

Midwives Transforming the World



THIS IS OUR MOMENT

71ST ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION

October 9-12, 2026 | Kansas City, MO

2026 FELLOWS



AMERICAN COLLEGE
of NURSE-MIDWIVES

A Message from *The Fellows of the American College of Nurse- Midwives (FACNM)*

Board of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Board of the Fellows of the ACNM, I am proud to welcome 44 exemplary midwives being inducted as Fellows in 2026. The Fellowship of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (FACNM) was instituted in 1994 to recognize and honor ACNM members who have demonstrated exceptional leadership within the organization, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and significant professional achievements in midwifery and maternal and newborn care, both nationally and globally. With the induction of the 2026 class of Fellows, the total number midwives inducted will rise to 809.

Please join us in honoring these leaders in midwifery and recognizing their accomplishments. Their dedication to our profession and service to women and infants should be an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to the 2026 inductees!



Elizabeth Cooper

Elizabeth Cooper CNM, EdD, FACNM
Chair, FACNM Governing Board
Professor Emeritus, Obstetrics-Gynecology
University of Rochester School of Medicine





SARAH BRADBURY

DNP, ARNP, CNM

Sarah is a Certified Nurse Midwife with 25 years in the birth community. She holds a BSN from Morningside College, an MSN in Nurse-Midwifery and a DNP from Frontier Nursing University. She spent most of her career in community-based birth but currently provides care at Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa, where she works with a team of midwives to offer trauma-informed, evidence-based care. She is passionate about supporting families through a holistic, individualized approach to birth, emphasizing education and emotional support. Sarah is certified in perinatal mental health, electronic fetal monitoring, and as a sexuality counselor. She has contributed to the midwifery community through advocacy roles with the American College of Nurse-Midwives Iowa Affiliate, American Association of Birth Centers Research Committee, Iowa Board of Nursing, and the Iowa AIM Collaborative. She has published on the topics of intermittent auscultation and reimbursement in community birth. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her four children, knitting, baking, and traveling.



JOANNE BURRIS

MS, MSN, APRN, CNM

JoAnne is the Division Chief of the UK Midwife Clinic at the University of Kentucky, where she has provided comprehensive women's healthcare since 2016. She earned her MSN from Frontier Nursing University, and also holds a MS in Health Promotion from the University of Kentucky, and a BA in Biology and Psychology from Bellarmine University. A recognized leader in midwifery, she was named University of Kentucky Certified Nurse Midwife of the Year in 2024 and serves on numerous state and institutional committees focused on maternal health, quality improvement, and provider well-being. She is a board member of Kentucky March of Dimes and contributes to statewide initiatives including the Kentucky Department of Public Health Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Advisory Group on Doula Services. JoAnne was also featured in the award-winning documentary, *American Delivery*, that interweaves the stories of women and their families across the U.S. as they navigate the challenges of maternal health care in America. An experienced educator, speaker, and preceptor, she helped build a midwifery program at the University of Kentucky, while advocating for evidence-based, patient-centered midwifery care that empowers women and strengthens families.



LAUREN BUTLER

DNP, RN, CNM, CNE, RNC-OB

Lauren is a Certified Nurse-Midwife with over 14 years of experience caring for patients in both hospital and clinic settings. She focuses on improving outcomes for mothers and newborns by providing high-quality, patient-centered collaborative care. Lauren earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and has led several projects to improve care, including creating standardized screening protocols for perinatal depression, developing post-cesarean birth recovery protocols, and improving outpatient abortion care pathways. She also helps lead New Jersey statewide efforts to lower preterm birth rates by turning research into practical tools and care guidelines. Alongside her clinical work, Lauren is active in teaching and mentoring. She has been a preceptor for midwifery and advanced practice nursing students and resident physicians for many years. Her academic work includes leading Project ECHO educational sessions, reviewing research in women's health, and sharing evidence-based practices through articles and presentations. Lauren is dedicated to promoting health equity and has worked internationally in Guatemala to help expand access to reproductive healthcare where resources are limited. In all her roles, she remains committed to advancing midwifery, improving healthcare systems, and supporting better outcomes for women, birthing people, and families.



SHANNAN CALHOON

CNM

Shannan is a certified nurse-midwife with 24 years of midwifery experience and 32 years in nursing. She currently practices in East Tennessee, where she helped build a rural midwifery service and serves as Practice Director, delivering full-scope care in both hospital and outpatient settings. A leader in advancing access to midwifery care, Ms. Calhoon established the first independent midwifery practice on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. She successfully obtained independent admitting privileges for CNM's and secured U.S. Virgin Islands Medicaid credentialing, expanding care options for underserved women in the community. Her career spans rural and urban practice environments, including high volume obstetric units and emergency care settings, as well as service in the United States Army Nurse Corps. A committed educator and mentor, she has served as a preceptor for nurse-midwifery, nurse practitioner, and physician assistant students, as well as new graduate midwives, for over 20 years. Ms. Calhoon is dedicated to advancing the profession and improving maternal health outcomes through education, leadership, and advocacy. Using available grant projects, Shannan helped to get the Naloxone Project established at the local hospital and is working to get a Maternal Mental Health provider established in the office.



