

ACNM Certification Council, Inc. 2003 Annual Report

The ACNM Certification Council (ACC) was incorporated in October 1990 as a 501 (c) (6) professional association. The mission of ACC is to protect and serve the public by providing the certification standard for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery. ACC fulfills its mission through three primary activities: a national examination for initial certification as a nurse-midwife (CNM) or midwife (CM), a re-certification program for CNMs or CMs, and professional discipline.

During 2003, the national certification examination was administered in multiple sites throughout the country, on January 17, June 27, and October 17. A special examination administration was also held on February 28, 2004 because severe winter weather necessitated the cancellation of one examination site for the scheduled January administration. A total of 331 new CNMs and 5 new CMs achieved initial certification. For first-time candidates, the overall pass rate on the certification examination was 86%. ACC's e-commerce website was developed in 2003 and allows examination applicants to apply on-line and pay their examination fee by credit card.

The Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) Committee achieved its goal of having all three CMP domain modules available each year. Each module is now available for 3 years. The new release module for 2003 was Intrapartum, Postpartum and Newborn Care. Other improvements to CMP accomplished in 2003 include on-line submission of annual activity reports and the ability to order CMP materials on-line through ACC's new e-commerce website. In 2004, individuals initially certified in 1996 must complete all requirements for re-certification.

A Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Task Force was appointed to develop a plan for the implementation of computer-based testing by 2005. The Task Force is led by the chairperson of the Examination Committee and composed of the chairperson of the Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee, a representative from the Directors of Midwifery Education (DOME), a student midwife, ACC's Executive Director, ACC's Exam Consultant, and a CBT consultant. A request for proposals from potential CBT vendors will be issued in the first quarter of 2004.

The 2003 ACC Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

Nancy K. Lowe, CNM, PhD, FACNM, FAAN, President

Leona VandeVusse, CNM, PhD, FACNM, Treasurer

Kathleen Bailey, CNM, MA, MS, Secretary & Chairperson, Certificate Maintenance Program Committee

Nancy Kulb, CNM, MS, Chairperson, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee

Nancy DeVore, CNM, MPH, Chairperson, Examination Committee (until August 2003)

Peggy Mancuso, CNM, PhD, Chairperson, Examination Committee (beginning August 2003)

Sachiko Oshio, CNM, PHD, Chairperson, Research Committee

Gwen Spears, CNM, MS, ACNM Liaison

Kate Carpenter, Consumer Member

Judith B. Collins, RNC, MS, WHNP, Professional Liaison Member

Karen L. Zaglaniczny, CRNA, PhD, FAAN, Professional Liaison Member

Robert H. Heise, MD, Professional Liaison Member

John A. Mirone, Executive Director, Ex-officio Member