



Midwifery Works Presenters



Stephanie Boyd, BA

Stephanie Boyd, BA is the Social Media and Communications Manager for Frontier Nursing University (FNU). She has over 15 years working in higher education, with the last ten years serving in student recruitment and retention roles at FNU. In her current role, Stephanie creates compelling and dynamic content that builds and sustains awareness of Frontier Nursing University's mission and educational programs using key social media sites and communication campaigns.



Christie Bryant, CNM

Christie Bryant has practiced as a CNM in Denver for 24 years. She obtained her BS and MS from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She has been a part of 3 CNM practice start-ups and is currently involved in the opening of Colorado's first hospital owned, free-standing birth center as the clinical coordinator. Her interests are focused on the business of midwifery and the development of profitable practices



Kate Eresian Chenok

Kate Chenok has 25 years of experience as a leader and consultant in diverse healthcare settings. Her deep subject matter expertise includes value-based payment models, delivery system design and operations, product and business development, health information technology and the use of measurement and data to drive improvement. She has deep expertise in patient reported outcomes, registry design and operations, maternity and orthopedics care.



Leslie Cragin, CNM, PhD

Leslie Cragin, CNM, PhD has worked in academic and birth center collaborative practice settings and is retired from her work as Clinical Professor at UCSF Dept. Ob/Gyn. She served on the inter-association Midwifery Data Collaborative and was chair of the Division of Research's Data Section. She represents ACNM the Executive Committee of the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative. She was the chair of American College of Nurse-Midwives' (ACNM) Designing Data Task Force and is the ACNM representative to the ACOG convened Women's Health Registry Alliance. She is currently the Project Manager for ACNM's first multi-hospital QI Collaborative: The Healthy Birth Initiative: Reducing Primary Cesareans.



**Susan DeJoy, CNM, PhD,
FACNM**

Susan DeJoy received a BS/Biology from SUNY Geneseo, a BS/Nursing from SUNY Downstate, an MSN/Midwifery from the University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in Public Health/Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Until January 2017, she was Chief, Division of Midwifery and Community Health, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA. She is also Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School; and senior faculty in the Baystate Midwifery Education Program. Dr. DeJoy has expertise in clinical and educational program development and implementation, having developed and maintained the Midwifery Education Program (1991), the Midwifery Triage Program (1999), and the Midwifery Ob Team (2004) at Baystate. She was elected to fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives in 1997, and received the Dorothea Lange Pioneer Award in 2016



**Diana L. Dowdy CNM,
DNP, RDMS**

Diana Dowdy, CNM, DNP, RDMS received her Master of Nursing from Emory University in Atlanta, and her DNP at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She is currently employed by Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, teaching midwifery and WHNP students. She works part-time at the Baby and Company birth Center in Nashville. She has practiced Full scope midwifery for over 38 years, in private practice, public health and in a university faculty practice. During those year she has also served as clinical preceptor for midwifery and APRN students. She is also a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer with over 20 years of experience in this practice. She teaches point-of-care ultrasound in Nashville and is current chair of the American Registry of Diagnostic Sonography Midwife Exam Oversight Committee. She has served for the past 2 years on the ACNM Ultrasound Education Committee. She has published several articles on the topics of PCOS, ultrasound, and global use of ultrasound for obstetric care. She has spoken at a number of national conferences on these and other topics, including AWHONN, ACNM, and AANP



**Cynthia B. Flynn, CNM,
PhD, FACNM**

Cynthia Flynn received her BA from the University of Washington, her MA and PhD from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and her MSN from Yale University. She has extensive management experience, having served as Executive Director of The Birth Center, Bryn Mawr, PA; the General Director of Family Health and Birth Center, Washington DC, where she negotiated the merger of the birth center with a Federally Qualified Health Center in order to provide stable financing; and founder/owner of Columbia Women's Clinic and Birth Center, Kennewick, WA. In addition, she served as Associate Professor of Nursing at Seattle University for both graduate and undergraduate programs, and as a clinical preceptor for RNs, CNMs, LMs, and NPs. At the national level, she was President of the American Association of Birth Centers (AABC), and was also a member of the Health Professionals Council of the National Quality Forum.



**Mamie Guidera, CNM,
MSN**

Mamie Guidera, CNM, MSN, is a member of the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and in Midwifery practice at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Sarah Hakala, SNM, BSN, BA, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received her BSN from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.



