

From the Editor

This issue marks the first full year of publication for *Midwifery Matters*. In just a short time, we have grown to have literally hundreds of subscribers. Thank you!

This past winter we debuted our peer review process, and so this issue is a mix of invited articles and peer reviewed articles, which are designated in the table of contents. In this issue we have one, and in our next issue we hope to have more! The peer review process of MM is open and nonanonymous, seeking to foster dialogue between authors and reviewers. Reviewers include midwives, educators, researchers, and other with relevant experience, expertise, and interest. Each submission to MM is first reviewed to ensure that it meets basic requirements, and then is shared with 1 to 2 peer reviewers who complete a structured reviewing form, providing comprehensive feedback about the article. Their reviews are then shared with the author, who has the opportunity to be in direct dialogue with the reviewers to discuss any questions that may have emerged from the process. Based on reviewer recommendations, the MM editor crafts a detailed roadmap for the author of any revisions needed to move a piece towards publication. The editor then works with authors to set deadlines and create realistic expectations about revisions and publication. The goal of the peer review process is to provide support to writers interested in honing their craft and their work, and also to foster the skills of peer reviewing within the broader midwifery community. We hope this will be one small step towards building our collective skills to think and write critically about research and how it is integrated into practice.

Our first peer reviewed article is an examination of the implications for pregnancy of MTHFR genetic mutations. We also include coverage of the debate over screening and treatment for subclinical hypothyroidism, and the research behind the varying positions. Finally, you will find an article focused on a manual skill of midwifery – the art of the rebozo – and we plan to periodically include articles that speak to the skills and techniques at the heart of midwifery practice.

We hope to have the opportunity to continue the dialogues begun in these articles with you, and welcome your participation throughout the process – from authoring articles, to peer reviewing, to being an engaged reader with your peers and colleagues, to sending us letters.

Above all, thank you for seeing us through our first year!



MISSION

The mission of *Midwifery Matters* is to support the growth and development of our evolving CPM profession as well as evidence-based midwifery practice in the out-of-hospital setting. We hope to do this by providing a forum to share research, post research updates, and dialogue on issues relevant to the field.

Content is designed to keep alumni and other midwives up to date on research, clinical practice, and professional and political issues relevant to the midwife practicing in the home or birth center setting. Much of the research and writing is the work of Birthwise students, faculty, and alumni, and it also serves as a forum for alumni news.

DISCLAIMER

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INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Midwifery Matters accepts unsolicited manuscripts and article submissions on a range of topics. For author guidelines, to discuss a possible submission, or for related questions, email the editor at ana@birthwisemidwifery.edu.

INFORMATION FOR ARTISTS

Midwifery Matters accepts submissions for cover images and art to be used throughout the publication. Email the editor for questions or to submit images.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Email to ana@birthwisemidwifery.edu or mail to Birthwise Midwifery School, *Midwifery Matters*, 24 South High Street, Bridgton, ME 04009. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Conferences and events are listed free of charge on the *Midwifery Matters* calendar of events if submitted by May 1 for publication in the summer issue, or November 1 for the winter issue. Email event information to ana@birthwisemidwifery.edu.