REBECCA CLARK

PHD, MSN, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC, FAAN

Rebecca Clark, PhD, MSN, RN, CNM, WHNP-BC, FAAN is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she is the nurse scientist at Pennsylvania Hospital, core faculty at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research (CHOPR), and a senior fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics and the Penn Implementation Science Center. She is a Betty Irene Moore Nurse Leader and Innovator Fellow, a member of the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee, a contributing editor for the Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health, and is a Robert Wood Johnson Future of Nursing Scholars alumna. Prior to completing her PhD at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and her Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing's CHOPR, she worked as a midwife in an FQHC and community hospital in West Virginia (which is still almost heaven!). Her research focuses on transforming inpatient maternity care in the United States so women can experience excellent care and outcomes wherever they birth. Explicitly, this work includes research on organizational characteristics that set apart high-performing, positive deviant hospitals on spontaneous vaginal birth, innovation in maternity care access, and policy change.



MICHELLE CLAUSEN

PHD, MSN, CNM

Michelle is a midwife, public health researcher, educator, and advocate dedicated to advancing equitable, evidence-based maternity care through clinical practice, education, research, and service. She currently practices midwifery at Cape Cod Hospital, teaches graduate students in public health and nursing, and conducts research focused on improving maternal and healthcare workforce outcomes. Her scholarship bridges midwifery, public health, and implementation science, with a focus on trauma-informed care, adverse childhood experiences, healthcare workforce well-being, and maternal-child health. Through her research, she seeks to improve the experiences of patients, families, and healthcare professionals while informing more compassionate, person-centered systems of care. She has authored and collaborated on peer-reviewed publications and serves as a reviewer for several maternal-child health and nursing journals. Throughout her career, Dr. Clausen has championed interdisciplinary collaboration, student mentorship, and the integration of evidence into practice. As a clinician, educator, and researcher, she is committed to strengthening the midwifery profession and improving the health and well-being of birthing people, infants, families, and communities.



MARGI COGGINS

MSN, CNM

Margi was called to women's health during her master's program in entomology while helping a friend through pregnancy and labor, but she ignored the call for a few years. When she had to leave her Peace Corps entomology program early, she fell into an accelerated BSN program at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. She was a LDRP nurse for exactly the required time before applying to the University of Missouri MSN CNM program. While working at the Cambridge Birth Center, she became an IBCLC and helped the birth center acquire Baby Friendly status. She moved to India for her husband's work and had a vaginal breech birth in a birth center in Goa. She was the director of the alternative insemination program at Mount Auburn and later the director of the midwifery practice, before moving on to the Department of Public Health. She helped update birth center and CPM regulations, and spent many years abstracting records for the Maternal Mortality Review Committee before moving to School Health Services. She served as the Massachusetts ACNM Affiliate president and is now vice president. She spends weekends farming with her husband and trying to convince their 3 daughters to come help.



JESSICA COTTON

MSN, CNM

Jessica is a Certified Nurse-Midwife, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus, Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing in Midwifery and Women's Health from Georgetown University in 2014 and her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2023. A dedicated advocate for Oklahoma maternal health, Dr. Cotton serves as Vice President of the ACNM Oklahoma Affiliate and serves on the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative and Oklahoma Maternal Health Taskforce Advisory Board. She is deeply committed to addressing preventable maternal morbidity and mortality in a state where restrictive practice environments limit midwifery access and outcomes. Dr. Cotton's scholarly focus spans maternal health, CNM workforce development, and interprofessional education. She teaches undergraduate maternal/child health nursing and is developing an upcoming graduate Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program. Her research on labor and delivery nurses' attitudes toward working with certified nurse-midwives and her interprofessional education simulation work, presented at this conference, reflect her commitment to building collaborative, respectful practice environments. Dr. Cotton is committed to advancing the midwifery profession through education, research, simulation, and statewide and national advocacy.



JESSICA DAY

MSN, APRN, CNM

Jessica Day, MSN, APRN, CNM, graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012. She began her career at Sumter Family Health Center, a federally qualified health center in South Carolina, where caring for women and families shaped her commitment to improving access to maternity care. She later practiced at the Medical University of South Carolina before joining Inova Health System, where she serves as Midwifery Director and APP Lead for the Women's Service Line. She helped establish Inova's first employed hospital based midwifery practice and is passionate about collaborative models of care that improve maternal outcomes. Jessica enjoys building programs, developing future midwifery leaders, and improving women's healthcare through collaboration. She values opportunities to learn from and teach alongside colleagues through presentations and discussions on collaborative maternity care and leadership. She is deeply grateful to the mentors who showed her that leadership is learned, not inherited, and is committed to paying that forward by investing in the next generation of midwives. Outside of work, her greatest joy is her family. She and her husband, Scott Sullivan, are raising a blended family of six children. She loves cooking, fishing, and spending time outdoors with the people she loves most.



SARAH EGAN

CNM, MS

Sarah has been the Director of Medical Services at Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley since 2021. Since the US Supreme Court Dobbs decision, she has pushed for abortion expansion in California, especially as practiced by Advanced Practice Clinicians. Sarah's clinical practice has included academic tertiary-care hospitals, private practice, birth centers and Kaiser Permanente. She views her work through a health justice lens and works toward a future where midwives are integral in all aspects of reproductive care.



