



Behind the Scenes at SMCR: PART 1

SMCR members learn about each other and the Society from our newly designed website (and bravo to that team!), our Blog, the newsletter and our social media postings. But you may not know much about how the Society actually conducts SMCR business.

As a non-profit corporation, we use our bylaws as our formal guide to keeping our Society going. The bylaws provide minimal structure and do not, by design, specify how all the things that the Society does occur. This past year we have updated SMCR procedures, for example: how the newsletter is published; how revisions are made to the website; guidelines for blog writers; how board elections are conducted; membership tracking; and managing the many aspects of conference planning such as implementing the student awards, the Making Menstruation Matter Award and the Voda Lifetime Achievement Award. There is a lot going on!

Still, the bylaws provide the formal organizational structure for SMCR work. And, as you might imagine, since we began in 1977, we have made changes to the document to reflect changes in practice. Changing the bylaws process can be mind-numbing, and grappling with them is probably not the most engaging aspect of belonging to SMCR! Trust us, they do not make for easy bed-time reading, but may put you to sleep! Here's the link for inquiring minds: <http://www.menstruationresearch.org/membership/#bylaws>

Some additional points of information about SMCR governance as defined in the bylaws:

- The Board of Directors has the responsibility for managing all the affairs of the Society (e.g., holding meetings, notifying members of such meetings, setting the dues, paying our bills, filing taxes).
- What do members do? Primarily two things as specified by the bylaws: 1) elect Board members and 2) vote on amendments to the bylaws.

OF COURSE there are other ways to participate in SMCR: contributing to the newsletter; engaging in social media; writing for the blog; submitting your work for publication in our journal; and, the Board may ask for a membership vote on a matter NOT specified by the bylaws, for example, to approve or reject an SMCR position paper (check out previous SMCR position papers here: http://www.menstruationresearch.org/activism/#position_statement).

What's coming in "Behind the Scenes at SMCR: Part 2"? Since the last conference, SMCR Board members have been discussing what new changes are needed as SMCR moves forward. We'll send an email to the entire membership later in the spring in which we'll present our suggestions for bylaws changes for your consideration. We'll also provide you with our rationale for each change and then ask for a membership vote. You'll see in that email that

some of the changes we propose are simply corrections, while others reflect changes in practice that need to be officially codified. So keep your eyes open for that email.

There will also be time to discuss this and other SMCR business at the membership meeting at the 2017 conference. Please do attend that meeting!

Atlanta, Here We Come! SMCR 2017: Menstrual Health: Research, Representation, and Re-Education

Celebrating 40 years of interdisciplinary research, education, and activism promoting menstrual health.

We are excited to update you about SMCR's upcoming conference in Atlanta.

Registration:

Presenters must register by April 30, 2017.

Other attendees have until June 7, 2017.

Here's the link for registration: <http://ccpe.kennesaw.edu/smcr/>

The program:

The conference will open on Thursday, June 22 with a reception and poster session starting at 6:00pm. The next two days will feature four plenary sessions with presentations on Period Politics, Policy and Activism; Cycling Across Borders: Translational Conversations; The Menstrual Experiences of Underserved Conversations; and Menstrual Education – Based on Fact or Fiction?

Adding to what our plenary panelists offer as points of entry into those topics will be breakout session presentations highlighting work described in the many (over 100!) exciting submissions to the conference that we have received.

As soon as we have all confirmations we will be able to finalize the program in May. Stay tuned!

Highlights so far:

SMCR will present **THE 2017 MAKING MENSTRUATION MATTER AWARD** to Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney for her advocacy of menstrual health legislation. Following the 2013 award to Gloria Steinem and the 2015 award to Our Bodies Ourselves, Congresswoman Maloney is a natural choice for her authorship of the Robin Danielson Act to require the regulation of the content of menstrual products as well as her role in the broader realm of women's reproductive health.

The following links to our blog include more information on this work:

<http://www.menstruationresearch.org/?s=Carolyn+Maloney>

<http://www.menstruationresearch.org/2015/10/09/de-tox-and-de-tax-the-period/>

THE ANN VODA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD will be presented to Dr. Nancy Reame, PhD. RN, FAAN. Dr. Reame has been a long time, very active member of SMCR since 1980. She served on the board, was our president, and convened the 1989 conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over the years our newsletters have been peppered with details of her service to SMCR and her many research activities.

