

# Elizabeth Bailey - Midwife/ Post-Doctoral Research Fellow/ NIHR 70@70 Research Leader



I am a passionate midwife who is driven by a desire to see safe and affirming outcomes for women and babies as they journey through maternity care. From early career experiences of improvement, evaluation and research projects I came to realise that many areas of maternity care is under-researched. Midwives are seeking to provide evidence-based care but the evidence base can be lacking or sparse. This is both an injustice to them and to women and families. I feel that the midwifery profession needs to embrace research activity and this has been a driver for my personal research journey.

I made the move from clinical midwife to clinical research midwife and on to doctoral midwifery researcher, completing a laboratory-based PhD investigating the physiology of labour and potential modulation via ion channel function. I was then very fortunate to be offered a joint role with UHCW and Coventry University.

I am now a postdoctoral clinical academic and this gives me the opportunity to seek collaborations across academic disciplines and represent the midwifery profession. I develop research questions and submit research funding grants and am working towards building capacity for other research midwives to contribute to research. I also embrace innovation and alongside research funding I have had funding for innovation work and was successfully selected for an National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Entrepreneur Programme. One element of the role that I find the most rewarding is providing research supervision to midwives undertaking Masters by Research programmes and PhD studies. It is amazing to see dedicated midwives develop and start to drive the research agenda in their area of interest.

This year I was very fortunate to be selected as one of the NIHR's '70@70' Research leaders which provided me with more opportunities to work with other nursing and midwifery clinical leaders and develop research-led maternity services for the benefit of women and babies. I will also support implementation of UHCW's vision and strategy to support NMAHP research activity contributing to a research rich environment to benefit our patients.

