

Description

Meet the team! – Susan

Susan Wehrle (she/her)

Did you know the Editorial Board for The Student Midwife journal (TSM) is made up entirely of student and newly-qualified midwives? We commission, write and edit all of the articles that fill our wonderful journal, so we know we're bringing content that is of the most interest and use to you. Let's dive in and meet one of the team!

This time we're talking to Susan Wehrle, she is a student midwife in the USA.

What's your role at TSM and how long have you been involved?



I am an editorial board member. I help to edit and commission articles and blogs. I became involved with The Student Midwife journal in July 2022. I was an avid reader before joining the Board and love the social media.

What's your background?

I worked as a labour and delivery nurse in Texas for twelve years before moving to England in 2021, where I attended the MSc Midwifery program at the University of Cumbria.

I had a fantastic first year and loved living in England. However, I missed my family, so I moved back to Texas in September. I will be resuming my studies in the US in January where I hope to incorporate everything I learned in England into my care.

What are your main values that drive you?

Trust and autonomy. I truly think it's a privilege to take care of birthing people and their families. I want everyone I work with to feel empowered to achieve their personal birth experience. It is important to me that I build trusting relationships and learn what support suits each individual.

What's your proudest moment so far?

My proudest moment so far is when I was nominated for University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT) Student Midwife of the Year. I was honoured a partner took time out of their day to recognise me and the difference I made in their care. It really highlighted for me the impact patient education can have in community midwifery.

What's your area of passion?

I am passionate about equitable access to healthcare for all. While working in the US, I often had patients who had varying access to healthcare based on their ability to pay. My experience with the NHS was very different and gave me a greater appreciation for national health care. In addition, during my time on placement I was able to do hours at a termination clinic which I found invaluable as there are no longer abortion clinics in Texas.

Is there anything you dislike about midwifery?

Uni exams? Hah! Really the only thing I dislike is when I'm unable to meet expectations of care. It's difficult to be in a position of trust when circumstances don't allow for the care the birthing person planned. This is particularly frustrating as a student with experience when you know things may be done differently.

What's the most pressing issue facing the sector?

Currently, I think the most pressing issue is the staffing and pay crisis. NHS pay is too low for healthcare professionals and this is reflected in the growing staffing difficulties. Unfortunately, I fear this issue will deteriorate before it improves in light of inflation.

Labour Ward, Postnatal ward or Community?

Continuity! I like being able to build relationships on community and see the care all the way through. It's extremely satisfying to provide support from beginning to end.

What's your one tip for student midwives?

Try every opportunity that comes up, even if you don't think it's your 'thing'. New experiences are valuable learning opportunities, and you might find a new passion. After working in high-risk obstetrics for twelve years I didn't think I would like community, but I loved it!

What's for dinner tonight?

Enchiladas – though I'd happily go to the chippy if they existed here! **TSM**

Category

1. Student Midwife Blog

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