

DR. MRS. ABIGAIL KUSI-AMPONSAH DIJI
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Education

2017 – 2020: Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science, University of Turku, Finland.
2012 –2014: Diploma in Education, University of Education, Winneba (UEW), Ghana.
2009 – 2010: Master of Science in Advanced Nursing, University of Nottingham, UK.
2004 – 2008: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana.

Professional Qualification

Registered General Nurse (RGN) with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) of Ghana since 2009.

Research Interests

Pain management, nursing education, maternal and child health, quality improvement, psychometric evaluation, qualitative-quantitative-mixed methods research, systematic reviews.

Honours, Awards and Fellowship

- 2021: Fellow of the FAIMER (Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research) Institute
- 2021: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku, Finland
- 2020: Recognition Award as an active international doctoral candidate in Honor of WHO Year of the Nurse and Midwife by the Department of Nursing Science, University of Turku.
- 2019: University of Turku (Faculty of Medicine and DPNurs) Completing a Doctoral Degree (1 month) Grant.
- 2019: Turku University Foundation Grant for Young Researchers (4 months).
- 2019: University of Turku Joint Research Grant Fund (Medical Research).
- 2019: International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Special Interest Group on Pain in Childhood Travel Grant for Conference Attendance in Switzerland.
- 01/2017–12/2020: University of Turku Tuition Scholarship (100% tuition fee).
- 01/2017–12/2020: KNUST Scholarship (maintenance cost).
- 09/2009–09/2010: Developing Solutions Scholarship (75% tuition fee).
- 09/2009–09/2010: KNUST Scholarship (25% tuition fee and maintenance cost).

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Professional Experience

05/2011 to Date: Lecturer, Department of Nursing, KNUST. I facilitate the teaching and learning of different nursing courses for undergraduate nursing and midwifery students in both classroom and clinical areas. I have successfully supervised over 40 undergraduate projects to completion and offer my services to KNUST, Ghana and the international community in various capacities.

Professional Affiliations

I am a member of professional organizations including:

- Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER)
- Young Researcher's Forum
- Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (WiSTEM)
- International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)
- IASP Special Interest Groups on Pain in Childhood and Pain Education
- Pain in Early Life (PEARL)
- Pain in Child Health (PICH)
- Nurse Educators' Group (NEG)
- University Teachers' Association of Ghana (UTAG)
- Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives
- Ghana Registered Nurses' and Midwives' Association (GRNMA)

Peer-Review Activities

I am one of the peer-reviewers for the underlisted journals:

- African Journal of Emergency Medicine (published by Elsevier)
- Heliyon (published by Elsevier)
- Journal of Pain Research (published by Dove Press)
- Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare (published by Dove Press)
- Neonatal and Pediatric Pain (published by Wiley)
- Nurse Education Today (published by Elsevier)

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- PLoS One (published by Public Library of Science)
- SAGE Open Medicine (published by SAGE Publishing)

Languages

English (proficient), Asante Twi (proficient), Finnish (basic).

Other Skills:

Microsoft word (proficient), Microsoft Excel (proficient), statistics (good).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

1. Oduro, E., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Kusi, G., Amagyei, A., Kyei-Dompim, J., Lomotey, A., Boateng, E. & Budu, H. I. (2020). Children nurses' knowledge and attitudes on paediatric pain: A descriptive cross-sectional survey in a developing country. *Nurse Media Journal of Nursing* 10 (3): 222-233. doi:10.14710/nmjn.v10i3.32457
2. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Oduro, E., Bam V., Kyei-Dompim, J., Ahoto, C. K. & Axelin, A. (2020). Dynamics on the field: A focused study on the culture and context of pediatric pain management at four Ghanaian hospitals. *BMC Pediatrics*, 20: 529. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-020-02399-w>
3. Auxier, J. N., Hakojärvi, H-R., **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Schley, A., Gaertner, L., Haddad Ringborg, C. & Sundgren, S. (2020). Sustainable practices in health science research: A critical reflection of doctoral students' contributions at the fourth annual Baltic Sea Region Network in Personalized Health Care summer school. *International Practice Development Journal*, 10(2): 13. <https://doi.org/10.19043/ipdj.102.013>
4. Agyemang, J. B., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Afaya, R. A., Boakye, H., Oduro, E., Amagyei, A. & Kyei-Dompim, J. (2020). Nursing and midwifery students' knowledge and attitudes regarding children's pain. *Journal of Research Development in Nursing and Midwifery*, 17(2): 17-26. <http://nursingjournal.goums.ac.ir/article-1-1203-en.html>
5. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Bam, V., Stolt, M., Korhonen, J. & Axelin, A. (2020). Evaluating the content validity of two versions of an instrument used in measuring pediatric pain knowledge and attitudes in the Ghanaian context. *PLoS ONE*, 15(11): e0241983. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0241983

