

## **Indie McDowell**

**RM, BA Hons (Cantab), MA, BSc Hons**

Mobile (UK) +44 07837 322 878 (Eth) +251 0929 50 08 94

Email: indie.mcdowell@gmail.com

### **EDUCATION**

#### **2013 – 2016 SaTH NHS Trust, UK**

With Staffs University, Bachelor of Sciences Honours (BSc Hons)  
Midwifery Practice

#### **2016 University of Cambridge, UK**

Admitted to Master of the Arts (MA)

#### **2009 – 2013 University of Cambridge, UK**

Bachelor of the Arts Honours (BA Hons (Cantab))  
Anthropology, special interest medical anthropology

### **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

**January 2021** MISP for Reproductive Health Distance Learning, UNFPA/IAWG

**March 2017** Helping Babies Breathe, Helping Mothers Survive

**December 2016** Johns Hopkins and USAID Global Health eLearning

**June 2016** Breastfeeding Management, UNICEF BFI

**March 2011** MLDP (Military Leadership Development Programme), CUOTC, British Army

**September 2009** Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, UK

### **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**November 2020** The Clinic recipient of Souter Charitable Trust grant

**July 2020** The Clinic recipient of Small Grants Programme funding from EthiopiAid UK

**September 2019** The Clinic recipient of International Maternity Expo 2019 Inclusion Award

**November 2018** Shortlisted for Ascham Leadership Scholarship

**October 2018** Recipient of Small Grants Programme funding from EthiopiAid UK

**November 2016** Shortlisted for Edith Cavell Nurse's Trust's Leadership Award

**April 2015** Recipient of the Iolanthe Trust's Student Midwife Award

**June 2011** Recipient of University of Cambridge, Susan Skilliter Travel Bursary

**July 2009** Recipient of Kent College's Prize for Outstanding Contribution to School Life

**July 2009** Recipient of VSU Kent's Young Volunteer of the Year Award

**2007-2009** Recipient of Kent College Sixth Form Scholarship

### **PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

#### **Publications**

**The Practising Midwife, Vol 24, Issue 1, pages 36-39**

“Global Perspectives: Maternity Care and Practices in Ethiopia”

**Midwifery Matters, Winter Issue, TBC**

“Filling in the Shades of Grey: Routine Episiotomy in Primiparous Women”

**British Journal of Midwifery, Vol 27, Issue 7, Pages 460-461**

“Why Midwives Alone Are Not Enough”

**All4Maternity Blog, August 2019**

“With Great Power: Midwives and Decision Making”

**The Practising Midwife, July/Aug 2019, Pages 32-34**

“Rethinking Risk: Midwifery Across Boundaries”

**British Journal of Midwifery, Vol 26, No 11**

“Sitting on Sandstone: Experiencing Maternal Death”

**Midwifery Matters, Autumn Issue 158, Pages 10-11**

“A Life of Laughter and Love: Coming to Terms with Withdrawal of Care”

**British Journal of Midwifery, Vol 25, No 8, Pages 536-537**

“I Remember, Too: A Midwife's Experience of Stillbirth”

**Nursing Standard, Vol 31, Issue 15, Page 36**

“What It Means To Be A Midwife”

**Conferences**

**November 2015** Royal College of Midwives (RCM), Annual Conference, Telford, UK

“Relational Autonomy, Dislocated Women, and Midwifery in Contemporary Society”

**June 2015** North American Refugee Health Conference, Toronto, Canada

“Rethinking Consent: Relational Autonomy in Displaced Women”

**RESEARCH**

**October 2018 – March 2019** GCRF with City University

Investigating Harms and Benefits in “Coerced” Domestic Labour among Girls and Adolescent Women in Gurage Zone, Ethiopia

**January – July 2018** GCRF with City University

Challenging Social Conventions in an Ethiopian Village: How Persuasive Midwives Achieved Consensus on Ending FGM

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**October 2020 – Present** Board of Directors, Global Alliance of Independent Midwives  
Global AIMS provide support, education, and advocacy for midwives who work independently around the world. We aim to elevate the profession by empowering and inspiring competence and confidence through training, international certification, country-specific lobbying, and by mentoring the next generation of midwives.