Dr. Reame is currently the Mary Dickey Lindsay Professor Emerita of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in the Faculty of Nursing at Columbia University and director, of the Pilot

Studies Core, Irving Institute for Clinical & Translational Research. Her current program of research is (and has been) focused on the neuroendocrinology of the menstrual cycle, PMS, and menopause with the aim of clarifying the factors associated with women's reproductive health.

Congratulations, Nancy!

IT'S TIME TO HOWL AGAIN!

In 2013 at its biennial conference in New York the SMCR created THE RED MOON HOWL, an evening of spoken word poetry, prose, and other performance opportunities for conference goers and guests to share with an audience their creative expressions about the beauty, mystery and meaning of the menstrual cycle. The event was deemed to be such a success that it was replicated two years later in Boston. And now, IT'S BACK!

So, plan ahead. It's a chance to share your original creations or a period piece that has had special meaning for you. And even if you've already presented at a previous gathering, don't hesitate to share it again.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE! We'll also be conducting the menstrual raffle that was such a hit at the past two conferences. So come prepared to be rewarded for your efforts, and everyone is invited to bring an item to contribute to the raffle goodies: your beloved art work, book, toy, item of clothing - all with some link to women's reproductive health (use your imagination!).

Questions? Contact:

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Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney



Dr. Nancy Reame

Member News

Joan Chrisler, Jenny Gorman, Angela Barney, and their colleagues recently published their research “Queer Periods: Experiences with Menstruation in the Masculine-of-center Transgender Community” in *Culture, Health, and Sexuality* (2016, vol. 18, pp. 1238-1250).

In addition to continuing to co-edit the SMCR newsletter, **David Linton** is a member of the planning committee for the 2017 Society conference. He has been writing and performing menstrual-themed poetry at various spoken word venues and has written an essay on the representation of menstruation in novels by American writers for a forthcoming book to be published by Cambridge Press.

Saniya Lee Ghanoui is on the planning committee for the 2017 SMCR conference and is currently working on a paper about the circulation of sex education films from Sweden to the U.S during the 1960s. She will present this work at the Tracing Entanglements in Media History conference in Lund, Sweden in May.

News from SMCR's Journal *Women's Reproductive Health*

WRH published two fascinating studies from Sweden in its Fall 2016 issue (vol. 3, no. 3). Don't miss:

- “*Lava or Code Red: A Linguistic Study of Menstrual Expressions in English and Swedish*” by Hanna Sveen
- “*Psychosocial Factors Associated with Premenstrual Distress*” by Ina Rosvall and Sandra Ekholm

The spring 2017 issue of *WRH* (vol. 4, no. 1) is a special issue on Cancer and Women's Reproductive Health. Lisa Rubin and Jane Ussher served as the guest editors. There are some very interesting reads in the issue, so be sure to take a look at it.

WRH will become a quarterly in 2018, so we need to increase the number of high-quality submissions we receive in order to fill our pages. Please consider submitting an article based on your research on the menstrual cycle or any area of women's reproductive health, and tell your colleagues to do the same. If you are interested in reviewing a book or video, contact the book review editor, Jessica Barnack-Tavlaris (jbarntav@gmail.com). Questions and submissions should be sent to the editor, Joan C. Chrisler (jcchr@conncoll.edu).

THE WOMEN'S MARCH

Though we don't have a count of just how many present and past members of the SMCR participated in the post-inauguration march in January, we're confident in saying that the Society was well represented. To cite just one such menstrual activist, here's long time SMCR leader, Nancy Reame, making her views known by joining the millions of women around the world who stood up for equality and reproductive justice.



LASTLY, PLEASE RESPOND!

All SMCR members should have received an email from Society President Chris Bobel requesting [input](#) on what benefits are derived from SMCR membership and what the Society might do in the future to better serve our diverse membership.

As the SMCR moves ahead into its fifth decade, this is a good time to take a look at what we do well and how we can improve or broaden our efforts in the realm of menstrual health and reproductive justice in the future.

It's a small chore but an important one. Your input matters. Please fill out [the survey](#). It's your chance to see that your voice is heard and to shape the future strategies and goals of this important endeavor.

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You are receiving the SMCR Newsletter.

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