



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Yolanda Landon
Office: (240) 485-1822
E-mail: ylandon@acnm.org

Connecticut Midwife Receives American College of Nurse-Midwives' Highest Honor

Sharon Schindler Rising, CenteringPregnancy Founder, Honored for Lifetime of Contributions to Women's Health

SILVER SPRING, MD— Sharon Schindler Rising, CNM, MSN, is this year's recipient of the Hattie Hemschemeyer Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Rising received the "Hattie" Sunday, June 13, during the College's 55th Annual Meeting & Exposition in Washington, DC.

In 1993, Sharon developed and began piloting the CenteringPregnancy model of group prenatal care in Connecticut. Since then, over 300 sites in almost every state and several foreign countries as well as the military, Indian Health Service, and residency programs have adopted the model. A colleague of Sharon's said, "Centering Pregnancy is a profound contribution to prenatal care and childbearing," and another stated that "Sharon exemplifies the traits of our early midwifery pioneers while at the same time blazing a trail for midwifery and its role in providing innovative, quality care for the future."

During the presentation of the award, Melissa Avery, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, ACNM outgoing president, said, "Her work is transforming prenatal care in the US and globally. It is indeed a very special privilege to present the 2010 Hattie Hemschemeyer award to a wonderful colleague."

A 1967 graduate of Yale University School of Nursing, Rising spent most of her career in both the academic and clinical fields teaching at Yale and establishing the nurse-midwifery program and the Childbearing Childrearing Center at the University of Minnesota. Her extensive clinical work in Connecticut in private practice and public clinics and her concern for improving the quality of care led to the development of the Centering model in 1993 with the first workshop training in 1998. Several hundred interactive workshops now have prepared over a thousand midwives, physicians and advanced practice nurses to implement Centering group care. Since 2001, Rising has worked as the executive director for Centering Healthcare Institute; in addition, she continues to consult and lead workshops and is a faculty member of Yale University School of Nursing and the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia.

Rising has written numerous articles about evidence-based prenatal care, perinatal outcomes, obesity and weight gain in pregnant women and relationship-based care. She was instrumental in establishing the Education and Clinical Practice Committee for ACNM, developed the Guidelines for Establishing a Nurse-Midwifery Service and also served as a member of the Nominating Committee. Because of her accomplishments in clinical practice, Rising and her staff have advanced the midwifery model of care and the group prenatal care concept to health care professionals and women around the world.

The Hattie Hemschemeyer Award, named in honor of ACNM's first president and a pioneer of the profession, is given annually to an ACNM member who has been certified for at least ten years, has not previously been selected for the award, and has fulfilled one of the following categories: continuous outstanding contributions or distinguished service to midwifery and/or maternal child health; or, has made contributions of historical significance to the development and advancement of midwifery, ACNM, or maternal-child health.

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For more information, please contact Yolanda Landon, ACNM Communications Manager at (240) 485-1822 or via email at ylandon@acnm.org.

With roots dating to 1929, the American College of Nurse-Midwives is the oldest women's health care association in the U.S. 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.

8403 Colesville Road, Ste. 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374 • Phone: (240) 485-1800 • Fax: (240) 485-1818 • www.midwife.org