6. Asante, E., Bam, V., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Lomotey, A. Y., Boateng, A. O., Sarfo-Kantanka, O., Ansah, E. O. & Adjei, D. (2020). Pilot mobile phone intervention in promoting type 2 diabetes management in an urban area in Ghana: A randomized controlled trial. *The Diabetes Educator*, 46(5): 455-464. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145721720954070>
7. Afaya, R. A., Bam, V., Azongo, T. B., Afaya, A., **Kusi-Amponsah, A.**, Ajusiyine, J. M. & Hamid, T. A. (2020). Medication adherence and self-care behaviours among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus in Ghana. *PLoS ONE* 15(8): e0237710. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0237710
8. Afaya A., Azongo, T. B., Dzomeku, V. M., Afaya, R. A., Salia, S. M., Adatara, P., Alhassan, R. K., **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Atakro, C. A., Adadem D., Asiedu, E. O., Amuna, P. & Ayanore, M. A. (2020). Women's knowledge and its associated factors regarding optimum utilisation of antenatal care in rural Ghana: A cross-sectional study. *PLoS ONE* 15(7): e0234575. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0234575
9. Kokuro, M. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2020). Utilisation and perceptions of cervical cancer screening services. *Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery*, 22(1): 16. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2520-5293/6228>
10. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei-Dompim, J., Bam V., Kyei, E. F., Oduro, E., Ahoto, C. K. & Axelin, A. (2020). Exploring the educational needs of nurses on children's pain management: A descriptive qualitative study. *Nursing Open*, 00: 1-9. DOI: 10.1002/nop2.459
11. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei-Dompim, J., Kyei, E. F., Oduro, E., Afaya, R. A. & Ahoto, C. K. (2020). Final year nursing students' knowledge and attitudes regarding children's pain. *Pain Research and Management*, 2020: 7283473. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/7283473>
12. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei, E. F., Agyemang, J. B., Boakye, H., Kyei-Dompim, J., Ahoto, C. K. & Oduro, E. (2020). Nursing-related barriers to children's pain management at selected hospitals in Ghana: A descriptive qualitative study. *Pain Research and Management*, 2020: 7125060. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/7125060>
13. Bam V., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Asante, E., Lomotey, A. Y., Adade, P., Akyeampong, B. A. (2020). Self-assessed competencies of nurses at an emergency department in Ghana. *African*

- Journal of Emergency Medicine 10(1): 8-12.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.afjem.2019.09.002>
14. Lomotey, A. Y., Bam, V., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Asante, E., Asante, H. B. & Osei, J. (2020). Experiences of mothers with preterm babies at a Mother and Baby Unit of a tertiary hospital: A descriptive phenomenological study. *Nursing Open*, 7: 150-159. DOI: 10.1002/nop2.373.
 15. Boateng, E. A., Kumi, L. O. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2019). Nurses and midwives' experiences of using non-pharmacological interventions for labour pain management: A qualitative study in Ghana. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 19:168. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-019-2311-x>
 16. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Oduro, E., Bam V., Kyei-Dompim, J., Aphoto, C. K. & Axelin, A. (2019). Nursing students and nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding children's pain: A comparative cross-sectional study. *PLoS ONE*, 14(10): e0223730. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0223730.
 17. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Björn, A., Bam V. & Axelin, A. (2019). The effect of educational strategies targeted for nurses on pain assessment and management in children: An integrative review. *Pain Management Nursing* 20(6): 604-613. DOI: 10.1016/j.pmn.2019.03.005
 18. Kyei, E. F., Boateng, E. A. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2019). "I experience very sharp pain but it's on and off": A phenomenological study of postoperative pain experiences of patients in Ghana. *Journal of Advocacy, Research and Education*, 6(1): 20-27.
 19. **Diji, A. K-A.**, Bam, V., Asante, E., Lomotey, A., Yeboah, S., & Owusu, H.A. (2017). Challenges and predictors of exclusive breastfeeding among nursing mothers attending child welfare clinic in a regional hospital in Ghana: a descriptive cross-sectional study. *International Breastfeeding Journal*, 12: 13.
 20. Appiah, M. K. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2016). Patients' adherence to Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus treatment recommendations. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 5(8), 267-272.
 21. Appiah, M. K. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2016). Rural folk's knowledge and adherence towards Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies. *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, 5(8), 260-266.

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22. **Diji, A. K-A.**, Moses, M. O., Asante, E., Agyeman, Y. N., Duku, J., & Agyeiwaa, S. A. (2015). Life with female partners after mastectomy: the perception of Ghanaian men. *International Journal of Applied Science and Technology*, 5(4), 122-127.

Conferences /Seminars / Workshops at which abstracts were presented

1. Agyemang, J. B., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Afaya, R. A., Boakye, H., Oduro, E., Amagyei, A. & Kyei-Dompim, J. (2021). Nursing and midwifery students' knowledge and attitudes regarding children's pain. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2021): "Transforming healthcare in a changing world: New ways of thinking and working". March 10 – 11, 2021, Los Angeles, United States of America.
2. Agyemang, J. B., **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei, E. F., Boakye, H., Kyei-Dompim, J., Aphoto, C. K. & Oduro, E. (2021). Nursing-related barriers to children's pain management at selected hospitals in Ghana: A descriptive qualitative study. Trinity Health and Education International Research Conference (THEconf2021): "Transforming healthcare in a changing world: New ways of thinking and working". March 10 – 11, 2021, Los Angeles, United States of America.
3. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Korhonen, J., Kyei-Dompim, J., Oduro, E., Osei, A. B., & Axelin, A. (2019). Cultural validity of an instrument used in measuring nurses' knowledge and attitudes pertaining to children's pain. *Advances in Health Care Sciences Conference*. November 13 – 14, 2019, Campus Flemingsberg, Stockholm, Sweden.
4. Kyei-Dompim, J., **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Bam V. (2019). Knowledge, attitude and practice of nurses in paediatric units on pain assessment and management in selected facilities in Kumasi and Pramso. Paper presented at the 4th Annual General Meeting and 2nd Scientific Conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives, October 6 – 10, 2019, Academy of Arts and Sciences, Accra, Ghana.
5. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Björn, A., Bam V. & Axelin, A. (2019). The impact of educational strategies targeted for nurses on pain assessment and management in children: An integrative systematic review. *Effectiveness Research Conference*. September 30, 2019, Snellmania, Kuopio campus, University of Eastern Finland, Finland.

6. Korhonen, J., Axelin, A., Grobler, G., **Kusi Amponsah, A.** & Lahti, M. (2019). Content validation of an instrument measuring primary health care workers' mental health literacy in Africa. *Biological Psychiatry*. September 20 – 23, 2019, Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
7. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Oduro, E., Bam V., Kyei-Dompim, J., Ahoto, C. K. & Axelin, A. (2019). Nursing students and nurses' knowledge and attitudes regarding children's pain: a comparative cross-sectional study in Ghana. 18th European Doctoral Conference in Nursing Science. September 19-21, 2019, Graz, Austria.
8. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei-Dompim, J., Bam, V., Mensah, O. N., Treiman-Kiveste, A. & Axelin, A. (2019). The culture and context of pediatric pain management at some selected Ghanaian hospitals. 8th College of Health Science and 12th Convention of Biomedical Research Ghana Joint Scientific Conference. July 30 – 31, 2019, School of Business Auditorium, KNUST, Kumasi.
9. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Kyei-Dompim, J., Bam, V., Ahoto, C. K., Oduro, E. & Axelin, A. (2019). The pediatric pain knowledge and attitudes of Ghanaian nurses: a cross-sectional study. 8th College of Health Science and 12th Convention of Biomedical Research Ghana Joint Scientific Conference. July 30 – 31, 2019, School of Business Auditorium, KNUST, Kumasi.
10. Lampinley, A., Budu, H. & **Diji, A. K-A.** (2019). Care process of patients living with diabetic foot ulcers: a phenomenological study in Ghana. 8th College of Health Science and 12th Convention of Biomedical Research Ghana Joint Scientific Conference. July 30 – 31, 2019, School of Business Auditorium, KNUST, Kumasi.
11. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Bam, V., Kyei-Dompim, J., Oduro, E., Ahoto, C.K. & Axelin, A. (2019). Nursing students' knowledge and attitudes regarding paediatric pain: testing convergent validity for two instruments. 12th International Symposium on Paediatric Pain. June 16 – 20, 2019, Basel, Switzerland. A-1019-0003-00249.
12. **Kusi Amponsah, A.**, Bam, V., Kyei-Dompim, J., Oduro, E., Ahoto, C.K. & Axelin, A. (2019). Educational needs of nursing students on pediatric pain management in Ghana: a descriptive cross-sectional study. 12th International Symposium on Paediatric Pain. June 16 – 20, 2019, Basel, Switzerland. A-1019-0005-00226.