KELLY GALLAGHER

PHD, CNM

Kelly is an Assistant Research Professor in the Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing at Penn State University. She practiced full scope midwifery from 2000 to 2019, including serving as Chief of the Midwifery Division at the University of New Mexico. Her years in clinical practice were shaped by a deep commitment to the patients and families she cared for and the midwives she worked alongside. As a clinician and leader, she worked to strengthen and expand midwifery services, mentor future clinicians, and share the values of compassionate, patient-centered midwifery care with the broader perinatal team. At Penn State, Kelly is committed to research focused on the placenta and maternal and neonatal health. She is a co-investigator on NIH- and foundation funded interdisciplinary research developing AI-based tools to analyze placental images and provide clinically actionable information soon after birth. She publishes on maternal-child health topics, with a growing focus on placental health and pregnancy outcomes. Kelly also teaches doctoral nursing students and mentors emerging scholars. She is deeply honored to be inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives and to continue to contribute to the profession that she has loved for more than 25 years.



FRANCES GANGES

PHD(C), MPH, CNM, RM

Frances is a global public health leader with over four decades of experience advancing midwifery and maternal-newborn health in more than 30 countries, primarily across Africa. She currently serves as Interim Chief Executive Officer of The Midwife Foundation, providing leadership in strategy, governance, resource development, and partnerships to strengthen the profession. She previously served as Chief Executive of the International Confederation of Midwives and has held senior leadership roles with Jhpiego (Johns Hopkins), Johnson & Johnson, White Ribbon Alliance, Save the Children, and the American College of Nurse-Midwives. A strategist, educator, and coalition builder, she has developed numerous learning resources, mentored hundreds of midwives and health professionals, and helped establish a nurse training school in rural Uganda that continues to serve its community more than 25 years later. In 2024, Frances co-convened the Unifying Midwifery in Africa Summit, bringing together midwives from 25 African countries. She serves on several international and editorial boards and committees and is completing her PhD at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. She is deeply grateful to the mentors, colleagues, and midwives worldwide who have shaped her journey and shared in this work.



EMILY HART HAYES

DNP, CNM, WHNP

Throughout her career, Emily has taken every opportunity to advance midwifery in her workplace, community, state, and the nation. She served on ACNM's Midwives Political Action Committee as a student, member, and chair - working tirelessly to advance midwifery through national advocacy efforts. Working to ensure the quality and safety of the midwifery profession, Emily served on the State of Utah's Board of Nursing and Nurse Midwifery. As an affiliate leader, Emily served on the Utah Affiliate's Legislative Committee and then as Vice-President. During her time as Vice-President, Utah Affiliate re-vamped its annual education conference, providing opportunities for members to connect and advance their midwifery knowledge. Emily has also held leadership roles in her workplace with Intermountain Health. As Midwife Team Lead at Southridge Clinic in Riverton, UT, she has fostered a team-based approach to care, working alongside physician leaders to expand access to midwifery care. She is currently the vice-chair of the Intermountain Canyons Region Medical Group Board Stewardship and Compensation Committee. Emily is a Utah native, is married, and has two adult sons and 3 cats. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family in the outdoors - skiing, hiking, and biking. She also enjoys attending live music.



REBECCA INGALLS

PH.D., MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC, MSCP

Dr. Rebecca Ingalls is a CNM, WHNP, and MSCP at the Lovering Health Center in Greenland, NH. As a former tenured English professor, Rebecca was called to midwifery after her children were born into the hands of midwives. She is passionate about choice, policy, teaching, trauma-informed care, gender affirming care, menopause care, and STI prevention and treatment. She serves as a preceptor at Lovering, and as a facilitator on supporting LGBTQIA+ inclusive care at Tufts University School of Medicine. Rebecca is a former co chair and current member of the NPWH Education Committee, and she serves as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the Clinical Journal for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. She serves as the Secretary of the New Hampshire affiliate of the ACNM, and she serves on the planning committee for "Midwifery Forward," the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Affiliate of the ACNM. She has published in the Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health, and her work is forthcoming in the Clinical Journal for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health. Outside of the clinical setting, she is a radio DJ, a gardener, a fiction writer, a piano player, a choir singer, a bird watcher, and a long-time practitioner of yoga.



MARTINE JEAN-BAPTISTE

CNM, NP, MS

Martine has been involved in women's health since 1986, after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of Mount Saint Vincent. She subsequently earned a Master of Science in Midwifery from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in 2000. She has worked with women and their families throughout the lifecycle in a variety of healthcare settings. As a licensed midwife, she practiced at an inner-city hospital as well as a freestanding birth center. From June 2002 to 2019, Ms. Jean-Baptiste co-founded and managed a highly successful home birth practice, JJB Midwifery, serving all five boroughs of New York City and providing full-scope midwifery care. In 2013, she spearheaded the founding of the nonprofit organization Foundation for Advancement of Haitian Midwives, Inc. (FAHM), where she currently serves as Executive Director. She also serves as Adjunct Faculty and Clinical Site Recruiter for New York University's Midwifery Program. Ms. Jean-Baptiste believes in supporting every person's right to safe, respectful, supportive, and informed healthcare throughout the lifecycle.



