



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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## **20 MIDWIVES INDUCTED AS FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES**

*ACNM Members Honored with Prestigious Distinction*

**Silver Spring, MD** – The [American College of Nurse-Midwives \(ACNM\)](#) honored 20 midwives who have demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement both within and outside of the midwifery profession. A limited number of midwives are selected for this highly coveted distinction and are inducted as fellows during the [ACNM Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#) each year. Once inducted, a fellow is able to add “FACNM” to their credentials.

### **The 2016 Fellows are:**

#### **Megan Arbour (OH)**

CNM, MS, PhD

Megan Arbour is an associate professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Cincinnati in the women’s health NP and nurse-midwifery programs. Megan is most passionate about midwifery education, striving for a midwife for every woman. Significant professional contributions include: innovating and disseminating new teaching methods for midwifery students, chair of the ACNM Master’s Competencies for Midwifery Education Taskforce, that developed educational competencies for master’s level midwifery education programs, chair of the ACNM Sleep and Safety Taskforce, currently investigating the issue of sleep and its impacts on the midwifery profession, and section chair of the Education Policy Section of the DOE.

#### **Rebeca Barroso (MN)**

CNM, PhD, DNP

Rebeca Barroso has an extensive background in clinical midwifery working with vulnerable women experiencing health disparities from multiple cultural backgrounds. Barroso has practiced a full-scope midwifery practice for over 20 years after 20 years of direct-entry midwifery practice. Assistant professor at Frontier Nursing University, she is a preceptor and clinical education coordinator for midwifery students, co-editor of *Best Practices in Midwifery: Using the Evidence to Implement Change, Second Edition* (2016) and DNP Capstone Projects: Exemplars of Excellence in Practice (2015), ACNM’s W. Newton Award winner (2011), and recipient of Catholic Charities’ Community Service Award (2008).

#### **Kathryn Carr (MA)**

CNM, MSN

Kathryn Kravetz Carr is the Incoming Region I Representative to the ACNM Board of Directors, and past president of the ACNM Massachusetts Affiliate. She served as chair, vice-chair, student coordinator, and student representative of the ACNM Government Affairs Committee. She was

treasurer of the Midwives-PAC, and, as ACNM's Medicare lobbyist, worked toward reimbursement equity. After graduating from the College of William and Mary, Kathryn attended Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, and received her degree in midwifery and women's health from the University of California, San Francisco. She practices full-scope midwifery in Boston at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

### **Andrea Christianson (CT)**

CNM, MS

Building on decades working with, and advocating for, women and children, Andrea completed her midwifery education in 1999 and her MS in midwifery in 2005. Dedicated to her sons, grandchildren and future generations, her passion for gentle birth reflects a commitment toward a more peaceful, inclusive, and non-violent society. To increase access to midwifery care, particularly in the home and birth centers, she works to remove practice barriers and increase respectful collaborations across all settings. Now attending home births in CT she has been an ACNM volunteer at the state and national level and is currently chair of the Home Birth Section.

### **Jenifer O. Fahey (MD)**

CNM, MSN, MSPH

Jenifer Osorno Fahey is assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where she serves as director of the Midwifery Division. She is an associate editor for the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* and an author of *Varney's Midwifery, 5th Edition*. She is co-founder of PRONTO International – an NGO that provides simulation-based emergency obstetric training internationally. She helped create the blueprint for B'more for Healthy Babies, an initiative to reduce infant mortality in Baltimore. She is active at the state and national level with the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) and was recently appointed to be the ACNM representative to ACOG's Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Committee.

### **Sharon L. Holley (TN)**

CNM, DNP

Sharon L. Holley is an associate professor who teaches midwifery and serves as director for the Vanderbilt School of Nursing Faculty Nurse-Midwife Practice in Nashville, TN. She served on the ACNM Division of Education and Quality committees, the ACOG/CDC National Partnership for Maternal Safety, the ACNM Name Change Implications Task Force and the American Nurses Association Nurse Fatigue Panel creating recommendations to reduce fatigue and improve patient outcomes. She served on the ACNM Healthy Birth Initiative™ Reducing Primary Cesareans for Improving Care and Comfort in Labor. She has published on clinical issues, midwifery education, and practice administration.

### **Maria Christina Johnson (MD)**

CNM, MS

Tina Johnson is director of Professional Practice and Health Policy at ACNM, providing national leadership on policy affecting midwifery practice and public health. She guides development of midwifery practice standards, provides organizational and individualized consultation, and represents midwives to the public. She is a published author, and has presented domestically and internationally on clinical and professional issues. Appointed to numerous ACNM task forces, Tina is a former Maryland affiliate chair, legislative liaison, and practice director. She has attended over 1,000 births in hospital, homes, and birth center settings. Tina is committed to educating women and mentoring midwives, physicians, and nurses.

