



December 13, 2011

Dear ACNM Colleagues:

Over the past months, there have been several landmark events and publications that have opened up new opportunities for the US midwifery profession and the women we serve:

- In June, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) adopted [global standards](#) on midwifery education, regulation, and associations.
- In October, a diverse group of maternity care stakeholders came together at the Home Birth Consensus Summit to develop a revolutionary set of [consensus statements](#). These statements provide a platform for improving home birth services as well as the entire US maternity care system.
- In November, US and Canadian midwifery leaders met to begin to discuss the implications of these standards and consensus statements for the midwifery profession in North America.
- In May, ACOG published a major workforce study, *The Obstetrician-Gynecologist Workforce in the United States*, which projects a dramatic shortage of maternity care providers in the US over the next decade.

**NOW is the time for ACNM to be visionary and lead as never before.** These landmark documents and events provide an opportunity to advance the midwifery profession and the quality of maternity care in the US by developing common ground on standards for midwifery education, licensure, and practice.

ACNM has made a commitment to working with the leadership of all US midwifery organizations, including the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), the Midwifery Education Accreditation Commission (MEAC), the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM), and the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA). Foundations have been laid to foster thoughtful and collaborative dialogue, and [a working group is being formed](#) with representatives from all organizations.

This is an important strategic effort that will help us to address the challenges that face our profession. We will keep you posted on our progress, and we welcome your input.

Best wishes for a joyful holiday season and peaceful New Year!

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