

Lucina: from Pathway to Horizon

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Since 1935, *Lucina* has been a leading reference for the midwifery profession in Italy and serves as the official journal of the National Federation of the Councils of the Midwifery Profession (FNOPO). A journal with nearly ninety years of history, accompanying the evolution of midwifery, documenting its changes, and preserving its professional memory.

Over time, *Lucina* has adapted to profound editorial and cultural transformations while preserving its identity. Even in the face of the challenges posed by digitalization and the evolving language of scientific communication, the journal has maintained its paper publication, thanks to the commitment of the Presidents of the Colleges, and later of the Councils, who have recognized *Lucina* as an essential space for professional development, dialogue, and a sense of professional community.

It is within this continuity that the journal's new phase takes place. The aim of achieving indexing, which *Lucina* is now resolutely pursuing, was not a sudden turning point, but rather the natural culmination of a journey begun in the previous term and pursued with consistency and vision. This is a patient effort, built over time, which finds the conditions for its implementation in this new edition.

From the beginning of this journey, we believed that *Lucina* could be more than an information tool. We envisioned a journal able to express the scientific thinking of the midwifery profession, enhancing its contribution to research, and offering an authoritative platform for cultural development. Over the years, attention to content quality, methodological rigor, and editorial responsibility has been a conscious and strategic choice.

The challenge of indexing today represents recognition of midwives' ability to produce scientific knowledge. The midwifery profession is not just healthcare practice, but also research, study, critical reflection, and a contribution to the scientific debate on sexual and reproductive health, childbirth, prevention, and health education. These are key areas for public health, requiring solid evidence and constant engagement with national and inter-national scientific literature.

Through *Lucina*, we intend to strengthen this awareness by offering a structured and credible space for those who produce research, experimenting with innovative care models, and contributing to the development of evidence-based practices. Being an indexed journal means giving visibility and dignity to this wealth of knowledge, making it recognizable within the scientific community.

Research and quality of care are inextricably linked. Investing in a scientific journal means investing in the health of women, newborns, and families, promoting appropriate, safe, and respectful care. Science is not distant from the daily lives of midwives: it is their foundation and a guide for their choices.

The journal *Lucina*, as it takes shape in this new edition, is an open access journal, capable of engaging with the academic world, other healthcare professions, and public health. It is a journal that looks to new generations of midwives, supporting their scientific and professional growth, and aiming to be a place for rigorous and diverse debate.

This new mandate begins with a strong sense of responsibility and continuity: a commitment to consolidating what has been achieved while looking ahead to the future, strengthening the scientific identity of the midwifery profession and its role within the healthcare system. *Lucina* will be one of the key tools in this journey.

With this new edition, we renew a commitment rooted in history and looking with determination to the horizon that awaits us.

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