NOELENE JEFFERS **PHD, CNM, IBCLC**

Noelene is a midwife scientist and Assistant Professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. She has more than a decade of experience providing midwifery care across freestanding birth centers, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers in Washington, DC. Dr. Jeffers' scholarship advances equitable, evidence-based models of reproductive and maternal health care that improve outcomes for Black women and birthing people. Using human-centered design, implementation science, and community-engaged research, she develops and evaluates innovative models that expand access to midwifery care and address structural inequities in maternal health. Her research examines Black-led models of midwifery care, Black women's postpartum experiences, and novel approaches to caring for Black women with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. A national leader in birth equity, Dr. Jeffers was a principal architect of the Black Birthing Bill of Rights published by the National Association to Advance Black Birth. She also contributes to maternal health policy through service on Maryland's Maternal Mortality Review Team and the Ad Hoc Birthing Center Standards Committee. Through her scholarship, clinical expertise, policy leadership, and advocacy, Dr. Jeffers is dedicated to strengthening the midwifery profession, advancing equitable models of care, and improving outcomes for Black families and communities.



SHANNON KELLER **CNM, MSN, PMH-C**

Shannon is a clinical leader, educator, and advocate whose career reflects an enduring commitment to advancing excellence in midwifery practice, patient-centered care, and healthcare innovation. She began with the UNC Midwives in 2015 as the first new graduate hire and has since achieved Assistant Professorship within the UNC Department of OB-GYN. She has precepted midwifery students, mentored new hires and educated residents in an academic tertiary center. Shannon's leadership journey began as the ECU Student Representative to the ACNM Board and then became the Co-Chair of the ACNM Student and New Midwives Section. In 2022, she served as Secretary for the NC Affiliate of ACNM. She currently serves as Outpatient Clinical Director for the UNC OB-GYN Panther Creek location, where she has interdisciplinary collaboration on quality improvement, research efforts, and the standardization of documentation across provider groups. She is credentialed in ultrasound and provides highly-regarded clinical care-receiving the UNC APP Clinical Excellence Award for clinical practice and/or leadership every year since its inception. She is especially passionate about leading CenteringPregnancy groups, is certified in Perinatal Mental Health, and recently launched a postpartum peer support group, reflecting her ongoing dedication to innovation and holistic midwifery care.



KIMBERLY KELSTONE **DNP, CNM**

Kimberly transitioned to the role of Midwife for the past 9 years after working over 25 years in American Sign Language Interpreting. She currently serves as the Director of Midwifery and Advance Practice Provider Services at Upstate Medical University. In addition to full-scope midwifery care, she is a clinical instructor and preceptor for the gamut of health professions students and medical residents. She is personally and professionally invested in evidence-based care, supporting underserved populations, perinatal mental health, reproductive justice, inter-professional collaboration, intercultural communication, and normalizing physiologic birth. Kim also continues to nurture and give back to the Deaf/Interpreting communities which laid the foundation for her path to medicine, providing numerous presentations and workshops to increase ASL users' medical understanding and bridge the gap between everyday parlance and medical use. She received her midwifery education through Stony Brook University, through an accelerated DNP cohort supported by HRSA. After graduation, she continued at SBU, providing education and mentorship as an adjunct professor for over 6 years, in partnership with fellow new-Fellow inductee Rakiya Watts, and FACNM Dr. Heather Findletar Hines.



ELIZABETH KETTYLE

CNM, MSN, MPH

Elizabeth is a certified nurse-midwife with over 25 years of clinical, educational, and leadership experience. She serves as the inaugural Director of the Division of Midwifery in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital and Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School. In this role, she leads initiatives that advance patient centered care, clinical excellence, quality improvement, and innovation, while fostering robust interprofessional education for residents, medical students, and midwifery trainees. A dedicated educator and mentor, Elizabeth has served as Faculty Advisor to the Brown OB/GYN Resident Wellness Committee for the past eight years, supporting the development of sustainable approaches to clinician well-being and professional growth. She is deeply committed to interdisciplinary education and has received numerous teaching awards in recognition of her impact on learners across disciplines.



KATHERINE KISSLER

PHD, CNM

Dr. Katy Kissler is a certified nurse-midwife, clinician-scientist, educator, and Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado College of Nursing. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nurse Midwifery from Columbia University, and a PhD in Nursing from the University of Colorado. Alongside her research, Dr. Kissler is deeply committed to teaching the next generation of midwives and nurse scientists and to maintaining an active clinical practice. She has cared for families in home birth, birth center, and hospital settings and currently practices with University Nurse Midwives. Her research is dedicated to advancing the science of physiologic labor and improving maternal and newborn outcomes through individualized care. Through studies of uterine physiology, labor progression, and the biologic mechanisms of uterine dysfunction across the labor course, her work seeks to generate evidence that informs the decisions women make about their care and strengthens the evidence supporting intrapartum care in keeping with the philosophy of midwifery. She is dedicated to the intellectual tradition of seeking the true, the good, and the beautiful through rigorous inquiry in service of the common good.



