

News of The Academy of Neonatal Nursing

Shirley J. Brott, RN, BSN, MEd
Editor

Georgia's On My Mind!

The 10th Anniversary National Neonatal Nurses Conference and 13th National Mother Baby Nurses Conference in Savannah

Our conferences are growing! Fourteen hundred nurses attended the 10th National Neonatal Nurses Conference and the 13th National Mother Baby Nurses Conference. Attendees began each morning with a tranquil ferry ride across the Savannah River in anticipation of learning, networking, and seeing friends...and family! Eight family members of Rodney Koehler, RN, flew in and surprised him to be present for his Excellence in Neonatal Nursing Practice Award presentation. Rod and his family danced the night away on one of the two "filled to capacity" river boatcruises. Imagine...500 neonatal nurses grooving to the music along the Savannah River! The Lady and Son's restaurant

was a hit as well, with 300 nurses taking part in Paula Deen's dining experience. Check out some of the raffle prizes at the 10th anniversary celebration: Acer Netbook, Kindle, Flip Video camera, Nikon camera, Academy membership, and \$50 Visa gift card. All monies collected from the sale of raffle tickets went to the Florence Nightingale International Foundation (FNIF), Girl Child Education Fund and the Greenbriar Children's Center (GCC) in Savannah. FNIF was chosen in acknowledgement of 2010 being designated "The Year of the Nurse." Monies were donated to this same fund from the sale of raffle tickets at the 7th National Advanced Practice Neonatal Nurses Conference in San Francisco at the beginning of this year. GCC provides services that promote the healthy development of children and the strengthening of families. Photos from the conferences can be seen on page 384 and on the Academy of Neonatal Nursing's website, www.academyonline.org.



Rodney Koehler accepts the Excellence in Neonatal Nursing Practice award at the Savannah conference from Debbie Fraser, Executive Director.

2011: *Neonatal Network*[®] Celebrates 30 Years of Publication



Neonatology and neonatal nursing have come a long way since 1981. Technology and treatments for NICU patients are constantly changing and improving, largely because of the evidence-based practice movement. For 30 years, *Neonatal Network*[®] *The Journal of Neonatal Nursing* has filled a critical need for neonatal nursing guidance and education. When *Neonatal Network*[®] released its first publication, "networking" was a new catch-phrase due to Mary-Scott Welch's groundbreaking book, *Networking*. The first issue of *Neonatal Network*[®] refers to this book and concludes, "*Neonatal Network* has one primary goal. That goal is to start neonatal nurses talking to each other between cities and across the country. We believe

that there are vast untapped resources of nursing knowledge and expertise waiting for the proper forum. We hope that *Neonatal Network* can be that forum."

The journal's anniversary gives us good reason for a yearlong celebration! We'd love you to share your memories of when you began neonatal nursing, whether it was 5, 10, 20, or 30 years ago. Please submit materials of all sorts: pictures, short recollections (a paragraph or two), perhaps the biggest changes you've seen in your career as a neonatal nurse. Consider writing about your experience caring for a "HIPAA-friendly" neonate and family that had special meaning to you. Longer articles are always welcome; please email dfraser@neonatalnetwork.com prior to beginning your writing to ensure that your topic has not yet been addressed.

We will create an "Honor Wall" that will appear on the *Neonatal Network*® website, in the journal, and at the 11th National Neonatal Nurses Conference and 14th National Mother Baby Nurses Conference in Washington DC, September 7-10, 2011. There, you can honor special people who have enhanced your career as a neonatal nurse or contributed greatly to our profession. A form to submit honorees can be found on the *Neonatal Network*® website. Also, we welcome you to submit biographies of highly regarded members of our profession.

Special "REMEMBER" pieces will be in each issue of the journal. Please make a contribution to the journal and share the celebration with us! Submit all contributions to: Ute Berman, Editorial Coordinator, at uberma@neonatalnetwork.com or send by regular mail to: 1425 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite 105, Petaluma CA 94954-6513.

Join us at the 11th National Neonatal Nurses Conference in Washington, DC in September 2011 for the celebration!

On the Unit: Then* and Now

Noise

Then: Rock music on radio, "banging" the top of the incubator with hard-backed charts

Now: No way!

Lights

Then: Full blast 24/7

Now: Circadian lighting

Smoking

Then: Nurses allowed to smoke in the lounge, which was less than 25 feet from the unit

Now: Most hospitals nonsmoking, even outside the building

New Grads in the Unit

Then: Rare

Now: Common practice

Gloves

Then: Unless for a sterile procedure, gloves rarely worn (In the

* Editor's personal experience

mid 1980s, AIDS changed that.)

Now: Gloves and other protective gear worn

It's your turn! Share your memories, photos, or the biggest change you have seen in your neonatal career. Send your contributions to Ute Berman, Editorial Coordinator at uberma@neonatalnetwork.com or by mail to: 1425 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite 105, Petaluma, CA 94954.

Neonatal Network® Recognizing Exceptional Authors

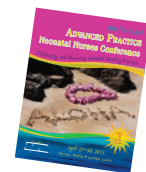
Neonatal Network®: *The Journal of Neonatal Nursing* recognizes and awards exceptional authors through the yearly Excellence in Writing Award. All manuscripts are evaluated by a panel of nurse editors and advisors with experience in neonatal nursing and writing. This year's winner will receive a plaque and a check for \$1,000 at the 2011 national conference in Washington, DC, and complimentary tuition, airfare, and hotel accommodations. Two manuscripts of exceptional merit will also be recognized at the conference and their authors receive \$500 per manuscript. To be eligible for the 2010 Excellence in Writing Award, simply submit your manuscript before December 31, 2010. All submissions are eligible. Congratulations to authors Larisa Mokhnach, RNC, and Krisiti Diercks, BSN, RN, for winning the 2009 Excellence in Writing Award for their article, "NICU Procedures are Getting Sweeter: Development of a Sucrose Protocol for Neonatal Procedural Pain."



