



**Fond Farewell to
Professor Bridget Lynch**

We will miss you!



Goodbye to Bridget Lynch

The McMaster Midwifery Education bids a fond farewell to Professor Bridget Lynch who retired in July 2017. As a respected international midwifery leader Bridget will be missed. Although she has moved on from McMaster University, she remains active in the midwifery world at an international level. Bridget was a practising midwife in Toronto for over 25 years. She was one of the first 60 midwives to be regulated in Ontario in 1994. Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts in history and an MA in women's studies. She is the past president of the Association of Ontario Midwives and served for three years as the President of the International Confederation of Midwives. Bridget is a founding Partner of Community Midwives of Toronto (1994). As a faculty member, Bridget claimed that she derived great pleasure from sharing her passion for the politics and practice of midwifery with students in the program.

Bridget has worked hard to strengthen the midwifery profession at the provincial, national and international levels. She worked with UN Agencies, international professional healthcare associations and governments of low-resource countries to support the growth and quality of midwifery services globally. While President of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), Bridget led the organization in developing global standards for the education and regulation of midwifery in all countries. We wish her all the best in the future and thank her for her unique contribution to midwifery education.

Education Coordinators

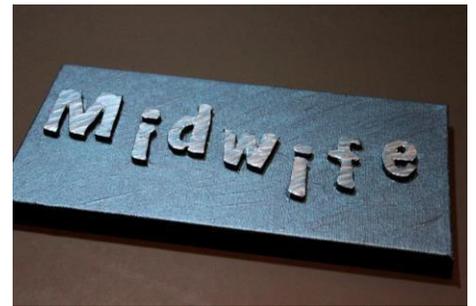
An in-person meeting of Education Coordinators (EC) was held at the Faculty Club, McMaster University On October 17, 2017. The MEP Consortium has restructured clinical placements into three regions within Ontario. While precepting has remained the same we have placed a greater emphasis on the role of the Practice Education Coordinator. The placement committee looks to EC's to be a vital link between midwifery practice groups and the MEP. A brief review of the role and responsibilities of the EC was followed by an open discussion of the following topics:

- Strategies for effective teaching and learning
- Planning for student placements
- Placement quality/Effective Placements
- Student workload: contributing factors
- How to integrate students into a variety of off call models of practice

The Education Coordinators identified a number of factors that impact MPG's ability to take an optimal number of students. Some practices recognized that they had multiple part time preceptors and students will need multiple preceptors if increasing #'s. It was suggested that this can work if there is good communication and handover of student learning needs along with client information when a midwife goes off call. Many practices worry that students need to follow excessive numbers of clients and do too many prenatal visits to ensure continuity of care numbers are achieved. We suggested that Normal Childbearing Students should not worry about continuity numbers. All students have been able to meet the CMO continuity numbers and most exceed them.

Several Practice Education Coordinators shared that they organize teaching sessions for their students on a variety of subjects such as suturing, ESW, newborn examination and IV's. These have been very successful. Senior students benefit from teaching NCB students and should be integrated into all workshops. A video which summarizes how to teach suturing was requested.

Since McMaster needs more student placements we discussed ways to maximize student placements. It was felt that midwifery practice groups identify themselves as a teaching practice to clients and midwives. A template for Website info is included in this newsletter. (*see below*)



Upcoming Events

- Senior Preceptor Workshops in March. Dates and locations will be announced soon!

Please note: all preceptors are welcome to attend any of the available workshops and we will require that preceptors attend at least one workshop per year.

Help us plan future workshops!
Let us know what you need.
Contact Patty McNiven
mcnivenp@mcmaster.ca

In addition, strategies to address student workload was discussed. In many practices a shared caseload is 6 births per month. This is ideal for a student planned births. However, some MPGs reported that 3 midwives will share 12 births per month with one student. It was felt that a model should be developed to integrate 2 students into this caseload. A working group to develop workload strategies will be established with EC's from the McMaster region. Please contact Patty McNiven mcnivenp@mcmaster.ca if you are interested in joining this working group.

This group will examine student workload, on call arrangements and supervision within shared care models.

The Education Coordinators identified a number of important topics to be addressed in future preceptor workshops. They felt online workshops as well as in person for ongoing preceptor development would be useful.

