



NEWS RELEASE

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Region I's Saraswathi Vedam Named to the ACNM Fellowship

SILVER SPRING, MD—Saraswathi Vedam, CNM, MSN, Sci D (hc) of Vancouver, British Columbia Canada was inducted into the Fellowship of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (FACNM) at the ACNM 55th Annual Meeting in Washington, DC this June.

An ACNM member for 24 years, Vedam's contributions to home birth discourse are recognized nationally and internationally. She is a home birth clinician, and has dedicated a huge part of her professional career to education and research. She currently serves as the director for the University of British Columbia's Midwifery Division and an associate professor at the school. Vedam has been a clinical practice educator for more than 20 years, mentoring students in British Columbia, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. Colleagues describe her as a "superb" educator, and she is a two-time winner of the ACNM Excellence in Teaching Award. Vedam has been a peer reviewer for several publications, including *Birth*, *Canadian Journal of Midwifery*, and the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health (JMWH)*. She co-authored a *JMWH* continuing education issue on home birth which led to the first edition of the *ACNM Home Birth Practice Manual*—the only textbook for U.S. midwives on home birth practice.

Vedam is a charter member and current chair for the Home Birth Section of the ACNM Division of Standards and Practice; under her leadership, the section has developed and revised practice guidelines. Additionally, she serves as the ACNM representative for the ACNM/Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) Liaison Group. Her collaborative efforts also resulted in a steering committee that includes American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), ACNM and MANA members to discuss necessary conditions for women and infants to have optimal outcomes in home birth. This was the first time that the three associations met together. Vedam wrote three new clinical skills chapters, which were added to the fourth edition of "Varney's Midwifery" textbook. She also developed an algorithm to assess quality of evidence regarding home birth in medical literature.

Vedam received her bachelor's in comparative literature from Amherst College, her master's in community health education from University of Massachusetts, and a master's in nursing with a specialty in midwifery from Yale University School of Nursing.

Fellowship in the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is an honor bestowed upon those midwives whose demonstrated leadership, clinical excellence, outstanding scholarship, and professional achievement have merited special recognition both within and outside the midwifery profession. In light of the vast wealth of expertise and collective wisdom represented within the body of Fellows, its mission is to serve the ACNM in a consultative and advisory capacity.

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

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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.

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