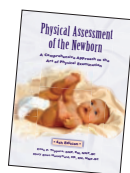
Debbie Fraser congratulates Larisa Mokhnach winner of the 2009 Excellence in Writing Award.

Holiday Gift Ideas from ANN

- Surprise a colleague with free conference tuition for the Advanced Practice Conference in Hawaii! When three nurses from the same facility sign up for the conference together, a fourth member gets free tuition. What a great way to start the holiday knowing you'll soon be basking in the sun on Waikiki.



- Maroon ANN logo zipper hoodie sweatshirts, available for purchase on our website.
- Surprise an exceptional nursing "orientee" with the updated, fourth edition of *Physical Assessment of the Newborn: A Comprehensive Approach to the Art of Physical Examination*, an absolute "must have" for all nurses working in the NICU and beyond.
- Lend support to the March of Dimes by shopping in their online store. They partner with many merchants who donate part of the proceeds of each sale to the March of Dimes. www.marchofdimes.com



November is National Prematurity Awareness Month

Prematurity Awareness Day Officially Designated as November 17



Citing premature birth as the number one killer of newborns, the March of Dimes has named November as Prematurity Awareness Month to draw attention to this increasingly common, costly, and serious public health problem. Every year nearly

500,000 infants in the U.S. are born prematurely. This is roughly comparable to the population of Cleveland, Ohio! Prematurity Awareness Day is now officially November 17th. This date was chosen to encourage the growing collaboration with groups in other countries that have begun events on this date. The March of Dimes plans to announce a 2020 global target for premature birth on November 1, 2010, and to release a state-by-state report card on premature birth on November 17, 2010. For more information, please visit the March of Dimes website at marchofdimes.com.

PhysiScore Determines Premature Infant's Risk of Illness

Researchers from Stanford University have developed a "revolutionary, noninvasive" method of predicting the future health of premature infants to better target specialized medical intervention and reduce health care costs. Similar to the Apgar score, the PhysiScore takes into account gestational age and birth weight and a stream of real-life data routinely collected in the NICU such as heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation. The researchers developed a probability scoring system for the health of prematurely born infants that "outperformed not only the Apgar, but three other systems that require invasive laboratory measurements." The score relies on data during the first three hours after birth as part of a computer algorithm that predicts the baby's likelihood of developing serious illness

with accuracy between 91 and 98 percent. The Apgar score predictions for the same conditions ranged from 69 to 74 percent. According to the study, better neonatal risk assessment could keep more premature infants at their local centers, avoiding higher costs of specialized care and transportation. To read more about this research, please go to <http://med.stanford.edu/ism/2010/september/physiscore.html>. The abstract of the study can be found at: Science Translational Medicine, September 2010, Vol. 2(48), page 48ra65 "Integration of Early Physiological Responses Predicts Later Illness Severity in Preterm Infants." DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.2001304. Repeat studies are needed to verify the usefulness of this tool.

New Neonatal Pain Assessment Scale: FANS

Researchers in France have developed a neonatal pain assessment tool for clinicians who cannot determine the patient's facial expression during potentially painful procedures. The Faceless Acute Neonatal Pain Scale (FANS) does not depend on facial expressions, rather on limb movement, cry, and autonomic reaction. A study concluded FANS is reliable, valid, and the first scale to score pain in premature infants when facial expression is not apparent (<http://fn.bmj.com/content/95/4/F263.short?rss=1>).

Neonatal Resuscitation Program 2012 Translating Evidence-Based Guidelines to the NRP

The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Heart Association, is coming soon to an NICU near you! The AAP just released the changes this October, and NRP instructors are gearing up to deliver the latest new guidelines to neonatal nurses. The *Instructor's Manual for Neonatal Resuscitation* will be available in the spring of 2011. To view a helpful summary of NRP changes, go to <http://www.aap.org/nrp/pdf/nrp-summary.pdf>.

NAFTNet

The North American Fetal Therapy Network (NAFTNet) is a voluntary association of 20 medical centers in both the U.S. and Canada that perform advanced *in utero* fetal therapeutic procedures. Physicians at the fetal treatment units practice in both academic and community-based environments and specialize in fields such as maternal-fetal medicine, pediatric surgery, neonatology, pediatric cardiology, and fetal ultrasound. The primary goal of NAFTNet is to provide an umbrella organization to assist the various medical centers that practice fetal medicine, promote cooperation between these centers, and foster research in the field of fetal therapy. For more information and to see if your hospital is participating, please go to naftnet.org.

We celebrated the 10th Anniversary National Neonatal Nurses Conference with plenty of learning, networking, and re-energizing, all while enjoying the historic city of Savannah. Don't miss out—join us next year in Washington, DC!



L to R: Jamie Lilley, Diane Goode, Amber Coomer, and Angela Alderman from Carilion Clinic Children's Hospital in Roanoke, Virginia.



L to R: Tracy Lin (from GE Healthcare), Marie Wise, Megan Bettag, Lindsay Seaman, Chaunda Whitmer, and Jessica Parsons from Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.



Dr. Jatinder Bhatia discusses neonatal nutrition with attendees.



Getting ready to start the day with a water taxi ride across the Savannah River.



Nurses gather to enjoy dinner at Paula Deen's Lady and Sons restaurant.



Christie Franklin from Shreveport, Louisiana, won tuition and hotel stay for the 2011 Washington, DC, Mother Baby Conference.

Morning general session



Tanya Kamka from Laguna Beach, California, was a poster presenter and grand prize raffle winner.