- Developing positive preceptor attitudes
- Strategies to help the student in difficulty
- Teaching suturing
- Debriefing for preceptors with negative or difficult student experiences

Other comments/ideas from the Education Coordinators

- Practices feel it is very difficult to fail a student. They feel MEP tutors push them to pass a student when they are not ready.
- They would like the MEP to clearly identify where a student needs to be for each course. New preceptors are not aware of benchmarks. This is available in the *Guide to Teaching and Learning* as well as the descriptors on the clinical evaluation forms.
- A contract developed by MEP between student and preceptor(s) should be reviewed and signed at introduction to NC and senior
- EC should have resources to mentor preceptors

We would like to sincerely thank all of the Education Coordinators who attended the meeting. It was informative and productive and will help the MEP develop new and excellent teaching strategies. The MEP looks forward to working with you to develop outstanding teaching practices and amazing midwifery graduates.



Thank you Education Coordinators. The MEP looks forward to working with you!

- Allison Virtue
- Anita (Gaby) Sabados
- Anne Woodhouse
- Beth Lynes
- Bev Langlois
- Claire Ramlogan-Salanga
- Colleen Crawford
- Diane Meronyk
- Ginger Girard Fram
- Janis Herold
- Jennifer Clare-McCutcheon
- Karen McKenzie
- Kate Demers & Emily Gillard
- Leanne McInall & Kathi Wilson
- Nasrin Bandari
- Natalie Taylor
- Pilar Chapman
- Rebecca Carson
- Sarahanna Brown
- Shirin Aghili
- Simone Staats
- Sky Dasey
- Sylvia Miedinger & Sarah Bradley
- Tamara Youngberg
- Tanja Bos
- Tracy Pearce-Kelly
- Wendy Murko

Website Suggestions for Teaching Practices

Set up a link that indicates that you are a Teaching Practice. You can say you are affiliated with McMaster University, Midwifery Education Program, Department of Family Medicine.

Within that link you can have 2 options:

Information for Clients:

- This link can include information from the MEP pamphlet. What does it mean to have a student involved in your care.

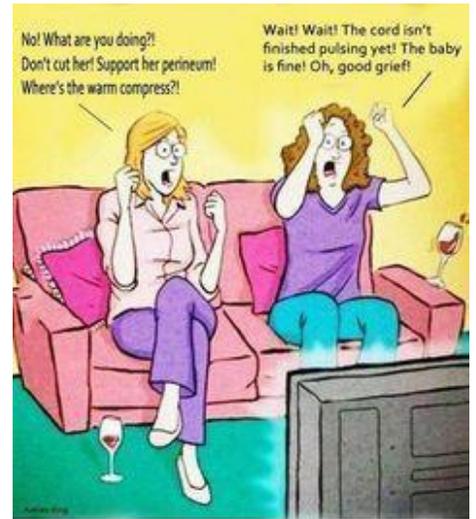
Information for Students:

- Welcome to students
- Practice details: university affiliation, hospitals, catchment area, satellite offices, proportion of homebirths, special needs populations, TOC rate
- scope of practice (primary care for IOL; epidurals, oxytocin, augmentation)
- off call arrangements
- number of NR positions
- usual number of students (senior and NCB)
- anything unique about your practice

Instructions for students:

- preference for where students should live (within 30 min of hospital)
- what you would like in a student bio of introduction to clients
- communication apps used
- expectations, opportunities
- off call time; workload estimates, fatigue policies

Statement of Teaching Philosophy (this does not need to be fancy. It can include a statement that you enjoy teaching and are committed to the growth of midwifery. You hope to offer an excellent learning experience with exceptional preceptors and learning opportunities).



Student midwives watch birth shows like men watch football.

Student Professionalism

[MEP Student Guide to Professionalism](#)

[FHS Professionalism](#)

Assistant Clinical Professor

[Application Form](#)

Preceptor Resources Website

[Midwifery Education Program Consortium Preceptor Support Page](#)

Username: **meppreceptor**

Password: **preceptormep**

Research

Over the next five years, researchers from the Midwifery Education Program, led by Dr. Beth Murray-Davis as a Co-PI (along with Dr. Howard Berger and Dr. Nir Melamed) funded through a CIHR Obstetric Team grant, will be working with a team of southern Ontario experts to explore the impact of diabetes, obesity and hypertension (DOH) in pregnancy.

The rising incidence of these non-communicable disorders during pregnancy poses a growing challenge to maternal-fetal health and is associated with significant perinatal morbidity and mortality, especially through preterm birth, as well as abnormal fetal growth and stillbirth. The research team will be conducting numerous projects focused on the prevention of preterm birth and improvement of maternal and infant outcomes.

Dr. Murray-Davis will be leading studies that examine a) the outcomes of these conditions within the low risk population of midwifery clients, including how it impacts consultations and transfers of care among midwives and obstetricians, b) knowledge gaps and variations in clinical practice among different health care providers, and c) the evaluation of care pathways for clients with DOH, including assessing the effectiveness, accessibility, impact on clients and interprofessional collaboration.

Dr. Beth Murray-Davis

