6 Amazing Women
in Sexual & Reproductive Health
ARHP trains, supports, and advocates for sexual and reproductive health professionals. We attract the best and the brightest—clinicians, researchers, educators, advocates—all passionate allies and innovators. Here’s a peek at just six of the accomplished—and yes, amazing—women in ARHP’s ranks.

1. How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field? As a nurse, I wanted to work in women’s health from my first clinical rotation. I took a course in my junior year that changed my life. It was taught by an old-school feminist.

2. Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about. Expert nurses in abortion care provision.

3. Why is that area important to you? Regardless of type of care required, Black women have reproductive outcomes that are worse than all other groups, and extreme unmet needs. I also happen to be an expert nurse in abortion care provision.

4. Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of. The participation of the nursing community in amicus briefs for Whole Women’s Health vs. Hellerstedt [the landmark 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision that ruled the state of Texas could not place burdensome restrictions on abortion providers or women seeking abortions].

5. What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you? I play as hard as I work, and as a child of the 80s, I’m happiest with a video game controller in my hand.

6. Why are you an ARHP member? Because I’m a Society of Family Planning member. I’m a member of both because I believe professional organizations are only as good as their members.

7. What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that is unique among SRH organizations? Access to CORE [ARHP’s Curricula Organizer for Reproductive Health Education, a database of peer-reviewed, evidence-based teaching materials that is open-access and free].
1. **How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field?**
I wanted to work as an epidemiologist in public health, to help identify and address barriers people face toward maximizing their sexual and reproductive health. We all need to rely on high-quality scientific evidence to ensure that people can determine the course of their futures, and pursue safe, pleasurable sexual relationships if they wish.

2. **Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about.**
I’ve studied biomedical intersections between hormonal contraception and HIV-related risks for a decade, including assessing whether some contraceptive methods pose particular concerns for women at high HIV risk, or for women living with HIV.

3. **Why is that area important to you?**
People deserve to be informed about the risks and benefits of their contraceptive options, so that they can make decisions that are right for them. I’ve worked with colleagues around the world on this issue, and our efforts have contributed to updating contraceptive guidelines. It is deeply gratifying to know that our work can be used by clients and providers to make more informed contraceptive choices about the methods that best fit clients’ needs.

4. **Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of.**
Recently, we published a paper that applied an innovative approach to estimate infertility prevalence in Nigeria. I’m proud of working in what is a neglected area of reproductive health, particularly in lower-resource settings. To help address a major data gap, we proposed a way to inexpensively estimate the magnitude of infertility, using data routinely collected in many countries. This project was a true “labor of love.” The idea began over a mimosa brunch with dear friends from graduate school. We conducted the analysis, without funding, over the course of several years, and hope our paper helps to bring a bit more attention to infertility globally.

5. **What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you?**
I loved sewing when I was younger and made my own clothing. In high school, I opened an online business selling handmade patchwork clothing, crocheted scarves, blankets, and beaded jewelry. It was a pretty successful for a high school kid selling mostly to hippies in the United States. At one point, I was filling fairly large orders for a shop in Japan!

6. **Why are you an ARHP member?**
I am a proud member of ARHP because it represents my core values: improving sexual and reproductive health for all people; high-quality scientific evidence; translating evidence into policy and practice; a strong commitment to continually improving care; and unwavering respect for people and human rights.

7. **What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that’s unique among SRH organizations?**
One of the things I appreciate most about ARHP is its cross-disciplinary membership. As an epidemiologist, I benefit enormously from having access to a network of individuals who have clinical training (which I do not), and who share my interest in sexual and reproductive health.
1. How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field? I became active in the field of family planning during my active duty service, and again when I returned to the Navy as a civilian Ob/Gyn in 2010. When I returned to our program as teaching faculty, I realized there was more work that could be done educating and training of our military providers.

2. Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about. Contraceptive education and training. Increasing provider education and training to provide all contraceptive services to our patient population.

