

Bio:

I qualified as a doctor in 1980 from the Middlesex Hospital Medical School London. I specialised in Paediatrics and in 1986 became a Member of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. I became interested in Epidemiology and completed a Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1996 describing the unfolding epidemic of HIV among childbearing women in Scotland. In 1993, I was given the chance by the Scottish Cot Death Trust to travel to New Zealand. I worked for 2 years with Dr Rodney Ford where I began my interest in smoking and smoking cessation during pregnancy. I completed a Masters degree in Public Health to support my epidemiological research agenda. I returned to Glasgow in 1994 where I helped the Scottish Cot Death Trust to undertake two Case Control SUDI studies and began my own research testing smoking cessation interventions for pregnant women. I completed an MSc in Clinical Trials to further support my research interests. The Scottish Case Control studies showed that bed sharing was a risk factor for SUDI even if parents did not smoke. This study finding has been repeated a number of times around the world and has led to advice against bed sharing with young babies in most countries. I have run trials to examine two intervention strategies to help pregnant women to stop smoking. The first intervention, motivational interviewing, made no difference to smoking cessation rates in Glasgow, this finding has been repeated a number of times. The second intervention, financial incentives for smoking cessation, has shown more promise. I have published over 100 peer reviewed journal articles.