**Elizabeth Hill-Karbowska,
PhD, CNM**

Elizabeth Hill-Karbowska, PhD, CNM from New Berlin, Wisconsin is Director of Women and Infants Outpatient Services at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, a Ministry of Ascension. Dr. Hill-Karbowska has been a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) since 1995. In addition to Director of Women and Infants Outpatient Services, she is Co-Director of Medical Student Education at Wheaton Franciscan-St. Joseph Campus. In these roles she participates in management and education, and practices within inpatient and outpatient women's health departments. Her career history consists of full-scope CNM practice and leadership experiences, reflective of a personal commitment to advocacy, serving vulnerable populations, and improving outcomes for women and their families. Dr. Hill-Karbowska earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 1992 and a Master of Science in Nursing from Marquette University in 1995. She went on to earn a PhD from Marquette University in 2014. Through the years she has won multiple awards including the Marvin Wagner Preceptor Award in 2013 and the 2010 Health Care Hero Award. Dr. Hill-Karbowska is involved with many organizations. Beth recently joined ACNM as the Director of MPEGO.



Jane Houston, CNM, DNP

Jane Houston DNP, CNM is currently the Clinical Director for the Midwifery and Women's Health programs at Frontier Nursing University, as well as a birth center midwife in Jacksonville. She has assisted birthing families on four continents. She trained as a nurse and midwife in Scotland and has worked in Zimbabwe, Haiti and New Zealand. She came to the U.S. in 1996 to continue her midwifery journey and undertook her MSN and DNP at University of Florida.



**Barbara Hughes, CNM,
MS**

Barbara Hughes holds a BS and MS in Nursing from University of Colorado, School of Nursing and a Master's in Business Administration from University of Colorado Executive MBA program. She has practiced as a CNM in private, hospital based, academic and public health settings for 33 years. In addition, she is board certified as a nurse executive through NCC. Barbara is the founding consultant for Wilson Hughes Consulting, a Healthcare Practice and Management Consulting business in Denver.



Dr. Peter Johnson

Dr. Johnson leads the global learning team in supporting the education and training dimensions of Jhpiego's projects around the world. This includes developing strategic approaches to training and pre-service education, overseeing trainer development, instructional design and monitoring and evaluation of training efforts. As an expert nurse and midwife, Dr. Johnson also leads Jhpiego's nurses and midwives in efforts to strengthen the global nursing and midwifery workforce.



Dr. Irma Jordan

Dr. Jordan has dual certification as a family and psychiatric nurse practitioner and has served as faculty in both programs. In addition to her faculty role, Dr. Jordan has practiced as a Nurse Practitioner since 1998 in a variety of primary care and community mental health clinics. Her area of interest is integration of mental health care into the primary care clinic.



**Christina Kocis, CNM,
DNP, FACNM**

Chris Kocis has been a staff midwife in the Stony Brook Midwifery practice since 1998 and its Division Director since 2006. Chris had twenty years of nursing experience prior to graduating with the first class of midwives from the Stony Brook Pathways Midwifery Program in 1997. In 2009, Chris graduated from Stony Brook with a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. She also served as president of the Long Island Midwives, Inc., and president of the Midwifery Business Network. Chris has a special interest in evidenced based practice as it relates to maternal and newborn health and access to midwifery care.



Lisa Kane Low received her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Michigan, her MS degree in midwifery from the University of Illinois in Chicago, post masters certificate in teaching midwifery from University of Pennsylvania and finally her doctoral degree in Nursing and a certificate in Women's Studies from the University of Michigan. Lisa is Associate Dean for the Practice and Professional Graduate Programs, and Associate Professor of Nursing and Women's Studies at the University of Michigan. She has been active in ACNM for nearly 30 years. Prior to her term as President, she was the chair of the Division of Standards and Practice and leads the Healthy Birth Initiative subcommittee. She served as ACNM's President from 2016-2018

**Lisa Kane Low, CNM, PhD,
FACNM**

Bio Pending



Heather L. Maurer, MA



Dr. Gretchen G Mettler specializes in certified nurse midwife in Cleveland area. Dr. Gretchen G Mettler, CNM has over 33 years of experience in the field of medicine. She graduated from her medical school with her medical degree in 1984.

Dr. Gretchen G. Mettler



**Tonya Nicholson, DNP,
CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM**

Tonya Nicholson, DNP, CNM, WHNP- BC, CNE, FACNM is the Associate Dean of Midwifery and Women's Health for Frontier Nursing University. She has a rich history with FNU as a 1999 graduate for midwifery, the first DNP graduate in 2009, and a WHNP graduate in 2011. Tonya served the women of central Florida in full scope practice from 2000-2006 where she also directed the midwifery service. In 2006, she joined the Frontier faculty and then became the Program Director in 2010 and the Associate Dean in 2015. Tonya currently practices part time in her hometown of Dublin, GA. She has a variety of teaching experience, but the majority has been focused on the prenatal period and in clinical courses. Tonya is very interested in communication and civility at the individual and institutional levels and focuses most of her scholarship in this area

Bio Pending



Katie Page, CNM



Karen Perdion, CNM, MSN

As a member of the Nurse Midwifery Service, Karen Perdion provides family-centered maternity care, along with well-woman care, family planning, and other services. She can deliver babies in our holistic, in-hospital birth center or in a traditional labor and delivery environment, depending on the desires and needs of her patients. As a nurse midwife, she is able to follow her patients through their entire pregnancy, rather than the short time she saw them as a labor and delivery nurse. She enjoys getting to know her patients and feels privileged to share one of the most important times of their lives.