TAMSIN LEWIS

DNP, APRN, CNM, FACNM

I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife with more than 34 years of full-scope clinical experience and have attended over 4,000 births. I practiced for more than two decades in California, providing comprehensive midwifery care in both integrated health systems and private practice before relocating to Georgia. Currently, my scope includes midwifery care at Covington Women's Health Specialists and serving as an Assistant Professor of Nursing in both the undergraduate nursing program and the graduate Nurse-Midwifery Program at Georgia College & State University. Throughout this dynamic career, I have remained committed to advancing women's health through clinical excellence, education, quality improvement, and community service. One of my greatest passions has been mentoring the next generation of women's health providers. For more than 32 years, I have had the privilege of precepting and mentoring Certified Nurse-Midwives, nurse practitioner students, OB/GYN residents, and medical students-supporting their clinical growth and professional development. Receiving a Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives is a tremendous honor and reflects my enduring commitment to advancing the profession through compassionate care, lifelong learning, leadership, and mentorship.



LAURA MARIE MACPHERSON
CNM, ARNP, IBCLC



SHIRLEY MARION
DNP, APRN

Shirley is the Program Director of Baylor University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Nurse-Midwifery Program and serves as a Clinical Associate Professor. In addition to her academic leadership at Baylor University, Dr. Marion maintains an active clinical practice at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas, where she provides comprehensive care. She has contributed to scholarly publications and has presented nationally and internationally on topics related to maternal and women's health. She also serves on advisory and planning boards, reflecting her ongoing commitment to professional service, community engagement, and the advancement of nursing and midwifery practice.



MEGAN MCDONALD
CNM

Megan is a 2012 graduate of The University of Kansas. After completing her program, she returned to her home state of Indiana to join a busy FQHC practice. She went on to work at a birth center and is currently the midwife supervisor at IU Health for the Indy Metro Region. In addition to her clinical work, she is active in her Indiana state affiliate. She has served as Secretary, Vice President and most recently President. When she is not working, she is at home with her husband, Brandon, and 3 very busy children.



PATRICIA MCGAUGHEY

CNM, MSN, PHD

After learning from her hometown midwife about the importance of family-centered preventive care, Patricia (Patty) McGaughey began her midwifery path by interning at ACNM in 2004. She earned a BA in Biology with a minor in Spanish from Eureka College, followed by an MSN from Yale University in 2008. Patty initially practiced full scope at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, focusing on care for young families and serving as interim director of midwifery. Driven by her clinical and administrative experience, she earned a Ph.D. in Public Health Policy and Management from NYU in 2021. Patty currently practices and precepts at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and is an associate professor (with tenure) at Montclair State University. She aims to inspire and guide the effective organization of care for pregnant people. Patty uses administrative data to study variations in preterm birth rates and disparities in prenatal care by race, ethnicity, income, and location. She received the Nancy K. Lowe Scholarly Writing Award from JOGNN for her article "Variation in preterm birth rates across prenatal care sites in New York." Patty has served as legislative chair for the NJ Affiliate, is the Affiliate vice-president, and serves on the Research and Standards Committee.



ELIZABETH MOLLARD

PHD, CNM, WHNP, IBCLC

Elizabeth is an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, a certified nurse-midwife, and an NIH-funded principal investigator. Her research focuses on maternal health, health disparities, respectful maternity care, and strengths-based approaches to improving outcomes for women and families. She was selected as a National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Health Disparities Research Institute Scholar and has received recognition for her contributions as an emerging nurse scientist. Dr. Mollard is passionate about advancing midwifery through research, education, policy, and advocacy. As President of the Nebraska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, she has led statewide efforts to modernize certified nurse-midwifery practice and expand access to the full scope of midwifery care. Her advocacy focuses on removing unnecessary regulatory barriers, strengthening the voice of midwives in health policy, and ensuring that families have access to safe, evidence-based, patient-centered care. In addition to her academic and policy work, Dr. Mollard continues to practice clinically as a certified nurse-midwife. Her career reflects a commitment to improving maternal health and creating systems in which midwives, women, and families can thrive.



LEAH MOSES

CNM, MS, MFA

Leah is a full scope midwife and Advanced Practice Director of Midwifery at Intermountain Health. She provides strategic, clinical and operational executive leadership for midwifery services across a large integrated healthcare system. Her work focuses on advancing the midwifery model of care, physiologic birth, women's health literacy, and evidence based humanist innovations including water birth, group prenatal care, nitrous oxide analgesia, and gentle cesareans. A dedicated advocate for abuse survivors and children's rights, Leah champions public policy reform and supports violence prevention, survivor rights, and child protection initiatives through clinical screening and education, legislation development, and public advocacy at the local, state, and national levels. She serves on the executive board of her state Domestic Violence Coalition and speaks nationally and internationally as a homicide survivor. Leah earned her graduate degree in midwifery from Columbia University and completed her residency training in Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York. She is also an artist making conceptual artwork exploring identity and the maternal experience and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Drawing from University of Utah and a Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University.