### **Ira Kantrowitz-Gordon (WA)**

CNM, PhD

Ira Kantrowitz-Gordon is an assistant professor and the nurse-midwifery education program director at the University of Washington School of Nursing. He has been a nurse-midwife since 1998, and practices full-scope midwifery at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, WA. In addition to teaching, Ira has research interests in preterm birth, mindfulness interventions for high-risk pregnant women, and the impact of gender on professional development. He has published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, JOGNN, and Qualitative Health Research. He serves the ACNM on the Ethics Committee, Gender Bias Task Force, Ultrasound Education Task Force, and Sleep & Safety Task Force.

**Linda Locke (NJ)**

CNM, MPH, LSW

A midwife for over forty years, Linda has a career-long commitment not only to midwifery and women's health, but also health disparities and the intersection of health and mental health. Her experience includes: chief of midwifery at teaching hospital, community hospital, FQHC and private practice, and midwifery faculty. Currently president of the ACNM New Jersey Affiliate, she has served on The ACNM D&I Taskforce, NJ BOME Midwifery Committee, NJ Blue Ribbon Panel on Black Infant Mortality, and Board of NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She is the founding chair of the NJ Health Cares about Domestic and Sexual Violence Collaborative, and holds positions in both midwifery and social work.

**Patricia O. Loftman (NY)**

CNM, LM, MS

An avid advocate for women and babies, Pat Odette Loftman, provided primary and reproductive care to women whose pregnancies were complicated by chemical dependency and/or HIV Infection in 1985. Pat was chair of the Women's Health/Clinical Care Group that led to Harlem Hospital Center becoming the first World Health Organization Baby Friendly Hospital in NYC. Pat has precepted midwifery students clinically, represented ACNM nationally on the issue of domestic violence in the African American community and continues to promote both the midwifery profession and ACNM through active participation on various taskforces and committees. After 30 years at Harlem Hospital Center, Pat retired in 2010.

**Denise McLaughlin (GA)**

CNM, MPH

For 40 years, Denise McLaughlin has served as a member and currently as director of Emory University's Nurse-Midwifery Service where she has expanded the role of CNMs at Grady Health System. Through service to organizations ranging from the March of Dimes to the Georgia Board of Nursing Advisory Council, she has impacted the health of women and children. Internationally, she played an integral role in improving maternal and perinatal health in rural northwest Tanzania. She has been a trustee of the ACNM Foundation since 2012. Denise has ensured the growth of the profession by mentoring future generations of nurse-midwives.

**Gretchen Mettler (OH)**

CNM, PhD

Gretchen has been a preceptor since 1986. In 1987 she was one of two CNMs hired by University Hospitals of Cleveland. That practice now attends over 1,200 births annually. Since 2014 she has directed the CenteringPregnancy® Initiative. She has been the director of the nurse-midwifery education program at Case Western Reserve University since 2001. She has been very involved in the Northern Ohio chapter of ACNM, serving in various leadership roles. She has been a site visitor

for ACNM DOA and ACME since 1998, on the ACME Board of Review, and is currently the chair of the Board of Review.

**Tonia L. Moore-Davis (TN)**

CNM, PhD(c)

Tonia Moore-Davis earned her BSN from Johns Hopkins University, and her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania. In 2010, she was recognized as the ACNM Kitty Ernst “Young Whippersnapper” for her early career work in faculty practice development and incorporation of midwives in medical education. Tonia’s national ACNM leadership has included service to the DOSP and spearheading the ACNM Benchmarking Project. As faculty for Vanderbilt University, she has been instrumental in curriculum redesign that incorporates innovative teaching strategies. As a scholar, her research interests include the use of mindfulness-based strategies in preterm birth risk reduction and epigenetic influences on perinatal health.

**Robin Neumeier (Military)**

CNM, MSN

COL Robin Neumeier received her BSN degree from Stephen F. Austin State University, her MSN in midwifery from Medical University of South Carolina, and currently a DNP student at Old Dominion University. Commission from ROTC and has proudly served in the Army for the past 24 years. She has served in a variety of roles both in Garrison and Deployed. Currently, she serves as the deputy commander for nursing at Martin Army Community Hospital, GA. Additionally, COL Neumeier is the American Midwifery Board of Certification’s chairperson for the Exam Committee and she serves as the deputy consultant to the Surgeon General for the Army Midwives. Her passion is keeping midwifery alive and active within the military facilities. Robin has been married to Keith for 27 years with three lovely children.

