



NEWS RELEASE

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COOPER, SLAGER RECEIVE A.C.N.M. FOUNDATION'S HIGHEST AWARD

Silver Spring, MD – Elizabeth “Beth” M. Cooper, CNM, EdD, FACNM and Joan K. Slager, MSN, CNM, FACNM were awarded the 2008 Dorothea M. Lang Pioneer Award from the American College of Nurse-Midwives Foundation, Inc. during the American College of Nurse-Midwives 53rd Annual Meeting in Boston, MA on May 24, 2007. These exceptional leaders have made significant contributions to the midwifery profession.

Dr. Cooper has been a midwifery clinician, service administrator, role model, educator, and mentor for midwives and service directors since 1971. She was the guiding force on proposed model midwifery legislation. Her exceptional talents and commitment to midwifery, combined with her wisdom and skills in analyzing old and evolving midwifery legal language and laws, have influenced care and legislation statewide and nationwide. When hospital-based midwifery practice was almost nonexistent, she accepted the challenge of a pioneering venture in Rochester, NY, where she established a university-affiliated midwifery team and private practice program, bringing midwifery care to hundreds of families. Dr. Cooper was instrumental in the development of the University of Rochester midwifery education program where she served as faculty. Having taught in the School of Medicine throughout her time in Rochester, she was promoted to Associate Professor of Ob-Gyn. In 2006, the University of Rochester Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology established the *Elizabeth Cooper Midwifery Lecture Series*, an annual event in which city-wide grand rounds and a subsequent resident lecture are presented by a nationally known midwife leader. The precipitating factor for this unique honor was her 30th anniversary at the University. Dr. Cooper has worked with the Department of Education to establish the legal basis for midwifery practice, and she is currently serving on the NY State Board of Midwifery.

Slager started in 1991 as a staff nurse-midwife at the Family Health Center of Battle Creek, MI, becoming its Director of Midwifery Services in 1993. In 1995 she became the Director of Nurse-Midwifery of Bronson Women’s Services, a position she holds today. Slager is credited with growing this practice into a very active one with over 14 midwives. Throughout her career, Slager has been concerned with the “business of midwifery”, assuring the productivity and cost effectiveness of midwifery practice. She became very involved in understanding how coding could affect the reimbursement of services, eventually becoming a certified coder. She wrote an award winning book called, *“Business Concepts for Health Care Providers”* (2004), and has made numerous presentations across the U.S. about the operational issues of running a

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midwifery service, with a particular focus on billing and coding. She recently acted as a Contributing Editor of the widely-read, *“Getting Paid: Billing, Coding, and Payment for Midwifery Services”* (3rd Edition, ACNM, 2006). As chair of the Business Section of the ACNM Division of Standards and Practice, she again showed leadership in clarifying the best practices in operating the business of midwifery. Slager led the development of the *“Administrative Manual for Nurse-Midwifery Practices”* (Nurse-Midwifery Service Directors Network, 2005,) a resource used by service directors and educational programs all over the country.

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.

NOTE TO PHOTO EDITORS: Photos from the award presentation are available. Please contact Rebecca Jacob, ACNM Communications Manager, at (240) 485-1822, or via e-mail at rjacob@acnm.org.

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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. Photos are available upon request.

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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