13. Bam, V., Lomotey, A. Y., **Diji, A. K-A**, Asante, E., Asuamah, N. Y. & Nkrumah, P. (2018). The use of research evidence in emergency nursing practice in a tertiary level hospital in Ghana. 2nd African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth) Symposium. August 6 – 8, 2018, Durban, South Africa. p.118.
14. Bam, V., **Diji, A. K-A**, Asante, E., Lomotey, A. Y., Adade, P. & Asante, B. (2017). Nurses' competences in an Emergency Department of a tertiary hospital in Ghana. African Forum for Research and Education in Health (AFREhealth) Symposium. August 1 – 3, 2017, Accra, Ghana.
15. **Diji, A. K-A**, Aggrey, P. A., Biam, I., & Bonsu, A. B. (2016, August 1-5). Attitudes and perceptions of nursing students toward clinical practice. Paper presented at the 1st scientific conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives: specialist nursing and midwifery education and practice – relevance in contemporary quality health care in Ghana and beyond, Pentecost Convention Centre, Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana., 2016. FGCNM/SP/ABT/006.
16. **Diji, A. K-A**, Akowuah, G. & Yartey, J. N. O (2016, August 1-5). Knowledge and perceptions of emergency preparedness among nurses working in an emergency unit in Ghana. Paper presented at the 1st scientific conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives: specialist nursing and midwifery education and practice – relevance in contemporary quality health care in Ghana and beyond, Pentecost Convention Centre, Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana., 2016. FGCNM/SP/ABT/007.
17. **Diji, A. K-A**, Annor, A. K. & Aidoo, R. G. (2016, August 1-5). Knowledge, attitude and barriers toward research among final year students in the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, KNUST. Paper presented at the 1st scientific conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives: specialist nursing and midwifery education and practice – relevance in contemporary quality health care in Ghana and beyond, Pentecost Convention Centre, Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana., 2016. FGCNM/SP/ABT/005.
18. **Diji, A. K-A**, Antwi-Kusi, A., Boateng, E. A., Awuku, E. K., & Toboh, C. K. (2016, August 1-5). Perceptions of patients with sickle cell disease (SCD)-associated pain on in-hospital pain management. Paper presented at the 1st scientific conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives: specialist nursing and midwifery education

- and practice – relevance in contemporary quality health care in Ghana and beyond, Pentecost Convention Centre, Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana., 2016.
19. **Diji, A. K-A.**, Boateng, E. A., Obeng-Yeboah, M., Osei-Gyimah, S. (2016, August 1-5). Attitudes and perceptions of healthcare workers toward drug-abused trauma patients. Paper presented at the 1st scientific conference of the Ghana College of Nurses and Midwives: specialist nursing and midwifery education and practice – relevance in contemporary quality health care in Ghana and beyond, Pentecost Convention Centre, Kasoa-Central Region, Ghana., 2016.
 20. Bam, V. B., Gyimah, F., Nuamah, A. T., Lomotey, A. Y., **Diji, A. K-A.**, Asante, E., & Ansong, D. (2016, August 2-4). Severe Malaria in a Paediatric Emergency Unit: What caregivers know. Paper presented at the 2016 Medical/Nurses Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI/NEPI) Symposium: tackling Africa's health challenges – promoting health professions' education, practice, research and retention of health workers, Laico Regency Hotel Conference Room. Nairobi, Kenya.
 21. **Diji, A. K-A.**, Bam, V., Asante, E., Lomotey, A., Yeboah, S., & Owusu, H. A. (2015, August 27-28). Challenges and predictors of exclusive among nursing mothers in a regional hospital in Ghana. Paper presented at the 6th College of Health Sciences' annual scientific conference: non-communicable diseases–the significance of nutrition, School of Business Auditorium, KNUST, Kumasi. S1B1.
 22. **Diji, A. K-A.**, Asante, E., Obirikorang, Y., Agyeman, Y. N., Amoako, E., & Ampomah, E. (2015, August 27-28). Knowledge, attitude and practices on the prevention and management of cholera. Paper presented at the 6th College of Health Sciences' annual scientific conference: non-communicable diseases–the significance of nutrition, School of Business Auditorium, KNUST, Kumasi. S1A4.
 23. Allcock, N., Bath-Hextall, F., **Kusi-Amponsah, A.**, Stanton W. & Kumar, A. Efficacy of music as a postoperative pain management intervention in adult patients: a systematic review. Paper presented at the proceedings of the 14th World Congress on Pain, August 27-31, 2012, Milano Convention Centre, Milan-Italy.
 24. Antwi-Kusi, A. & **Diji, A. K-A.** Pain management at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH): challenges and way-forward. Paper presented at the proceedings of the 3rd

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Annual Pain Conference, April 15, 2013, True Vine Hotel Conference Room, Kumasi-Ghana.

Referees

1. Prof. (Mrs.) Veronica Dzomeku (Head)
Department of Nursing, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Private Mail Bag, Kumasi, Ghana
E-mail: vmdzomeku@gmail.com
2. Prof. (Mrs.) Victoria Bam (Former Head & PhD Supervisor)
Department of Nursing, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Private Mail Bag, Kumasi, Ghana
E-mail: elorbam@yahoo.com
3. Prof. Anna Axelin (PhD Supervisor & Postdoctoral Mentor)
Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku (UTU), Finland.
E-mail: anmaax@utu.fi
4. Prof. Alexander Yaw Debrah (Dean), Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Private Mail Bag, Kumasi, Ghana.
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