**Tonya Nicholson (GA)**

CNM, DNP, WHNP-BC

Dr. Tonya Nicholson is the associate dean of Midwifery and Women’s Health for Frontier Nursing University. She has a rich history with FNU as a midwifery, DNP, and WHNP graduate. Tonya served the women of central Florida as director of a full scope practice from 2000-2006. She then joined the Frontier faculty, subsequently assuming the role of program director and then associate dean. Tonya is very interested in communication and civility at the individual and institutional levels and focuses most of her scholarship in this area by presenting at the regional and national level on the topics of civility, communication, and clinical precepting.

**Angelita Nixon (WV)**

CNM, MSN, APRN

Having practiced full-scope midwifery in hospitals, clinics, and a freestanding birth center, Angy became a small business owner in 2003, specializing in physiologic birth at home. Active in the leadership of multiple midwifery and nursing professional associations at the state and national levels, Angy contributes to the work of the WV Perinatal Partnership to address parent-child health, build collaborative networks, and engage in public policy work. Angy enjoys mentoring new leaders (especially within the WV ACNM Affiliate), promotes unity within midwifery, precepts students from multiple disciplines, takes a special interest in diversity and inclusion projects, and participates in benchmarking.

**Julie Paul (MA)**

CNM, DNP

A graduate from FSMFN for MSN and DNP, in 2015 Julie Paul developed and implemented Early Labor Bundle which includes 20-week toolkit, early labor education series, Early Labor Lounge and LABOR STEPs. She is the lead CNM for Reducing Primary Cesarean (RPC) national collaborative and developed and implemented the QI project that compared the use of midwives in Obstetrical Triage versus the standard care of obstetricians and midwives. This QI project demonstrated decreased length of stay as well as increased satisfaction with care. The results were published in JMWH as well as utilized for the creation of a Midwife Laborist Program at South Shore Hospital, Weymouth Massachusetts.

### **Jenna Shaw-Battista (CA)**

CNM, PhD, NP

Dr. Shaw-Battista is an expert clinician and educator who aims to increase humanistic health care and optimal outcomes through workforce development. Her research examines midwifery and collaborative care models, and physiological birth promotion, to improve public health, access and equity. She is director of the Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of California, Davis and immediate past director of the CNM/WHNP program at the University of California, San Francisco. She is an active founding member of the ACNM Hydrotherapy Working Group and cares for families at Sutter Davis Hospital and CommuniCare Health Centers, Inc. in Yolo County, CA.

### **Letitia Sullivan (AZ)**

CNM, MS

Letitia Sullivan knew from an early age she would be a health care provider for women and their infants. Letitia's experiences range from the care of women from adolescents to senior women full scope care. As a clinical preceptor helping to educate the next generation of caregivers, she ensured they witnessed the midwifery model of care. She has held leadership roles both in the professional arena and as a volunteer. As president of the ACNM Affiliate in Massachusetts, she worked to support legislation that would provide licensed independent practice status to midwives. Letitia continues her support for midwifery through her role as legislative support person for the Arizona ACNM Affiliate and as chairperson of the ACNM's Annual Meeting Program Committee for the past four years.

### **Barbara A. Wunningham (IN)**

CNM, WHNP-BC, DNP

Dr. Wunningham has been a CNM for 24 of her 32 years as a nurse, having graduated from the first CNEP class at Frontier. She established the first nurse-midwifery education program in Indiana, and coordinates both the nurse-midwifery and WHNP tracks and is assistant professor for the Masters and DNP programs at U of Indy. Barb is a consultant for Centering Healthcare Institute, and incorporates Centering Pregnancy in her clinical practice. She was the first CNM to be granted privileges at 2 Indianapolis hospitals. Leading mission trips to the Dominican Republic is her passion. She is former secretary and current treasurer of DOME, and has served as ACNM chapter chair for 2 terms. Dr. Wunningham has been honored with the ACNM Regional Award for Excellence and the ACNM Excellence in Teaching Award.

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**For more information, please contact Michele Lunsford, ACNM media relations & social media specialist 240-485-1856 or via email at [mlunsford@acnm.org](mailto:mlunsford@acnm.org).**

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association that represents certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) in the United States. ACNM promotes excellence in midwifery education, clinical practice, and research. With roots dating to 1929, our members are primary care

providers for women throughout the lifespan, with a special emphasis on pregnancy, childbirth, and gynecologic and reproductive health. ACNM provides research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, establishes clinical practice standards, and creates liaisons with state and federal agencies and members of Congress to increase the visibility and recognition of midwifery care.

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