CRYSTAL DAWN MURPHY

CNM, MSN

Crystal Murphy is a highly experienced CNM with more than 20 years of advanced practice and over 25 years of nursing experience in women's health, obstetrics, labor and delivery, postpartum, NICU, and reproductive health. She currently practices as a CNM with OB Hospitalist Group at Ocean University Medical Center in Brick, NJ, and has held CNM positions in New Jersey, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing/Midwifery from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Her leadership experience includes multiple Lead Midwife positions and service on hospital obstetric quality-improvement and departmental committees. An active member of the ACNM, she served in numerous leadership roles in the KS chapter as President, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Board Member. She is also an extensive educator and preceptor for midwifery, nurse practitioner, medical residents, and nursing students. Additional training includes obstetric ultrasound, surgical first assisting, urodynamics, Spinning Babies. She has participated in numerous international medical missions and community service initiatives. Her honors include 2025 Advanced Practice Provider of the Year at Ocean University Medical Center and ACNM Teacher of the Year in 2008 and 2013.



MAGGIE POWER

MSN, WHNP-BC, CNM

Maggie provides full-scope midwifery care at the Clinical Practices of the University of Pennsylvania. She leads a growing team expanding midwifery access to promote more equitable care delivery. Additionally, she is faculty in both the UPenn Schools of Nursing and Medicine. She has expanded curriculum focused on trauma-informed practices receiving awards for her teaching contributions. Furthermore, she is committed to research and reducing barriers to care. Her most recent publications focus on providing bedside postpartum care to parents with infants in the NICU to increase care delivery and lactation support..



LOIS RAPISARDI

CNM, MSN

Lois has nearly 40 years of fullscope practice in a variety of settings, including a freestanding birthing center, large multidisciplinary health group, private practice, and a hospital based clinic caring for an underserved population. Held multiple clinical faculty positions, teaching nursing students, medical students and family practice residents. Acted as a preceptor for midwifery students, nurse practitioner students, paramedics and EMTs.



CHANTEE REDDING

MSN, APRN, CNM

Chantee has practiced midwifery for eight years, serving patients in a variety of settings, including private practice and community health centers. A graduate of Frontier Nursing University, she founded a holistic gynecologic practice dedicated to expanding access to midwifery care in the Kansas City area. Chantee is passionate about providing compassionate, evidence-based, trauma-informed care that honors informed consent, bodily autonomy, and shared decision-making. She believes that every patient deserves the knowledge and support to become the expert in their own health and strives to create space where individuals feel heard, respected, and empowered. In addition to her clinical practice, Chantee serves as Treasurer of the Kansas Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She is committed to mentoring nurses and advanced practice providers. She believes that expanding access to midwifery is essential to improving the health and well being of individuals, families, and communities.



JOHNNA REGGI

MS, APRN-FPA, CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM

Johnna is a Certified Nurse-Midwife and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. She currently works at the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System where she cares for patients in both outpatient and inpatient settings providing full scope care. Practicing midwifery since 2014, she has worked in large academic centers in leadership and teaching roles where she practices evidence based medicine with expertise in prenatal education for expecting parents, donation efforts, and marketing for her midwifery practice. She lives in Chicago and spends her free time snowboarding, rock climbing, and pressing flowers!



TERI RYALS

CNM, DNP, MSN

Teri is an active duty CNM Navy Captain and has served her country for 20 years. She is a distinguished sailor who has dedicated her career to being a true advocate and mentor for women's health policy and protocol her entire career. She has coauthored articles in the Military Medicine Journal, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Pregnancy Journal. She has deployed on the USNS Mercy hospital ship as the Department Head of Education and Training and participated in the Operation Allies Welcome as the Quality Assurance Lead for rehoming over 6,200 Afghan personnel seeking rehoming. Her leadership opportunities include various roles at Naval Medical Center San Diego, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Naval Hospital Rota, Naval Hospital Bremerton, and now she serves at Naval Hospital Okinawa on the Board of Directors as the Director of Public Health Services. As the lead CNM for her community, she is the Navy's CNM Specialty Leader and provides her expertise on training, manning, mentorship, and professional development for all active duty Navy CNMs strategically placed across the globe. She is a force multiplier for the Navy, often serving on enterprise committees influencing policy and practice for active duty Nurse Corps.



PAIGE ROWLAND

DNP, CNM

Paige (she/her) attended Frontier Nursing University for her MSN and DNP. She is a certified nurse-midwife and worked at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia for almost 8 years. During Paige's nursing career, she worked as an RN in the emergency department and labor and delivery, and as a nurse case manager. Paige also spent time as a travel nurse in emergency medicine. At Einstein Medical Center, Paige co-led a team to reduce primary cesarean sections. The team lowered the c-section rate from 27% to 22% in the first year. Paige assisted in developing and growing Einstein's doula program. For Paige's doctoral work, she designed and executed a project to increase the attendance to the postpartum visit and went on to publish her work. In 2021, She became the clinical lead of the CenteringPregnancy program and Midwifery Division Director at Einstein. In 2024 Paige branched into academia and in January of 2025 she became the Interim Program Director of the Midwifery Programs at Thomas Jefferson University and went on to become full Program director in January of 2026.