3. Why is that area important to you? I am passionate about choice. All women should be able to plan if and when they become pregnant, and have access to effective contraceptive methods. I see the public and political debate about abortion escalating, and would like all sides to understand we should be working together to eliminate the need for first-trimester abortions by providing highly effective and affordable contraception methods. Our women in uniform should have access to family planning equal to all other women in our country.

4. Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of. I had the idea to have an open-access, walk-in contraception clinic at our military treatment facility in 2010. As of February 2016, we provide same-day services to all beneficiaries for all methods of contraception. [Our work] has been recognized by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) and is being evaluated as a “best practice” in military medicine. It’s my hope that this clinic will be replicated Department of Defense-wide for our beneficiaries. I’m also proudest of my residents, and of watching their knowledge expand in Ob/Gyn, especially in family planning.

5. What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you? I did not do a fellowship in family planning. It’s important for all health care providers to know that being a strong advocate for family planning doesn’t have to start with doing a fellowship, or a lot of research. Also, I have four children, and they were all planned!

6. Why are you an ARHP member? I joined while still a resident. I love that ARHP is a non-profit, and is so dedicated to education.

7. What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that is unique among SRH organizations? The online resources and access to Contraception [ARHP’s peer-reviewed journal] are wonderful perks to being part of such a progressive organization.

NOTE: The views expressed by Dr. Marengo-Barbick are hers and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.
1. **How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field?**
   In 1989, I was working as a writer for various women’s magazines – specializing in “health and emotions,” when I was commissioned to write an eight-page supplement on abortion. Three things hit me: 1) It was a “sealed” section [that you had to rip open] because the publishers thought it was offensive. 2) It was banned in Ireland and removed from the Irish edition. 3) I interviewed doctors who provided abortions, and found them to be the most compassionate, humane people I had ever met. All this made me realize that this issue was IMPORTANT. So, I set out to work as an advocate.

2. **Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about.** Termination of pregnancy, which I work in now, and assisted conception, which I would love to start as a not-for-profit service at BPAS.

3. **Why are those areas important to you?** Both address women’s control over their fertility and our ability to exercise the life choices we make.

4. **Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of.** When the abortion time limit (currently 24 weeks in Britain) was seriously under threat, BPAS led the campaign to preserve it by bringing together service delivery and advocacy, and explaining why women need second-trimester procedures. When other providers said they’d compromise at 22 weeks, we produced an audit detailing why every woman we treated above that time needed her abortion.

5. **What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you?** I have kissed Robbie Williams, Gary Barlow, and every other member of the [English pop music] band, “Take That.” (But only because they’d agreed to do a safer sex tour of the UK ... honestly!)

6. **Why are you an ARHP member?** Why would I not be an ARHP member?!

7. **What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that’s unique among SRH organizations?** It brings us all together from wherever we are in the broad ocean of reproductive health. And it’s bossed by Wayne [Shields, ARHP’s president and CEO]!
1. **How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field?** While doing my Ob/Gyn rotation in medical school, I was so impressed by women’s strength—whether during a joyous birth or an unanticipated pregnancy termination—that it inspired me to dedicate my career to serving them.

2. **Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about.** The Family Planning and Preventive Care Clinic – where I work – provides abortion and complex contraception services.

3. **Why are those areas important to you?** As an Ob/Gyn, I want patients to be as physically and mentally prepared as they can be when they are pregnant – growing a human is hard work! While this involves working with a patient in choosing a contraceptive method before she conceives, it also involves providing a safe and non-judgmental abortion if she’s unable to continue a pregnancy. Women often put themselves at the bottom of their priority list – it’s my job to put them at the top of mine.

4. **Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of.** The Ryan Residency Training Program and the Fellowship in Family Planning are national programs that train Ob/Gyns to provide comprehensive reproductive health care. I’m privileged to help inspire trainees I work with – as I myself was inspired years ago.

5. **What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you?** I moved around a lot when I was younger, living in four states before my parents settled in the Midwest. I actually consider myself a southern girl at heart, because I lived in Georgia during my formative years.

