patient engagement and involvement following adverse events to support learning and healing. She is a Patient Safety Partner to the National Patient Safety Team and worked on the National Quality Board's Learning from Deaths:

Guidance for NHS Trusts on Working with Bereaved Families and Carers, NHS England: Patient Safety Strategy and NHS England: Framework for Involving Patients in Patient Safety. She is currently a member of NHS England's National Safety Culture Group.

Joanne has undertaken facilitator training with Janine Carroll, a leader in the field of restorative approaches to building sustainable relationships after harm.

Professor Rebecca Lawton - Professor in Psychology of Healthcare at the University of Leeds.



Since 2009 Rebecca has held a joint post at Bradford Institute for Health Research, Bradford Teaching NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust where she leads the YQSR Group. Rebecca is Director of the NIHR Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Research Collaboration funded by the NIHR.

Rebecca graduated from University of Nottingham with a BA in Psychology in 1991. In 1994 Rebecca was awarded a PhD from the University of Manchester, the culmination of an ESRC (Case) studentship working with Professor James Reason and investigating the role of procedural violations in railway accidents. Rebecca stayed at Manchester, working as a Research Fellow on two research projects; the first, a Department for Transport funded project investigating the psychological predictors of speeding while driving and the second, an ESRC funded project, investigating the attitudes and behaviour of healthcare professionals to the increasing regulation of their work. In 1999 Rebecca took up a post at the University of Leeds as a lecturer and was later promoted to Senior Lecturer in Health Psychology, before her promotion to Professor in 2012. Rebecca has attracted research funding from the NIHR, ESRC, MRC, The Health Foundation, British Academy and Bupa Foundation and has published over 180 peer reviewed articles.

Rebecca's broad research interest is the application of psychological theory to improving health and healthcare services. More specifically, Rebecca carries out research on human factors and patient safety, patient involvement in patient safety, the implementation of safety innovations and wellbeing of the healthcare workforce. She also delivers more traditional health psychology research

investigating determinants of health risk behaviours and the evaluation of interventions to improve lifestyle behaviours.

Keith Reed, Chief Executive of the Parent-Infant Foundation



Keith's work involves raising awareness of the importance of the relationship between babies and their parents from 0-2. It begins in utero and is fundamental for their future mental and physical health. He has been the former Chair of the Pregnancy and Babies Charity Network, and convenor of the First 1001 days movement. He has acted as a patient representative on college and national guidelines, as a Cochrane reviewer and on an MBRRACCE confidential enquiry. He has worked with partner groups to set up maternity focused quality improvement and research programmes. He is currently a member of NHSE's maternity and neonatal stakeholder council.

Dr Erum Khan- Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist



Erum is a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with an interest in high risk pregnancy and intrapartum care. She is skilled in medical education.

Her interests lie in medico legal aspect of obstetrics and has consolidated her knowledge by successfully gaining a Master of Law - LLM focused in Medical Law and Ethics and practices as a medico legal expert. She draws on this experience as the clinical advisor to the Parliamentary Health Ombudsman and as the specialist advisor for maternity at Care Quality Commission.

Erum is a member of the RCOG Patient Safety committee and is an RCOG AAC faculty member. Erum also sits on a couple of NICE specialist committees. She is also a member of working expert group and the steering group of Serious hazards of transfusions (SHOT).

Erum believes that an understanding of human factors and their impact on how care is delivered and work as teams, is essential. Erum is a faculty member of human factors training workshops at local and regional levels.