Brenda S. Quatrochi, CNM

Brenda Quatrochi has been deeply involved in women's health care for her entire career. She has been a midwife for 20 years, the last 11 of which she has been practicing as a full-scope clinician. Brenda has had the privilege to be the lead midwife at Denver Health, the city's public safety net hospital. The Denver Health Midwifery group is part of a large, highly successful collaborative practice model. In addition to caring for women, leadership is one of her greatest loves.



**Nancy Jo Reedy, CNM,
MPH, FACNM**

Nancy Jo Reedy CNM, MPH, FACNM of Texas is the recipient of the 2007 Hattie Hemschemeyer Award, the most prestigious award of the American College of Nurse Midwives. Nancy Jo's many accomplishments include founding the midwifery practice at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, which is the largest midwifery service in the United States. She is currently the director of THC Nurse Midwives in Fort Worth. Nancy Jo has a long-standing commitment to underserved women and to the nurse-midwifery profession. Texas is fortunate to have Nancy Jo Reedy caring for its women, babies, and nurse-midwives.



Brynn Rubinstein, MPH

Brynn Rubinstein is the Senior Manager for Transforming Maternity Care. Brynn has a strong passion and background in improving maternity care, having written her Master's thesis on the "Increasing Rate of Cesarean Sections and Evidence-Based Strategies for Intervention" and was invited to present her findings to policy makers, physicians, and hospital administrators at American Public Health Association's Annual Conference in 2012. Prior to joining PBGH in 2014, Brynn's professional experience included work with the Kaiser Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Office; the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in NY; and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in DC. Brynn holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts (Dean's List Scholar), History and Global Health, Northwestern University



Jessica G. Schwarz, CNM, MSN

Jessica G. Schwarz, MSN, CNM, is a certified nurse midwife and advanced practice provider team lead for the Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



Joan Slager, CNM, CPC, DNP, FACNM

Joan Slager graduated from the Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing in 1991 and completed her Master of Science in Nursing at Case Western University in 1993. She graduated from Oakland University in Rochester, MI with a Doctor in Nursing Practice in Dec. 2008. In 1993, she helped to establish Bronson Women's Service in Kalamazoo, Michigan which is now Michigan's largest midwifery service. Ms. Slager became the practice director in 1995. Joan Slager served 2 terms as Chair of the Business Section of the Division of Standards and Practice for the American College of Nurse-Midwives and 4 years as the Division Chair. She is currently the Treasurer on the ACNM Board of Directors. She has lectured extensively on billing and coding and other business and clinical topics.



**Eileen Thrower, CNM,
PhD, FACNM**

Eileen Thrower graduated from the midwifery program at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University in 1991. She completed her Ph.D. in nursing at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University in 2016. Her dissertation research involved oral histories of nurse-midwives in Georgia during the 1970s and 1980s. She is an Assistant Professor at Frontier Nursing University, teaching in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program there. She practiced full-scope midwifery in Georgia for 25 years prior to transitioning into an academic role.



E. Brie Thumm, CNM, PhD

E. Brie Thumm, CNM, PhD has been practicing midwifery since 2001 after she completed her MSN at Yale School of Nursing. She received her MBA in Healthcare Administration at Baruch College in 2007 because she was frustrated with seeing patients receive sub-optimal care and midwives become disillusioned because of breakdowns in the system. Recognizing that midwives have a unique relationship with their work and a lack of evidence supporting how midwives work, she transitioned into health systems research. Between 2010 and 2018, she's worked at the Denver Veterans Affairs Hospital conducting mental health research learning to measure intangible concepts, like burnout, while continuing to practice part-time at Denver Health. In April 2017 she conducted the first national midwifery burnout survey to complete her PhD at the University of Colorado. She continues to practice at Denver Health and is the Maternal Health Clinical Consultant for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



**Kate Woeber, CNM, PHD,
MPH**

Kate Woeber has been a practicing midwife since graduating from Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in 1999. After catching many babies over several years of busy full-time hospital practice, Kate began her faculty role at Emory in 2004. She taught undergraduate maternity for several years, and has been teaching in the midwifery program for the past 5 years. Having completed her PhD dissertation on the topic of midwifery education and workforce, she is interested in building the primary care workforce, not only to address provider shortages and maldistributions, but also to make the midwifery model of care a standard, available to all women. She continues her clinical practice at Northside Hospital, and serves on the Advisory Council of Embrace Refugee Birth Support, and as a reviewer for Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing.