

## International Midwifery

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The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association representing certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. ACNM does, however, have a strong presence in promoting the health of women and families worldwide, and often receives inquiries regarding midwifery practice in other countries. This document directs midwives educated in other countries to information regarding practicing in the U.S. It also provides contact information for the International Confederation of Midwives, and information regarding the work of ACNM's Department of Global Outreach.

### International Confederation of Midwives

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) aims to develop the role of the midwife by advancing the provision of maternity care and so improve the standard of care provided to mothers, babies and families<sup>1</sup>. Members of ICM are either independent associations of midwives (including ACNM) or groups of midwives within other organizations. ICM holds a triennial Congress and produces a number of publications including a newsletter, *International Midwifery*. ICM may be contacted at: Eisenhowerlaan 138; 2517 KN Den Haag; The Netherlands; tel: + 31 70 3060520; fax: + 31 70 3555651; [www.internationalmidwives.org](http://www.internationalmidwives.org).

The *Journal of Nurse-Midwifery* (now the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*) has contained occasional papers describing midwifery internationally<sup>2-4</sup>.

### ACNM Department of Global Outreach

Since 1982, the Department of Global Outreach (formerly the Special Projects Section) of the American College of Nurse-Midwives has conducted projects or provided technical assistance in more than 30 developing countries. These projects have shared the common goal of bettering the lives of women and children through education and improved maternal health, child health, family planning and other reproductive health services. Through these projects, nurse-midwives have trained midwives, physicians and other maternal/neonatal health care providers in safe delivery practices and management of complications; assisted in policy development; developed delivery practices and management of complications; assisted in policy development; developed standards and protocols; conducted research on maternal mortality; and established partnerships with sister midwifery associations in the developing world. Global Outreach has expanded its aspects of reproductive health care and its programming to include projects addressing distance learning, adolescent health, environmental health, and domestic violence in the United States.

### Resources:

- Staff and consultants with international health experience and technical and clinical expertise in all areas of reproductive and maternal/neonatal health.
- Technical staff and consultants with skills to work in developing countries on: needs assessments, policy development, standards and protocol development, training, training materials development, midwifery association strengthening, pre-service education, evaluation and research.

In addition, the following publications are available from ACNM\*:

[Life Saving Skills \(LSS\) Manual for Midwives \(3rd Edition, 1998\)](#)

[Pocket-Sized LSS Clinical Guide \(1998\)](#)

[Life Saving Skills for Midwives \(2nd Edition, 1991\)](#) - Spanish Translation

[Life Saving Skills for Midwives \(2nd Edition, 1991\)](#) - French Translation

[Life Saving Skills Manual for Policy Makers and Trainers \(1998\)](#)

[Healthy Mother and Healthy Newborn Care: A Reference for Caregivers \(1998\)](#) : Set of manuals and second pocket-sized manual of skills checklists

[Antenatal Risk Assessment and Intervention Teaching Aid](#)

[Partograph Teaching Aid](#)

[Lactational Amenorrhea Method \(LAM\): Self-Study Module \(1996\)](#)

[Lactational Amenorrhea Method \(LAM\): Trainer's Module \(1995\)](#)

ACNM also developed the following publications for SEATS II Project; they are available from JSI, Inc. at 703-528-7474:

- Business Management Skills for Private Midwives (1998)
- Community Mobilization for Private Midwives (1998)

#### **ACNM International Health Committee**

The ACNM International Health Committee works to promote awareness and provide information on international maternal and child health issues for ACNM members. Contact information for the Committee chairperson can be found in the *ACNM Membership Directory* and on the ACNM Web site [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org) (the Division, Section & Committee Chair listing is found in the “About ACNM” section).

#### **Foreign Educated Nurse-Midwives and Midwives Who Seek to Practice in the U.S.**

Midwives who have been educated abroad and wish to practice in the U.S. may call ACNM at 240-485-1800 for information or download the free booklet, *Information for Foreign Educated Midwives & Nurse-Midwives Who Seek to Practice in the U.S* at <http://www.midwife.org/edu/>.

#### **REFERENCES\*\***

1. Raisler J. The International Confederation of Midwives. Past history, present activities, and future challenges. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1994; 39:326-328.
2. Scheuermann K. Midwifery in Germany. Its past and present. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1995; 40:438-447.
3. Lang JB, Elkin ED. A study of the beliefs and birthing practices of traditional midwives in rural Guatemala. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1997; 42:25-31.
4. Bortin S. Interviews with Mexican midwives. *J Nurse Midwifery* 1993; 38:170-177.

\* The ACNM Resource Catalog is available from the ACNM Web site, [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org). You may also contact us at the phone number or e-mail address below and request that a Catalog be mailed to you.

\*\* As of January 2000, JNM's name has been changed to the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* (JMWH). All ACNM members receive a subscription to the journal as a member benefit. Back issues can be purchased from Elsevier Science, Inc., 655 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10010; 212-633-3730.

The ACNM “*QuickInfo*” series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; contact Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or [info@acnm.org](mailto:info@acnm.org). 12/1/05