CRYSTAL SETTLE

DNP, APRN, CNM, WHNP, CNE

Crystal is a Certified Nurse-Midwife, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, and Certified Nurse Educator with more than 20 years of experience in women's health and maternity care. Her clinical practice has focused on providing full-scope midwifery care to women and families in rural and underserved communities throughout southwest Georgia and North Florida. Dr. Settle is a faculty member at Frontier Nursing University, where she teaches in the nurse-midwifery and women's health programs and has led initiatives to advance competency-based education through curriculum redesign, innovative clinical simulations, and student assessment. She also serves in elected and appointed leadership roles supporting curriculum development and faculty excellence. Committed to developing the next generation of midwives, Dr. Settle has precepted nurse-midwifery, nurse practitioner, and medical students for more than a decade. Her scholarly work focuses on clinical education, preceptor development, and psychological safety. Her professional interests include rural maternity care, clinical teaching, and advancing the midwifery profession through education and leadership.



ADEYINKA SOKUNBI

DM, APRN, CNM

Dr. Yinka Sokunbi is a British-trained midwife with nearly 20 years of clinical and academic experience. She is a Menopause Society Certified Practitioner (MSCP) and provides gynecologic and midlife health care in a private practice through both in-person and telehealth services. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Thomas Jefferson University College of Health Professions, where she teaches at graduate level, provides academic advising, contributes to curriculum development, and serves on the Governance Committee. Her academic interests include online education, learner engagement, and evidence-based teaching practices. Dr. Sokunbi's work as both a clinician and educator inspired her doctoral project, which developed and evaluated a continuing education webinar to improve midwives' self-efficacy in providing comprehensive perimenopause care. She has contributed to midwifery scholarship and is committed to advancing women's health through education, mentorship, and clinical practice. Her contributions have been recognized with several honors, including the Dorothea M. Lang Emerging Leaders Scholarship, the Carrington-Hsia-Nieves Doctoral Scholarship for Midwives of Color, the Jefferson College of Health Professions Mentorship Award, and the Thomas Jefferson University Outstanding Teaching Award.



ELIZABETH SMITH

MSN, CNM, IBCLC

Elizabeth has dedicated more than 27 years to advancing midwifery and reproductive health as a practicing midwife, service director, birth center owner, clinical educator, and statewide policy advocate. Since graduating from Vanderbilt University's first Nurse Midwifery Bridge program in 1998, she has practiced full-scope midwifery in both hospital and freestanding birth center settings throughout Northern California. As the owner of the Santa Rosa Birth Center, she provided both in- and out-of-hospital care to primarily Medi-caid funded families in Sonoma County. She was instrumental in establishing the midwifery hospitalist service at Providence Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and currently, is the director of the Santa Rosa Midwifery Center. Elizabeth served as the treasurer of the California Nurse-Midwives Association, a member of the Sonoma County Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Advisory Board, and currently, serves on the Midwifery Access California Steering Committee, where she works to strengthen statewide access to midwifery care. Elizabeth continues her commitment to high-quality community birth as a CABC Accreditation Specialist and regularly consults with organizations developing new midwifery and birth center programs. A respected leader and mentor, Elizabeth is known for her compassionate, collaborative approach and her unwavering advocacy for patients and the midwives who serve them.



DANIEL STEC

DNP, CNM, FNP, PMHNP, AAHIVS, CSC

Dr. Daniel Stec (they/them), originally from Indiana, received their Associate's nursing degree at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, IN, and their Bachelor's in 2014 at the University of Southern Indiana. Daniel was then trained as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Certified Nurse Midwife at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Since returning to Indiana in 2016, they have spent most of their time in the sexual and reproductive health arenas, with particular areas of expertise in helping remove stigma and fear from sexually transmitted infections and working with healthcare providers to improve their sexual health skills and knowledge. They went on to receive their Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) from Frontier Nursing University in 2019, their Sexual Health Certificate Program at the University of Michigan in 2023, and recently completed their Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program back at the University of Southern Indiana. They are the owner of Uncensored Health, a comprehensive intimate health practice and the president and cofounder of the nonprofit called "Y'all" which helps fill care gaps for the queer/trans community. In their "free" time, Daniel is active with the CouchSurfing community, travels frequently, and moonlights as a beekeeper.



COURTNEY STEER-MASSARO

CNM, FNP-C, RN, MPH

Courtney is a certified nurse-midwife, educator, and global women's health advocate, with experience in clinical care, academic teaching, and healthcare leadership. She currently serves as Director of the University Hospitals Midwifery Education Program and Medical Director of CenteringPregnancy® at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. She has practiced full-scope midwifery care in diverse settings, including Haiti, Boston, Lesotho, the Navajo Nation, and, currently, Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to her clinical and educational leadership, Courtney has contributed to maternal health research, global health initiatives, and programs that improve access to care for underserved populations (including being the former Director of Boston Medical Center's Refugee and Women's Health Clinic). She is passionate about advancing equitable, evidence-based, patient-centered midwifery care while supporting the education and development of future healthcare professionals.



