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Years of Continuous Midwifery Education in the United States 1932-2007

Midwives Caring For Women Through the Partnership of Education and Practice
75 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS MIDWIFERY EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Midwives Caring For Women Through the Partnership of Education and Practice

The History

The early part of the twentieth century was marked by great turmoil in medicine, maternity care, and midwifery. Fervent debate arose in medical and popular literature regarding the role of midwives in the unacceptably high U.S. infant and maternal mortality and morbidity rates. Although studies ultimately showed that midwifery outcomes were at least comparable to, and often better than those of doctors, the trend was to institutionalize maternity care along with the rest of medicine. Because midwives’ skills were needed in underserved areas it was decided that, rather than eliminating midwives altogether, formal education programs would be provided for them. During these years, several midwifery educational programs opened and closed—most notably the Bellevue School of Midwifery in New York City and the Preston Retreat Hospital in Philadelphia. The Bellevue School closed in 1931 and the Preston Retreat Hospital, while it remained open until 1960, had minimal enrollment past 1935.

In 1932, the Maternity Center Association (MCA) started a school that would endure. This school was formally called The School of the Association for the Promotion and Standardization of Midwifery and informally known as the Lobenstein School of Midwifery, after Dr. Ralph Waldo Lobenstein, Chairman of MCA’s Medical Board since its founding in 1918. The Lobenstein School was specifically established to educate public health nurses to become midwives. Its clinical services provided care to disadvantaged women in New York City’s Harlem community. Births were attended at home, except when hospitalization was deemed necessary. Mary Breckinridge, a member of the MCA Board, sent Rose McNaught, CM, from the Frontier Nursing Service, to serve as a midwifery educator. Hattie Henschemeyer, then a public health nurse educator, became the school’s Executive Director and one of its first graduates.

Along the way, MCA’s school had affiliations with Teachers’ College of Columbia University and Johns Hopkins University. In 1934, its name changed to the Maternity Center Association School of Midwifery. In 1958, MCA began using Kings County Hospital Center (KCHC) in Brooklyn as its primary clinical site for student experiences. In 1974, the registration of the school was changed from MCA to Downstate Medical Center, where it became a program in the College of Health Related Professions. The program, now known as the SUNY Downstate Midwifery Education Program, remains nationally respected, best known today for its longevity and its ethnic and racial diversity, and for taking the innovative step of educating Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives side-by-side in one integrated program. It is also one of a few programs in the United States to offer a Master of Science degree with a specialization in midwifery.

5 American College of Nurse-Midwives. Nurse-Midwives Historically Key Answer to Maternal Healthcare Problem. www.midwife.org/display.cfm?id=441&print=2
6 SUNY Downstate Medical Center webpage. http://www.hscbklyn.edu/CHRP/Midwifyp2.html
PROGRAM FACULTY

Joan Bryson, CNM
Home Birth Private Practice, Community Midwifery
Chair, New York City Chapter, American College of Nurse-Midwives

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Past Chair, Division of Accreditation, American College of Nurse-Midwives
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Lacey Professor Community Health Nursing, Western Michigan University
Professor Emeritus, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania
Past President, ACNM
Past Director, International Confederation of Midwives
Vice-Chair, Global Advisory Group on Nursing & Midwifery
WHO Director General

GALA PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ronnie Lichtman, CNM, PhD, FACNM, Chair
Dorothy Waleski, MA, MPA, Assistant Dean,
College of Health Related Professions

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM FACULTY & STAFF
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Grace Holmes, CNM, MS
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COLLEAGUES
Joan Bryson, CNM, LM
Karen Burgin, CNM, MA
Patricia Burkhardt, CNM, DrPH
Maureen Corry, MPH
Charlotte (Pixie) Elsberry, CNM, MSN, FACNM
Elizabeth Gallego, CM, MS
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Dorothea Lang, CNM, MPH, FACNM
Phyllis Lynn, CNM
Nancy Moley, CNM, MS
Sakina O’Uhuru, CM, MS
Nancy Villa Riggs, SNM

For further information please contact:
Sheryl Eason at (718) 270-7740
Symposium Goals

At the conclusion of the symposium participants to will be able to:

- assess the key links between professional midwifery education and global outreach to help resource-poor nations save women’s lives.
- discuss and support the crucial role of consumer advocacy groups in promoting the health of women and families.
- discuss how and why childbirth education has, thru the years, been an active form of Listening To Women.
- analyze the dilemma facing advocates of normal birth in an increasingly medicalized society.
- identify how midwives with a doctoral degree in midwifery can contribute in a significant way to improving the health of U.S. women and to enhancing the profession of midwifery.
- formulate a vision for the future of midwifery education and practice.

