



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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WOMEN'S HEALTH AGENDA SET FOR ACNM 53rd ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON

WHAT: The 53rd Annual Meeting & Exhibit of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the professional association representing the more than 11,000 certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives in the U.S.

WHEN: May 23-29, 2008

WHERE: Boston Sheraton Hotel and Hynes Convention Center

Silver Spring, MD – More than 1700 certified nurse-midwives, certified midwives, and other women's health care professionals will meet in Boston over Memorial Day weekend for the 53rd Annual Meeting & Exhibit of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). During the Annual Meeting, experts from across the nation will deliver the latest women's health research on hot issues ranging from health disparities to genetics and bioethics.

During the Annual Meeting, ACNM will hold its annual business meeting to discuss the state of midwifery. The meeting also offers many educational sessions, poster presentations, and workshops. For the first time, ACNM will also host the Women's Health Expo, a free interactive health education experience that is open to the public. A complete schedule of events is available online at www.midwife.org/am.

"Each year, the ACNM Annual Meeting is the leading educational forum on all aspects of women's health, as well as the nation's premier networking event and business meeting for the midwifery and women's health community," says Lorrie Kline Kaplan, ACNM executive director.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Top women's health experts from across the nation and from Boston's rich academic health care community are scheduled to present on more than 100 topics covering the latest in women's health care research and innovation. This year's program features:

- Keynote speaker **Dr. Eugene Declercq** of Boston University School of Public Health. On Saturday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Declercq will present "The Power to Sit and Wait: A Century of U.S. Midwifery in an Era of Medical Intervention." Dr. Declercq will address the importance of comprehensive health education and various public policies that influence the health, economy, and well-being of our country and the strategies we must take to transform our society into a healthier nation.
- **Senator Richard T. Moore** will speak at the premier session on health care reform, Sunday, May 25, 8:15 am – 9:15 am. Moore is the Senate Chairman of the influential Joint Committee

on Health Care Financing in the Massachusetts General Court, who was among the principal architects of the landmark Massachusetts health care reform law and is currently leading an effort, with the Senate President, to enact comprehensive legislation to improve the quality of health care and contain health costs.

- **Bylye Avery, BA, MEd**, founder of the Black Women’s Health Imperative and the Avery Institute for Social Change. On Saturday, May 24, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Avery will address the importance of making health care reform the nation’s number-one priority.
- **Dr. Aubrey Milunsky**, founding director of the Boston University Center for Human Genetics. On Saturday, May 24, from 2:15 – 3:15 p.m., Dr. Milunsky will present “Genetics: Lessons from the Law.”
- **Judy Norsigian** co-author of all editions of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. On Tuesday, May 24, from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Norsigian will discuss the Boston Women’s Health Book Collective (BWHBC) and present “The Women’s Health Movement: Then and Now”.
- **Harvey Karp, MD**, will present “The 4th Trimester: A new framework for making fussy babies calm, calm babies serene, and all babies sleep better” on Monday, May 26, from 1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Other session topics include healthcare disparities, Latina immigrants and pregnancy, birth from within, and reducing racial disparities.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

In conjunction with the ACNM Annual Meeting, ACNM will host the first-ever ACNM Women’s Health Expo on Saturday, May 24, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This consumer-focused event is free to the public and will showcase midwives as leading women’s health experts on services ranging from maternity care and well-woman gynecology to primary health care. This interactive health care event will feature book signings, a film festival, health screenings, more than 100 women’s health products and services vendors, and a chance to interact with national and local women’s health experts. Other highlights include:

- **Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino** will cut the ribbon at 10:00 a.m. for this inaugural event.
- The free **Become a Midwife forum** for aspiring midwives is an opportunity to meet nurse-midwives and midwifery students and to experience what students learn in midwifery school. A flyer about this event is available at http://www.midwife.org/AM/Documents/Becoming_a_Midwife_Event.pdf.
- **Film Festival and Birth Symposium** featuring Ricki Lake’s new birth documentary, *The Business of Being Born*. Director Abby Epstein and experts from the movie will hold a discussion following the screening.

MEDIA/PRESS PASSES:

All covered journalists must check in at the general information desk at the ACNM registration area for admittance to the Annual Meeting. Please have press credentials available. Press badges and other press materials will be available during normal registration hours. Please contact Rebecca Jacob, ACNM Communications Manager at (240) 485-1822 before May 23 or at (248) 514-8264 after May 23 to arrange interviews.

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For more information, please contact Rebecca Jacob, ACNM Communications Manager at (240)

485-1822 or via email at rjacob@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. More information about ACNM can be found at www.midwife.org.

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