



NEWS RELEASE

TWO MIDWIVES RECEIVE A.C.N.M. FOUNDATION'S HIGHEST AWARD

The A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc. presents its Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award
at the ACNM Annual Meeting

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Silver Spring, MD – Dr. Patricia Aikins Murphy, CNM, DrPH, FACNM and Shirley Okrent, CNM, FACNM, were awarded the 2011 Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award from the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc. during the American College of Nurse-Midwives 56th Annual Meeting & Exposition in San Antonio, TX, on May 25, 2011. Murphy and Okrent received the award for their exceptional leadership and contributions to the midwifery profession.

Dr. Patricia Aikins Murphy, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, is a graduate of the nurse-midwifery education program at Columbia University, where she also taught for several years. She has served as the manager of the clinical research program in the Division of Family Planning at Columbia University's department of obstetrics and gynecology, and was a consulting clinician/epidemiologist at the Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research in Women's Health at Columbia.

She is currently a tenured professor at the University of Utah College of Nursing where she holds the Annette Poulson Cumming Presidential Endowed Chair in Women's and Reproductive Health and is the executive director of graduate programs.

Murphy has authored numerous publications and is a peer reviewer for several health journals. She has been a principal or co-investigator on numerous studies of contraception. She has served ACNM as a section chair for the Division of Research and has been a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* for over 20 years. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals.

Shirley Okrent, CNM, FACNM, completed her midwifery training at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center. In 1965 she co-developed and implemented a clinical and didactic family planning training program for midwives and medical students. She has authored several publications geared toward midwives and nurses in family planning practice. In 1973, the University Hospital at Jacksonville, Florida sought Okrent's expertise as a consultant. She soon became their clinical program director and instructor and established the hospital's family planning nurse practitioner program.

In 1977, Okrent returned to New York and became the first CNM to provide full scope midwifery services on Long Island. She was the 1998 recipient of New York City's Therese Dondero Award and was honored as Long Island's pioneering midwife in 2003.

“Shirley Okrent first defined the role of the midwife in family planning and wrote the first family planning educational materials for nurse-midwives,” said A.C.N.M. Foundation President Jan Kriebs, CNM, FACNM. “Patricia Aikins Murphy is a renowned midwifery researcher, educator, and journalist whose achievements demonstrate her expertise in reproductive health and contraception. I am thrilled to honor their achievements with the Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award.”

About the Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award

The Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award honors an exceptional certified nurse-midwife or certified midwife who is a member of ACNM, has been certified for at least ten years, has not previously received the Hattie Hemschemeyer Award, and has demonstrated pioneering vision and innovative leadership. Pioneer Award recipients are midwifery’s “unsung heroes.” The Lang Award recipients are chosen by the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees.

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With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the United States. ACNM's mission is to promote the health and well-being of women and newborns within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives. Midwives believe every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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