We thank the following cosponsors for their generous support:*

- The American College of Nurse Midwives
- Childbirth Connection
- ACNM Region 2, Chapter 1 “NYC Midwives”

75-for-75 Club and Honorary Committee*

Kathryn Boyer, Katherine Carr, Maureen Corry, Katy Dawley, Charlotte Elsberry, Eunice Ernst, Judith Fullerton, Elizabeth Gallego, Doris Haire, Richard Jennings, Dorothea Lang, Ronnie Lichtman, Ruth Lubic, Phyllis Lynn, Joanne Middleton, Margaret Naylor, Janette O’Sullivan, Christine Obremski, Richard Schwarz, Barbara Sellars, Suzanne and Brian Smith, Nancy Villa Riggs, Laura Zeidenstein

*Lists in formation
A Gala Celebration

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7

10:00 – 11:00  REGISTRATION
11:00 – 12:00  BRUNCH

Program Moderator: Sakina O'Uhuru, CM, MS

12:00  WELCOME
    John C. LaRosa, MD
    President, SUNY Downstate Medical Center

    Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C
    Dean, College of Health Related Professions

12:15  KEYNOTE ADDRESS

    “A Tradition of Midwifery Education for Healthy Nations”
    Joyce Thompson, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, FAAN

1:10  “Listening to Mothers Second National Survey: What it Means for Midwifery Care and Education”
     Maureen Corry, MPH

2:00  BREAK

2:15  “Birthing in a Land of Contradictions”
     Barbara Katz Rothman, PhD

3:05  “Maintaining Professional Integrity & Identity: A Vision for a Multi-track Midwifery Doctorate”
     Ronnie Lichtman, CNM, PhD, FACNM

(Q&A Sessions will be held at the conclusion of each presentation)

3:55  PANEL DISCUSSION

    “The Future of US Midwifery Education & Practice – the Next 75 Years”

    Moderator: Sakina O'Uhuru, CM, MS

    Joan Bryson, CNM
    Betty Carrington, CNM, EdD, FACNM
    Maureen Corry, MPH
    Lily Hsia, CNM, MS, FACNM
    Barbara Katz Rothman, PhD
    Ronnie Lichtman, CNM, PhD, FACNM
    Phyllis Lynn, CNM, MS
    Joyce Thompson, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, FAAN

5:00  ADJOURN
DINNER DANCE

6:30  Cocktail Hour
7:30-11:30  Dinner Dance

■ Featuring 75 Years of Dance Music by Renowned DJ Felix Hernandez
■ Presentation of Awards to the following:
  ■ Midwives
  ■ Other health care professionals
  ■ Legislators or Government Officials
  ■ Women

For more information regarding the awards visit our web site at http://www.downstate.edu/CHRP/Midwif/75th.html

To SUNY Downstate Medical Center:

By bus – B-12, B-14
By subway – IRT Flatbush bound #2, Lexington Ave. #5 which are a few blocks from the institution (exit at WINTHROP STREET station)

For detailed travel directions visit the SUNY Downstate web site at www.downstate.edu

Pre-recorded travel directions can be accessed by calling (718) 270-7696

Parking – Sunday parking is available at the Medical Center’s parking garage, on 34th Street, between Lenox Road and Linden Boulevard. $1.00 per 4 hours.
(Parking rates are subject to change.)

■ The New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
Directions can be found at http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/NYCBK

Parking: On-site parking, fee: $14 hourly, $23 daily
Rates subject to change.

Accommodations: A limited number of standard rooms have been reserved for Saturday October 6th & Sunday October 7th at the following SUNY Downstate Medical Center Group Rates: Single & Double: $209, Triple: $229, Quad: $249

Rooms must be reserved by September 17, 2007.

Continuing Education Units:
0.45 CEUs have been granted by the American College of Nurse-Midwives

Registration & Cancellation Policy:
Payment must accompany registration. Complete registration includes admission to symposium, brunch, educational materials and dinner dance. Written cancellations postmarked prior to September 21, 2007 will receive a refund less a $25 processing fee. Any cancellation after September 21, 2007 is non-refundable.
registration form

REGISTRATION FEES (Check applicable category)

- Education Symposium Only
  Early bird: postmarked by 8-7-07 $80
  Regular registration: after 8-7-07 $95

- Dinner Dance Only
  Early bird: postmarked by 8-7-07 $120
  Regular registration: after 8-7-07 $135

- Education Symposium & Dinner Dance
  Early bird: postmarked by 8-7-07 $190
  Regular registration: after 8-7-07 $220

- Unable to attend, but would like to contribute
  Tax deductible donation $_______
  Total enclosed: $_________

Additional Name(s) included in this registration:

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

For Further Information:

Phone: 718-270-7740
Fax: 718-270-7634
Email: gala75@downstate.edu
www.downstate.edu/CHRP/midwif/75th.html

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check made payable to Health Science Center of Brooklyn Foundation (HSCBF) (In memo line write “Midwifery”)

Print clearly & mail to: SUNY Downstate Medical Center
Midwifery Education Program
450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 1227
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11203

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Profession: ____________________  Title: _______________________

Mailing address:__________________________________________Apt:_____

City:________________________State:_____Zip Code:________

Institutional Affiliation:________________________________________

Phone:_____________________________________________________

Fax:_______________________________________________________

E-mail Address:_____________________________________________

Midwives please supply the following information required for the granting of CEUs:

License #:___________________ State:________
National Midwifery Certification #: (ACNM, ACC, AMCB)____________

Evening seating: List friends with whom you’d like to sit:

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
College of Health Related Professions
MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 1227
Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098

Address Service Requested

October 7, 2007

- Brunch & Educational Symposium: History Envisioning the Future
  11:00 am – 5:00 pm
  SUNY Downstate Medical Center Alumni Auditorium
  Health Science Education Building
  395 Lenox Road, Brooklyn, New York

- Evening Dinner Dance
  New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
  6:30 pm – 11:30 pm