6. **Why are you an ARHP member?** ARHP is one of the TOP reproductive health care organizations. It is far-reaching, joining together advocates, providers, scientists, and policy-makers. I take advantage of membership benefits every day, from reading Contraception to printing out reproductive health care information pamphlets for patients. And the annual North American Forum on Family Planning is my favorite trip (besides vacation with my husband).

7. **What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that’s unique among SRH organizations?** I love the diversity of its members! As a physician, I almost only interact with other health care providers. It’s refreshing to work with people doing the work in advocacy and policy, helping me to provide the care patients need.
1. **How did you become involved in the sexual and reproductive health field?**
   Partly by chance, and partly by opportunity. I’ve always been interested in areas where the pharmacist can provide health care in the community. I became involved with contraception access early in my career. I was working with psychiatric patients, many of them young women. I noticed that although their mental health conditions were being treated, the women weren’t offered contraceptive counseling, despite the fact that the medications they were taking were potentially harmful if taken during pregnancy. Many of the women experienced unplanned pregnancies as a result, and some would stop their medications, leading to a relapse of their mental health conditions. I became interested in access to contraception as a result. I met [ARHP President and CEO] Wayne [Shields] at an emergency contraception conference a long time ago, and joined ARHP. I became involved in the development of the Pharmacy Access Partnership, an effort to allow access to emergency contraception from pharmacists.

2. **Describe the area of SRH that you’re particularly passionate about.** Access to contraception.

3. **Why is that area within SRH important to you?** SRH is important to my patients and the public. That’s why it’s important to me.

4. **Describe a program or effort you’ve been involved in that you’re particularly proud of.** Most recently, I have been working on access to hormonal contraceptives from pharmacists. It has been a really long project, with many starts and stops along the way. I am particularly proud of this effort because of the support from health care providers outside of pharmacy, and because we finally got it done. From my early days of teaching pharmacy students, I was convinced we would get this done—and now we have.

5. **What’s something your SRH colleagues would be surprised to know about you?** I was a “Future Farmer of America” in high school, and raised livestock. I’m working on adding chickens to my urban backyard, too.

6. **Why are you an ARHP member?** ARHP is an organization that really supports its members and the community, with educational materials that have an inter-professional focus. ARHP members are a dedicated and supportive group of colleagues who share a common vision to promote reproductive health and choice.

7. **What does ARHP provide to its members and constituents that is unique among SRH organizations?** ARHP provides educational resources and a forum for inter-professional engagement, and can be relied on for up-to-the-minute information related to sexual and reproductive health topics.
The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) trains, supports, and advocates for sexual and reproductive health professionals who impact patients’ lives. Our mission is to transform and improve sexual and reproductive care and access through professional training and advocacy. We translate high-quality science into practice and policy through accredited, peer-reviewed programs and policy advocacy, and we bring together professionals across disciplines and specialties for evidence-based training and network building. Learn more at www.ARHP.org.

ARHP’S RIGOROUSLY ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) has been awarded “Accreditation with Commendation” status by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) since 2013, positioning us in the top tier of providers of continuing medical education (CME) for physicians. ACCME accreditation assures the health care community and public that ARHP delivers evidence-based education relevant to clinicians’ needs that is evaluated for its effectiveness, and is independent of commercial influence. In addition, ARHP is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 1643, as a continuing education provider (CEP), and by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education through its Certified Pharmacy Education (CPE) program for select ARHP programs. The latter assures pharmacists, boards of pharmacy, and other interested parties of the quality of continuing pharmacy education programs.

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ARHP is committed to offering SRH professionals meaningful accredited educational activities, providing valuable networking opportunities, and informing you about critical policy issues affecting our field. We depend on your membership and support to do this important work. Your tax-deductible gift helps bring education, information, and resources to all sexual and reproductive health professionals—no matter where they work or who they serve. Consider helping us deliver quality sexual and reproductive health care to those who need it most by donating at http://bit.ly/ARHP-Donate. And thank you for your support and partnership!