

**Title:**

SPECIAL SESSION: Breastfeeding Advocacy in Diverse Care Settings: A Global Health Initiative and Research Priority

**Keywords:**

Advocacy, Breastfeeding and Research

**Description/Overview:**

In this session, Dr. Shela Hirani, recipient of the "Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award" will present her program of research surrounding "Breastfeeding Advocacy in Diverse Care Setting" and share impact of her research in protecting breastfeeding practices of vulnerable mothers and young children affected by pandemic, disaster, forced migration, and homelessness.

**References:**

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- 7. Hirani, S. A., & Olson, J. (2016). Concept analysis of maternal autonomy in the context of breastfeeding. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 48 (3), 276-284.
- 9. Hirani, S. A. (2015). Continuing breastfeeding with paid employment: Breastfeeding and support from women's informal social network. *Clinical Lactation*, 6 (4), 137-143.
- 13. Hirani, S. A. (2014). Vulnerability of internally displaced children in disaster relief camps of pakistan: issues, challenges and way forward. *Early Child Development and Care*, 184 (9), 1499-1506.
- 16. Hirani, S. A., Karmaliani, R., Christie, T., Parpio, Y., & Rafique, G. (2013). Perceived Breastfeeding Support Assessment Tool (PBSAT): Development and testing of psychometric properties with Pakistani urban working mothers. *Midwifery*, 29 (6), 599-607.

**Organizer**

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**Author Summary:** Dr. Shela Hirani is an Associate Professor at the University of Regina. She is a neonatal and child health nursing professional, academician, researcher, volunteer and an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. She is the recipient of several national, international, and university-based awards based on

her outstanding academic performance, leadership potentials and research outputs. Her professional goal is to make a difference in the lives of underprivileged children and marginalized women through her research work, leadership, and community services.