

Editors' Note

This Winter 2017 issue of THE PERIODICAL is focused solely on plans for the 2017 SMCR conference in Atlanta. It is shaping up to be another stimulating gathering covering a wide range of topics with presentations from some of the top researchers, artists, and activists in the field.

The next issue of the newsletter will highlight member accomplishments and activities so be sure to put this date in your calendars: **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE - APRIL 1, 2017.**

Meanwhile, we hope the new year is off to a good start and that we'll all be together in June in Atlanta!

David Linton & Saniya Lee Ghanoui - Co-editors

President's Report

WHY ATTEND THE SMCR CONFERENCE?

Why spend the time and the money and the energy to travel to a conference when you could be at the beach or on a picnic?

Why go to the trouble of scraping up the money to pay registration, book lodgings, travel in a plane or along a highway?

Why bother?

One word: CONNECTION.

Let's face it folks, engaging the menstrual cycle is challenging work. It can be lonely. It can be risky.

We trade in stigma busting. We strive to arrest attention and direct resources to improve health and achieve human rights and reproductive justice. This is hard work!

Our dedication to our work is strong but we often work alone. We often find ourselves explaining why *menstruation matters* to our colleagues, friends and family. We awkwardly navigate “what do you do?” conversations with strangers on planes, acquaintances at social events, and even loved ones around holiday dinner tables.

So we need support to persevere. We need to connect with those who inspire us, reenergize our work and stretch our capacities. I know that when I first arrive at a SMCR conference, I audibly exhale. I am in the company of others who "get it."

I feel at home.

At the risk of sounding trite, there really is something for everyone at our conferences. The centerpiece—our carefully curated plenaries—focuses on emerging trends in menstrual cycle research and advocacy. Our break out sessions showcase original work that at once answer questions and surface new lines of inquiry. For some of us, the moments between the formal sessions can be the richest opportunities for connection. I know that I have built relationships at conferences that have spawned collaborative projects and friendships that continue to nourish me today.

So ... why bother coming to Atlanta?

Because YOU deserve the time to reaffirm the value of your work and access the support you need to keep doing it.

Come to Atlanta. Come to Connect. Come *Home*.

Chris Bobel, President, SMCR

**THE SMCR HERITAGE:
40 YEARS OF RESEARCH, ACTIVISM, CREATIVITY & DISCOVERY
NEXT STOP – ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA
JOIN THE CELEBRATION!**

In 2017 the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research (SMCR) celebrates its 40th anniversary! In 1977 a multidisciplinary group of women researchers who were pioneers in studying the centrality of the menstrual cycle in women's health, as well as in every other aspects of their lives, gathered in Chicago to establish an organization that would grow and thrive over the coming decades. They were drawn from fields as diverse as nursing, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and various medical fields.

After its first three annual meetings, the organization shifted to a biennial schedule and has grown and spread its influence in many ways. Its 22 ensuing conferences have been convened in 14 different US states and two Canadian provinces and hosted by a variety of leading colleges and universities.

Participants have been drawn from Africa, South America, Europe, and Australia as

well as nearly every American and Canadian state or province. SMCR members are leading scholars across many disciplines and have published a library's worth of books, special journal editions, articles, reviews, films and curricular materials. They bring to menstrual cycle studies the perspectives of their original disciplinary training and, in turn, bring the unique perspective of the SMCR to fields as varied as film and media studies, history, obstetrics, gynecology, gender studies, political science, and others. In addition, the SMCR produces its own newsletter, "The Periodical"; a regular blog, "Menstruation Matters"; and also sponsors a refereed scholarly journal, *Women's Reproductive Health*.

Furthermore, one of the unique aspects of the SMCR, a trait that sets it apart from many other societies of its kind, is the presence of social activists and artists in its midst. Members are involved in political initiatives such as the recent successful efforts to eliminate sales taxes on menstrual products in many countries, legislative proposals to require better regulation of the content of menstrual products, provision of free menstrual products in schools, shelters, and prisons, and the creation of songs, paintings, and performances that strive to reduce menstrual stigma and educate a broader audience about the facts, fictions, myths and misunderstandings surrounding the menstrual cycle. One example of these efforts is the creation of the Red Moon Howl, a night of open mic poetry and performance that has been the closing event of recent conferences.

The SMCR, both organizationally and through many of its members, has also actively supported efforts to provide menstrual health education and improved access to menstrual products and facilities in Africa and parts of Asia in association with various other agencies, philanthropic organizations, and United Nations based NGOs. One such endeavor involved participation in the planning and

implementation of an annual Menstrual Hygiene Day that was observed on May 28.

Though SMCR conferences attract an eclectic set of participants who touch on a vast array of related topics, each meeting is also centered on a particular theme in order to provide a unifying focus. In the past, topics such as menarche, sexuality and menstruation, menopause, class and culture, health, ovulation, menstruation and media, and reproductive justice have been a few of the organizing themes.

This brief summary merely scratches the surface of what to expect at each and every SMCR conference. And the 2017 meeting – on the occasion of SMCR's 40th anniversary – promises to uphold the tradition of diversity, stimulation, and engagement. To submit a proposal to add your voice to the mix, please see the [SMCR website](#).

Copyright © 2017 Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, All rights reserved.

You are receiving the SMCR Newsletter.

Our mailing address is:

Society for Menstrual Cycle Research

27 Greenleaves Dr

#721

Amherst, MA 01002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)