TERRAH A. STRODA

MS, FACNM, APRN

Terrah is a nationally recognized Certified Nurse-Midwife, maternal health leader, and clinical educator with 25 years of experience advancing women's health and improving birth outcomes across Kansas. She currently serves as Maternal QI Coordinator for the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative, leading statewide implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality in 50 hospitals across the state. Alongside her statewide leadership, Terrah maintains a full-scope midwifery practice at Stormont Vail Health, a practice she founded nearly two decades ago. A passionate advocate for mothers and infants, Terrah co-founded Delivering Change: Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, a community initiative credited with reducing Geary County's infant mortality rate by more than 50 percent—the largest decline in Kansas history. Through her midwifery practice and statewide work, she has led efforts to improve access to care, strengthen community partnerships, and better equip healthcare professionals to improve outcomes for families. Terrah's contributions have earned numerous honors, including the American College of Nurse-Midwives' prestigious Kitty Ernst Award, two Excellence in Teaching Awards, the March of Dimes Saving Babies Award, and Junction City's Citizen of the Year recognition. Through collaboration, innovation, and service, she remains dedicated to improving the health of women and families throughout Kansas.



CATHERINE VIROSTKO

DNP, CNM

Catherine (Kate) Virostko is a CNM in full-scope practice at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Samford University, a Master's in Nursing from Yale University, and a BA in Women's Studies and English from the University of Georgia. She's been in full-time full-scope practice since 2005, beginning as a National Health Service Corps provider in a federally qualified health center. In 2009 she joined Vanderbilt's faculty practice and began precepting student midwives, receiving the ACNM Excellence in Teaching Award and the ACNM Outstanding Preceptor Award. She serves in practice leadership. For several years she staffed a weekly collaborative clinic that provided simultaneous consultation visits with a nurse-midwife and maternal-fetal medicine specialist, to expand midwifery care to patients with high-risk conditions. Virostko is a Menopause Certified Practitioner with a growing menopause practice, inviting referrals through a partnership with Nashville's public school district.



RAKIYA WATTS

CNM

Rakiya N. Watts, MS, CNM (she/her/hers), is a full-scope practicing midwife, educator, and Division Director of the Stony Brook Midwives. Practicing since 2011, she earned her Master's in Midwifery from Yale School of Nursing and bachelor's degree in Sociology from Boston College. Rakiya's practice is rooted in listening deeply and caring for patients as whole people. She is committed to equitable, inclusive care across the lifespan, from adolescence through menopause, with particular attention to addressing disparities in maternal health. She is passionate about ensuring patients feel heard, respected, and empowered as active participants in their care. As Division Director, Rakiya leads initiatives focused on reducing primary cesarean rates through expanded access to midwifery care, prenatal education, and doula support. She also helped establish Stony Brook's Fourth Trimester Support Group, creating community and support for families during the postpartum period. Rakiya is deeply committed to education, mentorship, and increasing representation within midwifery. Outside of work, she enjoys time with her husband, Trevor, and their two children. She often shares that in a world focused on holding the baby, it is her privilege to hold the birthing person.



TRINISHA WILLIAMS

CM, MPH, LM, LCCE, LC

Trinisha's journey into midwifery began with a deep commitment to women's health and community care. After earning her degree in Psychology and Women's Studies, she pursued a master's in public health, where her passion for maternal health equity took shape. Early leadership roles in health education laid the foundation for what would become a lifelong mission: ensuring safer, more respectful birth experiences for all. In 2003, she became a midwife, and since then, has attended over a thousand births across hospitals, homes, and birth centers. Her work has always centered on meeting families where they are—physically, emotionally, and culturally. In 2014, she founded Midwife in the City, creating a home birth practice rooted in personalized, patient-centered care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she expanded access further by helping open a birthing center in Manhattan. A recognized leader, Trinisha joined the Board of the American Association of Birth Centers in 2019 and became its President in 2024. That same vision led her to found Haven Midwifery Collective, a nonprofit dedicated to building New York City's first midwifery-led birth center. A proud Brooklyn native, she continues to balance leadership, advocacy, and family life as a wife and devoted aunt.



CARA WOLF

DNP, CNM

Cara Wolf, DNP, CNM, IBCLC, is a dedicated nurse-midwife committed to advancing the midwifery model of care through compassionate, evidence-based practice. She practices at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist (Winston Salem, NC), where her clinical work focuses on supporting physiologic birth, promoting informed choice, fostering relationship-centered care, and the integration of advanced practice providers across the department. In addition to her clinical role, Cara is actively engaged in teaching and mentorship within the academic setting, supporting the development of medical students, residents, and advanced practice providers. She is passionate about elevating the role of midwives within academic health systems and ensuring midwifery is recognized as an essential component of high-quality, team-based care. Cara's scholarly interests include research focused on improving maternal outcomes, waterbirth the hospital setting, enhancing postpartum care, and expanding access to midwifery services across North Carolina. She is particularly committed to advancing innovative care models, including telehealth and Centering Pregnancy, to extend the reach of midwifery into underserved communities. As an ACNM Fellow, Cara is honored to join a community of leaders devoted to promoting midwifery and improving maternal health. She remains committed to strengthening the profession and advocating for patient-centered, respectful care for all.

