

## EDITORIAL

# Consumer representation on the editorial board

Lesley Dixon, Eva Neely & Ruth Martis

The Journal editorial board comprises of six members. Last year Susan Crowther resigned from her subeditor role due to overseas work commitments. We thank Susan for the enthusiasm, passion and commitment she brought to the role.

Susan's resignation provided a timely opportunity to reflect on the membership of the board and specifically to consider adding consumer representation.

Consumer membership and working in partnership with women are key principles of the College and the midwifery profession. Midwives work in partnership with the woman and her family in a relationship of trust, negotiation, shared decision making and responsibility, and shared understanding. Reflecting this, the College has consumer representation throughout its committees (National Committee, Midwifery Standards Review, Resolutions Committees) to ensure midwifery services remain woman centred. The exception to this to date has been the College's journal editorial board.

The board discussed the need of a consumer representative with the National Committee, who agreed that consumer representation would support the College's philosophy on partnership and women centredness, and that the appointed consumer would assume the role of a subeditor. This involves responsibility for:

- The quality of papers published
- Ensuring that content follows the Journal's philosophy
- Establishing the Journal's strategic direction and planning
- Ensuring efficient and rigorous publication processes
- Appointing and guiding Journal reviewers

It was agreed that the following attributes were needed for a consumer subeditor:

- Has an advocacy role or is a consumer organisation representative
- Has an academic background
- Has a publishing history
- Is not a health professional
- Is an affiliated College member
- Is elected by the National Committee

The National Committee and the editorial board are pleased to announce that Eva Neely has been appointed as consumer subeditor on the Journal's editorial board.

Eva is a mother, lecturer and advocate for mothers' health. She lectures in health promotion and has a particular interest in critical, strengths-based and empowerment-focused approaches to health and wellbeing. Her research interests include maternal health, youth health promotion, health-promoting settings, asset-based approaches for enhancing population health, and holistic concepts of health. She lives in Wellington with her husband and two young daughters, who were born at home. She is the Home Birth Aotearoa consumer representative on the College's National Committee, is active on the advocacy group Maternity Equity Action, and is a Trustee for Home Birth Aotearoa and for the Wellington Home Birth Association. She enjoys spending time tramping with her family, knitting, sewing, baking, and running.

Welcome Eva.

Thank you for your warm welcome, I have been reading the Journal for some years and am excited to be part of this wonderful editorial team. This issue has an interesting and eclectic mix of papers, reflecting the different ways midwifery is committed to generating woman centred research. The first paper reviews term breech presentation and how



Eva Neely

the interpretation of the evidence depends on the professional groups involved. The paper identifies the benefits and harms of a planned vaginal birth and a planned caesarean for breech presentation to support women's decision making. McAra-Couper and her colleagues in the next article explore birthplace choices of Pasifika women in Counties Manukau. While the community and midwife somewhat influence birthplace choice, the culture of, and familiarity with, the local hospital drives most women's choices. The paper reflects on the inherent tensions of de-contextualised values (birthing should happen in a primary unit or at home) and local birthing cultures. In the third article Rebecca Hay and Jean Patterson present a literature review exploring pregnancy and birth outcomes for women who have had cervical excisional procedures. They identify an important research gap and the need to extend knowledge about labour and birth care for women with a history of cervical procedures.

Knox and colleagues examine the impact of prescribed medical measures in midwifery, specifically how the use of body mass index as a monitoring device contradicts context-led and women-centred midwifery practice. The authors object to how such narrow tools fail to fully capture a woman's health and risk profile, and can enforce unethical practice. In the following article Nakamura and Horiuchi review the evidence behind hiesho (cold disorder) and whether it increases the risk for postpartum haemorrhage (PPH). Their findings indicate a possible indirect effect on PPH by increasing the occurrence of uterine inertia and prolonged labour. Incorporating antenatal lifestyle activities to improve circulation may reduce the risk for women with hiesho. In their article on Pasifika midwifery students' experiences, Beatson and colleagues unfold the importance of creating a "learning village". They explore how Pasifika students' collective identity needs acknowledging in education programmes, and present ways in which programmes can be more tailored to their needs. Dann and Hill's article explores the early detection and treatment of deteriorating inpatient pregnant women and the inconsistencies in protocols across New Zealand. The authors determine that most DHBs are developing and implementing early warning systems, but recommend the development of a national tool and early warning system to ensure consistency across the country. The final paper in this issue examines a newly graduated midwife's experiences of the Midwifery First Year of Practice programme. Chapman identifies the core components of the programme and highlights that the transition to becoming a confident midwife is an individual journey which is well supported by this programme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all authors, reviewers and the editorial team for their work in ensuring the publication of such high quality papers.

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