**February 2018 – Present** Atsede Clinic, Cheha Woreda, Gurage Zone, SNNPR, Ethiopia  
[www.atsedeandindiesclinic.com](http://www.atsedeandindiesclinic.com)

I am the Director specialist women and children's health clinic and birth centre serving a catchment area of 50,000 people. We were awarded several grants from philanthropic organisations to design, project manage, build, equip, and stock the Clinic and I have since been working both as the Administrator and Director, managing the provision of clinical services and a staff of nine. The facilities include an Emergency Room, Maternal and Child Health Outpatients Department, Delivery Room, Postnatal Room, Inpatient Assessment, Laboratory, and Pharmacy. In my capacity as Director I have secured several funds for the construction of additional buildings for the Clinic as well as for multiple care delivery programmes. I also work clinically as the Senior Midwife and Lead Neonatal Nurse, responsible for managing obstetric complications, emergencies, and referrals. I am also responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the programmes run by the Clinic, including a comprehensive public health/SRMNH Outreach project and the social justice/empowerment component.

**August 2016 - February 2018** Attat Hospital, SNNPR, Ethiopia

I worked alongside a team of surgeons, nurses, and midwives to provide antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care to high- and low-risk women. As the only midwife trained to degree level, I was responsible for taking the lead in the Delivery, Postnatal, and Maternity ICU Rooms, which saw over 4500 births in this period, as well as accepting incoming emergency transfers, managing obstetric and neonatal emergencies, and scrubbing as the second surgeon for cesarean sections, repairs of uterine and bladder ruptures, emergency hysterectomies, BTL (bitubal ligation), and craniotomy deliveries. I also maintained an active role in establishing and running the fledgling Neonatal Services, being on-call day and night for high-risk deliveries, neonatal collapses, resuscitations, and Emergency Room attendees.

**August 2015 – October 2015** Midwifery Secondment, Cambodia

During this time, I had the opportunity to experience various elements of maternal and neonatal health across Cambodia. I spent time on the Labour Ward at the National Maternal and Child Health Centre, Phnom Penh, and on the Neonatal Unit at Calmette Hospital, Phnom Penh. I also participated in teaching neonatal resuscitation to midwives and TBAs in the north-eastern provinces of Ratanikiri, Kratie, and Mondulkiri as part of a programme designed by Care Int, Save the Children, and UNICEF. My final placement was with Mother's

Heart, a charity based in Phnom Penh, where I worked alongside the midwives and social workers providing crisis pregnancy counselling as well as antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care.

**May 2014 – July 2014** Nkhotakota District Hospital, Malawi

I spent this time working clinically on the Labour Ward. I was involved in antenatal and intrapartum care, accepting and managing emergency transfers, attending deliveries, and taking the leading role in neonatal resuscitation. I also attended daily Grand Round meetings, presented at the mortality and morbidity reports, and participated in teaching sessions on yellow fever, dengue fever, malaria, HIV, and TB.

**August 2012 – November 2012** UNICEF, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

My time with UNICEF was spent working alongside the Maternal and Neonatal Health Team. This involved writing and reviewing internal reports and funding applications, taking part in qualitative research into the effects of and attitudes towards "Gulazyk" (a micronutrient programme for children aged 6-36 months), travelling to the unstable southern regions of the country to interview benefactors and health practitioners, organising and hosting meetings with implementing partners, potential donors, and Kyrgyz Government officials, and liaising with the country branch offices.

**October 2010 – July 2012** British Territorial Army CUOTC

I was involved in military and adventurous training as a member of the Territorial Army CUOTC Artillery Wing. This included leadership development, strategy planning, confidence- and team-building, and survival, navigational, and military skills.

**REFERENCES**

Provided on request.