



# CIMS Coalition for Improving Maternity Services

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## **CIMS Launches First Mother-Friendly Global Survey of Maternity Care Practices**

**Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida**-The CIMS International Committee held a historic meeting in February 0f 2005 in Arlington, Virginia in which twenty-three representatives from eleven countries came together to meet the challenge of implementing the principles of Mother-Friendly Childbirth in their own countries. The results of this collaborative meeting, which took place at the CIMS Third Annual Forum and Meeting, exceeded everyone's expectations.

CIMS International Committee and the Center for Women's Research at University of North Carolina are collaborating on the first Mother-Friendly Childbirth Global Survey that will be sent around the world in September. Ruth Petersen, MD, MPH Director of the Women's Preventive Health Research is leading a multidisciplinary team who has developed and will evaluate the first and largest global survey of maternity care practices ever attempted. The survey will be sent to the four regions of the world; Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Americas.

Members of the International Committee and the research team at the Women's Preventive Health Research Center have developed a global data base for maternity care organizations that includes pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding providers, grass roots organizations, advocacy groups, women's health groups, government and non-government organizations as well as consumers.

A draft of the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative (MFCI), a prototype of evidence-based, woman-centered maternity care, will be sent to every identified organization around the globe along with the survey. The survey will request feedback on nine steps of the MFCI and answers to a few open-ended questions about barriers to best practices in maternity care in individual countries. The team at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health

Services at the University of North Carolina will compile the results of the survey, which will then provide the foundation for a Global Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative.

"We are also planning a meeting of leaders of international maternity care organizations in Geneva, Switzerland for the summer of 2006," stated Debra Pascalli-Bonaro, Chair of the CIMS International Committee. "Discussions at this meeting are expected to lead to the development of a Global Mother-Friendly Initiative and formal planning for a 2008 Global Forum and Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia." The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), which has successfully planned numerous global events, is handling the site planning for the Malaysia event.

The results of the Global Mother-Friendly Childbirth Survey will be presented for the first time in Boston at the CIMS Fourth Annual Forum and Meeting in February of 2006.

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS), a United Nations recognized NGO, is a collaborative effort of numerous individuals, leading researchers, and more than 50 organizations representing over 90,000 members. Promoting a wellness model of maternity care that will improve birth outcomes and substantially reduce costs; CIMS developed the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative in 1996. A consensus document that has been recognized as an important model for improving the healthcare and well being of children beginning at birth, the Mother-Friendly Childbirth Initiative has been translated into several languages and is gaining support around the world.

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To learn more about the Center for Women's Health Research at the University of North Carolina, visit their website:  
<http://www.cwhr.unc.edu/index.pl>.

To find out more about the Mother-Friendly Global Survey visit [www.motherfriendly.org](http://www.motherfriendly.org). To participate on the International Committee contact Debra Pascalli-Bonaro at [dpascali@optonline.net](mailto:dpascali@optonline.net).