

Grace S Marquis

Associate Professor
School of Human Nutrition



Grace S. Marquis received her doctorate in international nutrition from Cornell University in 1996 and then taught in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University before joining McGill in 2006. She continues today as an Associate Professor/Collaborator at Iowa State University. Dr. Marquis has had numerous roles in the American Society for Nutrition, including Chair of the Global Nutrition Council and member of the Scientific Program Committee. She represents the society as a member of the Trustee Board and Chair of the Academic Board for the international collaborative initiative, *e-Nutrition Academy*, to support online nutrition learning in higher education globally. She is Associate Editor for the journal *Advances in Nutrition*. She was the Canadian Research Chair in Social and Environmental Aspects of Nutrition from 2006-2016, the maximum duration allowed for the position. In 2013 she received a Doctorate of Laws, *honoris causa*, for her contribution to tertiary education from the University of Ghana.



Research and Scientific Expertise

Integrated interventions. The nutritional status of young children in low-income rural communities is influenced by a diverse set of determinants, ranging from agricultural production to gender equity. Dr. Marquis research integrates the nutrition/health, education, agriculture, and finance sectors in interventions designed to improve caregivers' ability to access high quality foods and to increase the knowledge and skills needed for the care of infants and young children.

Breastfeeding. Although breastfeeding is widely promoted, optimal breastfeeding is rarely practiced. Dr. Marquis' research group examines biological, economic, and social factors that influence breastfeeding behaviors in diverse low-income settings. The studies also measure the consequences of poor feeding behaviors on child health and growth. Through community-based interventions, they test approaches to improving breastfeeding practices.

Complementary feeding. Inadequate quality and quantity of diet is the major contributor to poor child nutrition. Dr. Marquis' group examines a wide range of factors that influence complementary feeding behaviors, including maternal HIV status. The group has tested interventions that have altered the diet as well as caregivers' feeding behaviors to improve dietary intakes.

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