



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 9, 2008**

**Contact: Yolanda Landon**  
**Phone: (240) 485-1822**  
**E-mail: [ylandon@acnm.org](mailto:ylandon@acnm.org)**

## **ACNM Announces New Vice President and Region II Representative**

**Silver Spring, MD** – The Board of Directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is pleased to announce the election of Region II Representative Dawn Durain, CNM, MPH, to the position of ACNM Vice President, effective immediately. Suzanne M. Smith, CNM, MS, MPH, FACNM, who ran in the 2007 Region II election, will serve as the new Region II Representative, effective January 1, 2009, through the end of the term in May 2010. These changes in ACNM leadership are the last in a series of leadership changes that were triggered when Eunice K.M. “Kitty” Ernst, CNM, MPH, DSc (Hon), FACNM, resigned from ACNM presidency in November 2008 to devote more time to the needs of her family. Former Vice President Melissa Avery, CNM, PhD, FACNM became President of ACNM effective immediately upon Ernst’s resignation.

“I look forward to contributing to continued productivity with the Board of Directors,” said Durain. “I hope that my work and my presence will result in the continuing productivity of the Board and the continued responsiveness of the ACNM to our members and the women to whom they offer care.”

Durain has served on the ACNM Board of Directors as Region II Representative since 2007 and will serve as ACNM Vice President through May 2011. Over the years, she has held several midwifery leadership roles, including Region II Representative, New Jersey Chapter Chair, and New Jersey Chapter Secretary. Durain is currently the Associate Program Director for the Midwifery Program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She received her nurse-midwifery certification from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and her master’s degree in public health from Rutgers University.

Under ACNM bylaws, in the event that the office of Vice President becomes vacant, the Board shall elect a new Officer from the current Regional Representatives on the Board to serve the unexpired portion of the term.

New Region II Representative Suzanne M. Smith has played an instrumental role in ACNM leadership for more than 20 years. She served on the ACNM Foundation, Inc., Board of Trustees in 2001 – 2004 and 2004 – 2007, including tenure as Vice President from 2005 – 2007. She chaired the Division of Standards and Practice Professional Liability Section as well as the New York State Chapter of ACNM; in addition, Smith has served as a member of the ACNM Financial Advisory Board (now known as the Finance and Audit Committee), Risk Management and Program Committees.

“Communication is extremely important and multi-dimensional,” said Smith. “As midwives, we all know that patient satisfaction is significantly influenced by our communication. Likewise, as individual members of the ACNM, our own satisfaction can be enhanced by having our need for support and information met in a timely manner. I will stay abreast of the requests and participate to meet these needs.”

The Board warmly welcomes Durain and Smith to these new roles and thanks them for their willingness to serve in these unique circumstances.

**For comments and inquiries regarding changes in ACNM leadership, please contact Yolanda Landon at (240) 485-1822 or [ylandon@acnm.org](mailto:ylandon@acnm.org).**

###

### **About ACNM**

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](http://www.midwife.org).

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