

Mission of JAM

The mission of JAM is to advance the science of midwifery in order to raise the standard of health care provided by professional midwives to mothers, babies and families and women in every stage of life and to contribute to the welfare of human beings by joining in international cooperation with midwives all over the world.

Aims of JAM

1. To improve the quality of midwifery practice worldwide through affiliation with an international organization of midwives and promotion of the international exchange between midwives
2. To establish the standards of midwifery practice that function as guidelines and to provide fair and appropriate health care to all women
3. To address fundamental issues concerning conception, pregnancy and childbirth and to participate in the policy-making process together with women so that no woman has to tolerate unfair treatment
4. To establish ethical standards for midwives and the role of midwives
5. To develop midwifery science by promoting research on midwifery theory, methodology, assessment and other such issues

Office Hour

The headquarters of JAM is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Membership Eligibility

1. Must agree with the aims of JAM, the foundation and Constitution, and be able to participate in JAM activities.
2. Must have had research experience of two years or more and presented at least one research paper on midwifery.

Membership Benefits

1. Participation and research presentation at JAM scientific meetings
2. Participation in other meetings organized by the JAM Scientific Research Promotion Committee
3. Free subscription to the JAM journals and newsletters
4. Opportunities to contribute to the JAM journals
5. Membership to the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)

Headquarters

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Japan Academy of Midwifery



History of JAM

The Japan Society of Midwifery Education (JSME), having studied issues concerning midwifery education, such as improving facilities and curriculum and increasing the number of teaching staff, concluded that in order to improve midwifery education, the establishment of midwifery science was required, and recognized the urgent need to set up JAM for that reason.

Another strong reason for the setting-up of JAM is the fact that the Japanese Nursing Association approved at its 1984 general meeting a proposal to unify the licenses of nurses and midwives despite the opposition from midwives. A growing sense of crisis for the status of midwives facilitated the foundation of JAM.

Given highly advanced medical and diversifying care issues concerning maternity and child health, there was a strong consensus about the need for developing and clarifying the role and responsibility of midwives and for setting up a place for professional midwives to exchange views about midwifery in order to provide quality care.

In May 1985 all the members of the Curriculum Section of JSME promoted JAM with the approval of the JSME general meeting. The Education System Section drew up a prospectus and a draft of the JAM Constitution.

With an inaugural general meeting and the first JAM scientific meeting scheduled for May 1986, the preparation for the establishment of JAM was pushed forward with the approval of two existing organizations, the Japanese Midwives Association, Inc. and the Japanese Association for the Education and Study of Midwifery.

On March 15, 1987, with an unexpectedly large number of 467 participants, the first general meeting was successfully held at the Osaka Prefectural Working Center, and JAM was inaugurated.

Activities of JAM

Membership

Obtaining membership requires admission by the JAM Board of Management.

*Regular member: a person who is engaged in practice, research and education of midwifery.

*Special member: a person who is interested in midwifery and engaged in practice, research and education of health sciences and other fields relating to midwifery.

*JAM membership (as of January 2011): 1787 regular members, 55 special members and 33 organizations that subscribe to the JAM journal.

Registration with the Science Council of Japan

JAM is an officially recognized research organization registered with the Science Council of Japan as of 1993.

Research Activities

1. Holds a scientific meeting once every year in March for members and non-members.
2. Holds a scientific lecture meeting once a year for members and non-members.
3. Holds a workshop once a year for members.
4. Promotes and commissions midwifery research and provides research-aid grant based on the JAM regulations.

International Activities

1. Affiliation with the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM): JAM was admitted to ICM on May 5, 1989. JAM sends delegates to ICM council meetings held at the time of ICM congress and to Asia-Pacific region meetings to participate in discussions on the management and activities of ICM and the election of officials. ICM members can participate in ICM scientific meetings held at the time of the congress or

region meetings and can apply for research presentations.

2. Support of international funds: JAM raises contributions from its members for the Safe Motherhood Fund (fund for midwifery education in developing countries) and Sponsor-a-Midwife Fund (fund for sending non-member midwives in developing countries to the ICM congress).
3. Activities concerning the International Day of Midwives: May 5 has been designated as the Day of Midwives since 1991. JAM prepares posters and promotion leaflets for this Day together with the Japanese Midwives Association and the Japanese Nursing Association, and distributes them to individuals and groups concerned, organizations having special events, and educational facilities for midwives.

Publications

1. JAM publishes and distributes a journal three times a year to its members. The journal is registered at the National Diet Library (International Standard Serial Number: 0917-6357). Minutes of JAM scientific meetings are distributed to participants and member organizations exclusively. JAM promotes subscriptions of its journal at libraries of educational facilities for midwives.
2. JAM publishes and distributes newsletters three times a year to its members. JAM newsletters are distributed free of charge to educational organizations and libraries that subscribe to the JAM journal.

Management

Officials: 12 board members, 2 auditors, 46 council members, 2 secretaries and several committee members

Committees: Executive Committee, General Affairs, Financial Affairs, Awards Committee, Constitution, Public Relations, Editorial Board, International Affairs, Science Council, Scientific Research Promotion and Education Committees