

# A new journal: The European Journal of Midwifery

Victoria G. Vivilaki<sup>1</sup>

The scope of practice of midwifery is to 'be with women' throughout the life cycle. Therefore, midwives need to value and promote midwifery, in its entirety, the science and the art, the practice and the theory, the research and the knowledge. Every year, for the past thirty-five years, we have been celebrating the International Day of the Midwife (IDM) on 5 May. On this day, we focus on the role of the midwives, the relationship of midwives with mothers, the family, and on building lifetime partnerships (The theme for IDM 2017 is «Midwives, Mothers and Families: Partners for Life!»<sup>1</sup>). This year we have a reason for a double celebration in Europe, with the launch of a new midwifery journal, the European Journal of Midwifery (EUJM).

There is a need for investment in the European midwifery services and this begins with the professional and continued education of students<sup>2</sup>, practicing midwives, academics and researchers. This peer-reviewed journal will be a useful tool for maternal, child and family-centred, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral research, both quantitative and qualitative, as well as a needed channel of communication of information. We envision this targeted effort will contribute to safe motherhood, improve access to and delivery of women's healthcare services, contribute to safeguarding women's health rights, and promote equality. This journal will aim to disseminate evidence among midwives and women, but also among other health professionals engaging in evidence-based interventions and policies. Moreover, the European Journal of Midwifery will provide a unique opportunity to call attention to women's health and unite efforts across Europe, to increase uptake of successful intervention, to accelerate the implementation of evidence-based policy actions, and to increase awareness and commitment towards improving maternal and perinatal health in Europe.

Women play an irreplaceable role as citizens and mothers, and increasing emphasis has been placed on the need for prompt, coordinated, and effective response to satisfy priority healthcare needs of the population with due regard to public health<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the need for further progress has been recognised, since women face specific health risks during the perinatal period. Such risks represent concrete challenges, which ought to be addressed in an interdisciplinary and integrated manner, by well-trained multidisciplinary teams of health professional experts, since new mothers are characterised by complex physical, psychological and mental states of health<sup>4</sup>.

This new journal's underpinning philosophy lies in the core values and principles of midwifery<sup>5</sup>: promotion of rights of women and new borns, gender equality, equity in access to quality care, responsiveness to the needs of women and their families, effective continuum of care, sustainable approach, promotion of primary care, multi-sectoral approach, development of partnerships, building upon on existing initiatives and activities to maximize use of resources and synergies.

The European Journal of Midwifery welcomes the work of researchers examining epidemiological, educational, managerial and technological facets of practice in women's health, preconception and perinatal care, innovation in midwifery, evidence-based midwifery and related policy.

## REFERENCES

1. ICM IDM 2017 Resource Pack. Available at: [http://internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/IDM/IDM%202017/FINAL%20IDM2017\\_ResourcePack\\_ENG.pdf](http://internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/IDM/IDM%202017/FINAL%20IDM2017_ResourcePack_ENG.pdf) (accessed April 2017).
2. McNeill et al. Public health education for midwives and midwifery students: a mixed methods study. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 2012, 12:142. doi: 10.1186/1471-2393-12-142.
3. Biro MA: What has public health got to do with midwifery? Midwives' role in securing better health outcomes for mothers and babies. *Women and Birth: the Journal of the Australian College of Midwives* 2011, 24(1):17-23. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2010.06.001.
4. WHO (2008). European strategic approach for making pregnancy safer: Improving maternal and perinatal health. Available at: [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/98796/E90771.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/98796/E90771.pdf) (accessed April 2017).
5. Australian College of Midwives. ACM Philosophy for Midwifery; 2004. Available at: <https://www.midwives.org.au/> (accessed April 2017)

## AFFILIATION

Department of Midwifery, Technological Institution of Athens, Athens, Greece. E-mail: v.vivilaki@gmail.com

## CORRESPONDENCE TO

Victoria G. Vivilaki. Department of Midwifery, Technological Institution of Athens, Passionos 44-46, 11631 Athens, Greece. E-mail: v.vivilaki@gmail.com

## KEYWORDS

public health, women's health, midwifery, education, safe motherhood

Received: 17 April 2017  
Revised: 6 July 2017  
Accepted: 20 August 2017

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author has completed and submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest and none were reported.

## FUNDING

There was no source of funding for this research.

## PROVENANCE AND PEER REVIEW

Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed